

**From:**  
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Good afternoon

I would like to comment on your proposals for the local authority boundary changes as they currently affect the ward I represent

I would like to propose a change of name for the new ward, from Parkfield and Oxbridge to "Ropner".

There are no great issues with the *Oxbridge* part of the name, the ward does incorporate Oxbridge in its entirety.

However, in terms of the *Parkfield* element, the ward boundary is **not** co-terminus with the physical area known as Parkfield and nor will it be after the proposed changes.

Parkfield estate and Parkfield community centre, indeed everything to the east of Bowesfield Lane, lie in the Stockton Town Centre ward.

In consequence local residents, businesses and organisations are confused and often approach me, thinking I must be their councillor, when I am not.

Furthermore there are now upwards of 800 new houses in the south of the ward who operate under the community nomenclature *Low Hartburn* (a designation dreamed up I think by a property developer but one which has nonetheless caught on). They also have a fully constituted Residents Association named Low Hartburn. Consequently, they do not see themselves as belonging in either Parkfield or Oxbridge (although are happy enough to be in the same ward I think).

*Ropner*, my proposed alternative name for the ward, is the name of the park in our ward, a grand Victorian park, extremely popular, with a great reputation.

You can read more about it here.

<https://www.stockton.gov.uk/our-places/parks-and-countryside/ropner-park/>

The park was named after the shipowner and builder, Sir Robert Ropner. He was also MP for Stockton when he donated the money to buy the land.

Renaming the ward Ropner would create a bond and link between the local authority, local history, and a valuable resource at the centre of the ward

It would meet with universal approval from residents of all part of the ward who would be proud to say they lived in Ropner ward.

It would abolish the confusion currently existing in Parkfield

And it would create a pithy alternative to

"Oxbridge, West Parkfield and Low Hartburn" which would be the only viable alternative.

Thank you for your consideration  
Best wishes, Louise

Councillor Louise Baldock  
Labour and Co-operative Party  
Parkfield and Oxbridge  
Stockton on Tees Borough Council  


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