

Darlington

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Comment text:

Related subject: Pierremont Crescent

Evening,

It is no wonder that local government is such a mess.

I have come home tonight to find a leaflet from the two conservative councillors in Mowden ward which I initially assumed was a mistake. We live in Pierremont Crescent, in an entirely different ward. But when I read the leaflet it made it clear that there is a proposal afoot to move our street into the Mowden ward. And that this is actually the second wave of the consultation.

My first query is who is responsible for organising the consultation, which I knew nothing about. It is only this leaflet that alerted me to it so I could go onto the website and look at the proposals. There must be a process of consultation on this? Is it the responsibility of the council or you? It can't be right that I have accidentally found this out.

My second point is, with the best will in the world, it's a mess. I think the idea is to even up numbers, so streets are cut up and historic boundaries ignored. We currently have two green councillors, we look towards the town not the back of beyond, our children go to school and sixth form in the town. The leaflet from the two conservative councillors, to show you what I mean, mentions new play equipment at Bushel Hill Park. No idea where that is. Paving at Coniscliffe Park being organised by Bellway housing. A new estate at the back of town? Not sure. The surgeries they hold are at Mowden Juniors. Never been there. So it's all a bit odd, taking a bit of the town centre and sticking it arbitrarily in another ward. Cockerton

might make sense as a destination, or Pierremont, but this is a slide rule and calculator decision rather than making sense. Lines have to be drawn somewhere, but I assume one of the motivations is that fewer people live in the centre of town as more estates are built on the edge of Darlington. But that makes it even odder that a square of the town centre is being cut out. Shouldn't they be joining us? Local identity doesn't translate into a computer programme that simply deals with numbers of voters on the electoral register, but I think it is a mistake not to consider its importance.

So, well done for trying, but this looks like a very odd and rather random solution to the problem. I understand the issue, and the need for a solution. I assume this is designed to be deliberately unworkable so the next stage, even if is limited, is greeted with some relief, but certainly with the specific issue of our ward it looks distinctly unworkable right now. I wonder where the polling stations are? Might have to find out!

Thanks for noting my concerns

Attached Documents:

None attached