

Kirklees

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Comment text:

Related subject: Colne Valley East Ward

Please see attached file.

Attached Documents:

- colne-valley-east-ward-v.3.docx

Colne Valley East Ward

Name

In the LGBC proposals dated 30th July 2024 a new name – Colne Valley East - is adopted for what was previously mainly Golcar Ward. The new ward extends further east along the Colne Valley towards Huddersfield. The name change is appropriate because the proposed ward boundary takes in many settlements. Golcar is at one end of the ward. The proposed boundary draws in all the communities at the east end of the River Colne.

The new name will bring together settlements that have previously had separate representation on Kirklees Council. The name also fits well with the proposal to change the name of the existing Colne Valley ward to Colne Valley West ward.

Possible Boundary Changes

1. Bolster Moor and Scapegoat Hill

The Liberal Democrats wish to move Bolster Moor and Scapegoat Hill (CV04) from Colne Valley to Golcar ward. The Labour Party believes that these villages electorally belong where they sit now – in Colne Valley West ward.

The Colne Valley East ward is fairly well built up from one end to the other. It is not rural in the sense that it does not have a farming community within its boundaries. This is not true of the outlying villages of Bolster Moor and Scapegoat Hill. These villages do have farming communities as well as residents who commute to jobs elsewhere.

Bolster Moor and Scapegoat Hill have their own primary schools which have catchment areas that do not take in any part of the Colne Valley East ward. They also have their own places of worship. They maintain a sturdy independence from the larger urban settings. Colne Valley West ward is more rural. It has both a strong urban and rural heritage and is a better fit for these villages.

2. Salendine Nook

There is agreement from the political parties and the LGBC that Salendine Nook (GC10) should go to Lindley Ward.

3. Paddock

There is agreement from the political parties and the LGBC that Paddock should be reunified by combining Golcar GC09 with Greenhead GH04. All the secondary students in these polling districts go to Royds Hall School. All local Paddock residents on both sides of the existing Golcar/ Greenhead boundary use the shopping centre on Church Street, Paddock.

Paddock, Milnsbridge and Golcar are brought together by the well-established Golcar Circular bus routes (nos. 301 and 302) which go through all three communities from the centre of Huddersfield. The no.356 bus goes from Huddersfield town centre through Paddock to the end of Longwood before returning along the same route. These bus routes pull together the whole of the proposed Colne Valley East ward.

The ward area is also socially linked by the Golcar, Milnsbridge, Paddock and Huddersfield Facebook site. This site has 5.7k members and is used to buy and sell items locally.

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=golcar%20milnsbridge%20paddock%20and%20huddersfield%20buy%20and%20sell%20sites%20no%20rules>

Paddock, Milnsbridge and Golcar are also joined together by the Huddersfield canal towpath.

4. Marsh/Oakes/Quarmby

Golcar Branch Labour Party is pleased that Liberal Democrat proposal to include the whole of Lindley LD06 within Golcar ward has been dismissed. Many of these residents travel to and from work or leisure along the New Hey Road (A640), rather than the Manchester Road (A62). They are likely to have a different range of concerns and issues. The shopping centre for most of the electors in LD06 will be Marsh rather than Paddock, Milnsbridge or Golcar. These residents have a limited community interest with others in the Colne Valley East ward.

Ward Size

Colne Valley East Ward

The Colne Valley East ward will consist of GC01 to GC09 and GH04. It will not include GC10 or LD06 or CV04.

	2023 Electors	2029 Electors
Colne Valley East Ward	14,653	15,812
Average Ward Size	13,761	15,157
%age Difference	+6%	+4%

Bolster Moor and Scapegoat Hill

The Liberal Democrat proposal brings these two outlying villages (CV04) into Golcar Ward. This serves to unbalance the ward sizes. Colne Valley ward becomes loses 590 electors and becomes 5% smaller than the average in 2029. Golcar ward becomes bigger than average in 2029, based on the Liberal Democrat proposal. This change is not needed and not wanted.

Golcar Branch Labour Party

22/08/2024

