

Middlesbrough

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Subject: To maintain the existing ward boundaries in respect of the Bluebell Beck Fields.

To whom it may concern.

As residents of Heythrop Drive, Acklam, who use the Bluebell Beck fields regularly, we are curious as to why these fields, which border our road, are proposed to be placed in the ward of Stainton and Thornton several miles away.

Bluebell Beck fields, (or Mandale Meadows, as they are also known by many residents), are furthermore, a very short distance from where our local counsellor lives.

The fields are a marvellous and increasingly rare (for Middlesbrough), green space that is popular with many local residents for a rich and diverse variety of different recreational activities. From family walks in nature (the bluebells in spring are wonderful as is the bird song, while the meadows are rich in flowers and insect life), to those who enjoy more active pursuits, whether flying model aircraft, jogging, (the local school which borders the fields occasionally uses the fields for cross country exercises) to ball games. We have often walked the fields with our dog and in common with many others enjoyed the peaceful tranquillity that the fields and woods offer which can be so helpful in supporting a greater sense of mental calmness particularly at stressful times.

Like all green areas, the fields are unfortunately vulnerable to anti-social activities (quad and motor bikes, fly tipping, and arsonists) and clearly having a local counsellor to liaise with the Police is of invaluable assistance to residents. A local counsellor is also more likely to be aware of and respond to questions from residents relating to field maintenance and management.

We therefore fail to see how moving the fields from a counsellor who lives very close to the fields to one who lives miles away is logical. We would also imagine that very few residents of Stainton or Thornton use the fields, and as such their counsellor is likely to view such distant fields as of

very low priority on their significant list of responsibilities.

We understand that one of the principal functions of the Boundary Commission is to ensure that electoral representation is fair and equitable. So again, we fail to understand how shifting a set of green fields lacking any population and therefore voters to another ward is likely to impact on this process, unless of course plans to build housing, industrial units and indeed a link road on these fields are more advanced than Acklam residents are currently aware.

We therefore suggest that the boundary changes proposed for Bluebell Beck fields remain unaltered.

Thank you.

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Attached Documents:

None attached