

Barnsley

Personal Details:

Name: Mr Steve Hunt

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Barnsley Liberal Democrat Group of Councillors (Political groups)

Comment text:

Related subject: The whole Barnsley borough ward boundaries to apply from May 2026

Please see enclosed PDF document for the response of the Barnsley Liberal Democrat Group to the LGBCE's draft recommendations

Attached Documents:

- barnsley-electoral-review-2024-lib-dem-group-submission-final-on-lgbce-draft-recommendations.pdf

Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England by Barnsley Liberal Democrat Group

Proposed New Ward Boundaries and Names

1. Introduction

This paper sets out the response of the Barnsley Liberal Democrat Group (BLDG) to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) draft recommendations published in May 2024. In making our submission we have also reviewed the response from Barnsley Council which was discussed and agreed by Cabinet on 14 August 2024.

2. Principles of our Response

The Liberal Democrat Group is supportive of many of the draft recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and welcomes the inclusion of many of the Lib Dem Proposals within it. The proposals below are to strengthen further the new electoral arrangements for the Borough to come into effect from May 2026. Unless stated below the Lib Dem Group agrees with the draft recommendations of the LGBCE.

3. Our Proposals

3.1. Athersley and New Lodge Ward

In its evidence to justify St Helen's, the Council mentions St Helen's Primary Academy. We would point out that this is in Monk Bretton Ward as is St Helen's Way. We would argue that a secular name for the ward, as it used to be prior to 2003, would be most suitable as this is consistent with the other ward names which are not based on church parishes. We feel that the suggested Athersley ward name disenfranchises New Lodge residents so propose the ward name of Athersley and New Lodge.

3.2. Dearne Ward Names

In its response the Council wishes to retain the current ward names and we agree that Goldthorpe Green only relates to a small area and should not be used in the ward name. Alternatively, the ward names could be Thurnscoe and Goldthorpe North and Bolton and Goldthorpe South but the current names of Dearne North and Dearne South which are well understood by the communities could be retained.

3.3. Darton West and Redbrook Ward

We feel that our proposed ward name of Darton West and Redbrook better reflects the nature of the ward given that more of the electorate is of a suburban type (Redbrook/Gawber/Barugh) than the villages of Darton and Kexborough.

3.4. Kingstone Ward

We note the proposal by the LGBCE to retain the existing Kingstone Ward boundary except for an addition to amend the boundary with Central Ward to enable an electoral variance of -10% to be achieved. We are concerned that this produces a weak level of electoral equality. We therefore propose adding electors from Dodworth ward, around the Dodworth Road area, to Kingstone. This area covers Grosvenor Drive, Branksome Avenue, Rosedale Gardens, May Terrace, Grosvenor Walk, Grosvenor Gardens, Salters Rise and St Hilda Avenue. This area lies to the east of a clear break in residential development between The Firs Residential Care Home and 188 Dodworth Road, occupied by Horizon Community College and Penny Pie Park. The area suggested for transfer has an estimated 450 electors and is very much part of Barnsley town and not Dodworth. The effect of this would be electorates estimated at 8,705 in Kingstone (variance of -5.6%) and 9,263 in Dodworth (variance of +0.5%).

We are concerned about the current (and proposed) boundary between Central and Kingstone ward which divides Princess Street between wards. We propose a new boundary along New Street and West Way, taking the area around the Morrisons supermarket into Kingstone, including Silver Street, Foundry Street, George Street and George Square. This could be compensated for by moving the streets off Wood Street (Fleming Place, Providence Court, Allatt Close, Rebecca Row and Duke Street) from Kingstone into Central. This would unite the terraced housing on and around Princess Street within Kingstone, and the social housing on and around Wood Street within Central.

3.5. Proposal to include the parish of Stainborough in Dodworth Ward.

We note the Council's proposal to include the parishes of Stainborough and Tankersley in an enlarged and renamed Dodworth Ward.

We would support the moving of Stainborough parish into Dodworth ward, due to its geographical proximity and community connections to the current ward. This would also help balance the loss of some electors to Kingstone ward as we proposed in 3.4 above.

We oppose the moving of Tankersley Parish to Dodworth ward. Tankersley is a considerable distance away from the Dodworth ward and has no obvious connections to it. It takes around 15 minutes to drive from the centre of Dodworth to the centre of Tankersley and they are around 6 miles apart. Tankersley parish should be linked with Hoyland Common, as per the Forge Community Partnership, not Dodworth.

Barnsley Liberal Democrat Group
9th September 2024