

Darlington

Personal Details:

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Comment text:

Related subject: Brinkburn

The issue of single-Member wards isn't an issue for me as [REDACTED] - I do recall several Members making the point that single-Member wards are difficult for a lone Councillor who doesn't necessarily have the support of a co-councillor at times of holiday, illness, heavy work commitments, substantial family commitments, etc., however it will be for those Members to make these points if they so wish.

I lived in the proposed Brinkburn Ward and the proposed Pierremont Ward for much of my life, and am conscious of many linkages across those areas - not least the RA Social Club on Brinkburn Road, used by many who live in the Denes (many refer to the area of Pierremont as 'The Denes' due to the denes that run through the ward) and the Brinkburn pub on Brinkburn Road. Many from both of the proposed wards use St. Matthew and St. Luke's Parish Church on Brinkburn Road as well. The Willow Road Community Centre on Willow Road is a hub for activities accessed by residents of both areas too. I imagine many primary school children in Brinkburn will also attend Reid Street Primary School in the Pierremont Ward, though admittedly an equal amount will probably attend West Park Academy these days. When I lived in Brinkburn Avenue I used to take my daughter both to Bellburn Lane field to play, but also to the play areas in the Denes. All my daily walking commutes were from Brinkburn through Pierremont.

I do appreciate that boundaries need to lie somewhere though and Brinkburn Road is a strong natural boundary - I would certainly agree with the view that Brinkburn is a distinct area from Faverdale, and likewise from Cockerton and Branksome. It's just really interesting when you've spent so long living in an area, and you see a piece of work like this, to see how others view it.

It is an area I know well, and there are linkages between Brinkburn and Pierremont, certainly moreso than the other wards in the North-West of the town, probably due to the nature of the housing - all terraced or semi-detached properties built in the 1920's and 1930's primarily by a company called Bussey and Armstrong, who were based on Brinkburn Road.

The terraced housing in the Denes is very much sought after by first time buyers, though there is much privately rented property there now too, with the next step up often seen as the semi-detached properties off both sides of Brinkburn Road. Two of my team live in the proposed Brinkburn Ward, one on Marwood Crescent and one on the Oakfield Lodge estate, both with families / parents living in the proposed Pierremont Ward. I know that this is just a couple of examples, however I feel that it is reflective of the area.

That said, I know boundaries do need to lie somewhere, and I genuinely have no concerns with the proposals.

Attached Documents:

None attached