

Darlington

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Middleton St George and Morton Palms

Dear Commissioners,

Story Homes are currently building 260 houses to the south of Darlington Road at Middleton St George (see attached layout plan). The site is within the development limits for Middleton St George as defined in the adopted Darlington Local Plan (and in the five-year review in preparation) and in the Middleton St George Neighbourhood Plan.

Is the Commission aware that the site extends beyond the parish boundary across the stream into Morton Palms parish where 27 of the houses will be built?

Given that residents of these dwellings will look to Middleton St George for their community needs, it makes no sense to transfer Morton Palms parish from the Middleton St George and Sadberge Ward to the Hurworth and Neasham Ward. Furthermore, the handful of scattered other properties in Morton Palms parish have no affiliation with the distant Hurworth and Neasham villages and are much closer to the villages of Middleton St Georges and Sadberge, with their full range of local services.

In my view, the views of the Conservative Group and the Commission's draft recommendation to transfer Morton Palms parish to the Hurworth and Neasham ward are flawed and the parish should remain with Middleton St George and Sadberge. Retaining existing arrangements will have no significant effect on the requirement to have equalised elector/councillor ratios.

For the information of the Commissioners, after retiring from service with Darlington Borough Council as Planning Policy and Projects Manager in 1999, I advised Middleton St George Parish Council on planning matters until 2021.

I am currently Planning Officer with the Friends of the Stockton & Darlington Railway, a registered charity, see <https://sdr1825.org.uk/news/> . The

route of this internationally important heritage asset of the 1825 S&DR runs through Darlington, Morton Palms and Middleton St George parishes on its way to Stockton riverside. The Friends work with local councillors, Parish Councils, local community groups and residents to promote the enhancement and understanding of the S&DR.

Attached Documents:

None attached