

# Middlesbrough

## Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

## Comment text:

Thank you for reading these comments and objections.

I would like to start with my objection to the name change from 'Ayresome' ward to 'West Acklam and Whinney Banks'

The name 'Ayresome', although probably correct at some time in the past, (as I believe it means facing the river, or something similar) is now no longer suitably descriptive, since the River Tees was 'recut' many, many years ago.

The area is, historically, within the northern part of the "Acklam Estate" of Sir William Hustler 1658-1730.

A much more suitable name would be "Acklam North".

1. The proposed 'West Acklam and Whinney Banks' name is an inappropriate and, actually, divisive name for the currently named Ayresome ward.

2. The whole of Acklam has been built, rebuilt and developed over many years as a series of estates of differing types and sizes, or, almost, small 'village' areas, none of whose residents, other than some of those in the Whinney Banks estate itself, regard themselves as living in Whinney Banks. Virtually all speak of themselves as Acklam residents.

3. To me, the presently named Ayresome ward comprises some eight of these areas, others may count a different way. The Downside Road estate was, I believe, the first private estate in Acklam, followed by the council-built Whinney Banks and school of the same name, built between the two World Wars.

Much of the latter estate was demolished over time, being unsuitable for families, having been built with just 2 bedrooms and without a bathroom. Rebuilding on this land has been carried out by various builders, each naming their own estate e.g. Acklam Gardens, Acklam Green etc., leaving Whinney Banks as now only a 1/8th part of the ward, which also encompasses the aforementioned Downside Road West Lane, Acklam Road, Mandale Road/Levick Crescent and Heythrop /Drive areas.

4. 'Acklam North' is suitably neutral, descriptive, inclusive and cohesive. Historically accurate, it avoids singling out any one part of the ward over any other part, and is, I would suggest, far more appropriate.

In summary : West Acklam and Whinney Banks is inappropriate and divisive

Most residents describe themselves as living in Acklam.

Whinney Banks is only a small part of the whole ward

Acklam North is cohesive, inclusive and historically accurate.

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Some thoughts on the Ward Boundary Commission proposals.

1. Stainton and Thornton(S&T hereafter) is divided physically from Acklam as a whole, by the National Highways A174, which creates a physical and natural boundary, there being no easily walked route between the two.

2. There is no natural affinity between the present Stainton and Thornton Ward and the currently named Ayresome Ward, they are 3.4 miles apart! Unlike the Heythrop Drive area and Levick Crescent/Downside Road area which has many familial and generational ties. The removal of Heythrop Drive area to the Kader ward has already been discarded.

3. S&T has several new estates already planned and agreed which will increase the workload of the present councillor. This may well mean that they have little time to spare for what would become the peripheral areas of the new ward. These areas are currently situated in Ayresome, Kader and Trimdon wards, adjacent to the Blue Bell Beck, the proposed new boundary.

Moving the boundary as proposed would mean dividing settled and cohesive areas between 2 wards, across estate roads, which makes little sense. It would also mean that the present councillors would find themselves living in a different ward from the one they represent. This would

cause nothing but confusion, (should I speak to A or B, who live round the corner, or C, who is now the councillor whose ward I have been moved to?) At the next election should A and B stand against the present incumbent, C, or within the ward that they know? All that knowledge and experience could well be wasted.

4. Due to the 30+ year old development of the National Highways A19, Stainsby Grange and Stainsby Hill Farm are now accessed only by a farm road leading off from Acklam Road, Thornaby. Currently included within the Trimdon Ward, from which there is no physical access, road or footpath, they are in fact within 10 minutes walk of the Ayresome ward. They could and should be included within the Ayresome ward, which would afford the approximately 30 electorate a proper, accessible representation by the Ayresome ward Councillors.

Objection to the removal of the fields to Stainton and Thornton Ward (S&T hereafter)

The Acklam/Mandale fields/Meadow are supposed to be the 'buffer' between Middlesbrough and Thornaby, preventing urban sprawl! They have no housing built upon them, and there are no plans in the public domain to build upon this area (unless someone knows differently?) so would benefit S&T not one iota in terms of adding to that electorate. Should there be any problems or queries, on or about these open spaces, would a ward councillor living at several miles distance find it very difficult to respond quickly? I fear they would. By adding these open spaces to S&T ward the physical size of the ward would be very much bigger than any other ward in the town, making it completely unwieldy.

If this land is not attached to the present wards, I understand that there would be no necessity to inform ward councillors of planning applications affecting the land. If this is the case then it would be completely unfair to remove the land to S&T ward, as any planning applications would directly affect the residents of Ayresome, Kader and Trimdon wards but we would have no knowledge of them.

There is no necessity to separate these open spaces from the wards in which they are currently found, Ayresome, Kader and Trimdon. The ward residents and others use them on a regular basis, and care for and about them and the wildlife, both flora and fauna, thereon.

I would therefore respectfully request that the ward boundaries (other than the connection of Stainsby Grange and Stainsby Hill farm to Ayresome Ward) are left as they presently are. Thank you for reading this.

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**Attached Documents:**

*None attached*