

Darlington

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Comment text:

Related subject: Darlington - Mowden Ward

Having closely considered the proposed new Mowden Ward, I object to the proposals.

Whilst I recognise and I am generally supportive in the reduction in the number of councillors, the proposed changes to the Mowden Ward are not sensible and only serve to "carve up" voting numbers to serve the wider objective of reducing councillors and equalising the number of residents. The additional streets added into the new proposed Mowden Ward appear to have done so in a quite arbitrary way without full consideration for the properties, civic needs and demographics.

My key points are:

- Property age and type. The proposed additional properties and roads in the new Mowden Ward are very different to those in the existing Mowden Ward and therefore, the need for councillor intervention in dealing with civic issues is quite different to that in the existing Mowden Ward. Dealing with mature trees, alleys, large Victorian properties is quite different to the Mowden Ward.
- The Mowden Ward is served by different schools with the majority of families in the proposed additional streets attending Abbey School in the existing College Ward.
- Retail amenities in the existing College Ward serve the proposed additional streets in the proposed Mowden Ward and therefore, residents will need to engage with two sets of councillors when it come to matters appertaining to retail amenities. Indeed, three sets of councillors should the matter relate to issues with retail amenities in Cockerton.
- It is obvious to anyone who properly understands the Mowden and College Wards that the Mowden Ward should be expanded into the Hummersknott and Coniscliffe Park Ward which is set to expand dramatically due to two sizable new build housing developments.

In summary, the College Ward is already well matched to the foregoing matters and should be left as it currently is.

I do hope that my feedback is both useful and influences the final decisions to be taken.

Attached Documents:

None attached