

Darlington

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: College

As a resident of College Ward, I do not feel that either the current or proposed ward boundaries properly reflect the communities and local connections in this part of Darlington.

The town centre faces a number of unique challenges, and effective representation is important if those issues are to be addressed. I understand that the town centre may not have enough electors to form a ward on its own, but I believe there is a strong case for creating a ward based around the town centre and neighbouring areas that share similar characteristics and concerns.

Areas such as Abbey Road, Stanhope Park and Southend Avenue have strong links with the town centre through proximity, travel patterns and everyday local issues. Residents in these areas are affected by many of the same concerns, including parking pressures, traffic congestion around schools and shopping areas, and the overall health and success of the town centre.

I am therefore disappointed by the proposal to combine the town centre with Blackwell. While Blackwell is an important part of Darlington, it has a distinct suburban character and faces different issues from those experienced in and around the town centre. In my view, Blackwell has more in common with neighbouring suburban communities such as Hummersknott than it does with the town centre.

I can also see the logic in including areas such as Greener Drive and South Terrace within a town-centred ward. These neighbourhoods are very close to the town centre and share many of the same concerns around congestion, parking and access to services.

I would ask the Commission to reconsider its proposals and look at creating a ward centred on the town centre, including neighbouring communities around Abbey Road, Stanhope Park and Southend Avenue. I would also encourage consideration of alternative arrangements for Blackwell that better reflect its suburban identity and established community ties.

I believe this approach would better reflect the communities that exist in this part of Darlington and provide more effective local representation.

Attached Documents:

None attached