

Darlington

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Comment text:

Related subject: Albert hill, hundens and redhall

I am writing to object in the strongest possible terms to the proposed Albert Hill, Hundens and Red Hall ward boundaries.

Quite frankly, it is not acceptable that the communities of Central Park and Lingfield are once again being sidelined and treated as an afterthought. Residents here already feel that our area is too often overlooked, and these proposals only reinforce that feeling.

Central Park and Lingfield have a strong identity of their own. We share the same local issues, use the same facilities and amenities, and are part of the same community. Yet under these proposals, our area is effectively swallowed up into a ward dominated by places with which we have very little day-to-day connection.

What makes this even more frustrating is that neither Central Park nor Lingfield is even recognised in the proposed ward name, despite the fact that residents from these areas make up the majority of the population. That sends a very clear message that our communities do not matter. It is difficult not to conclude that the voices of Central Park and Lingfield residents are being pushed aside yet again.

There is already a widespread perception locally that areas such as Red Hall receive more attention and influence than communities like ours. Whether that perception is fair or not, these proposals do nothing to address it. Instead, they risk making residents feel even more disconnected from the people elected to represent them.

A far better solution would be to use Tornado Way as the boundary. This would create a single-member Albert Hill and Red Hall ward alongside a two-member Central Park and Lingfield ward. That arrangement would reflect real communities rather than forcing together areas that have little natural connection.

Most importantly, it would ensure that residents in Central Park and Lingfield have councillors whose focus is firmly on the issues affecting our neighbourhoods. We deserve representation that reflects our community, not boundaries that dilute our voice.

I urge the Commission to reconsider these proposals. The current arrangements fail to recognise the identity of Central Park and Lingfield and risk leaving residents feeling ignored once again. Using Tornado Way as the boundary would be a fairer, more logical and more representative solution.

Attached Documents:

None attached