

Middlesbrough

Personal Details:

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

Comment text:

See attached

Attached Documents:

- 0000583_202409131259_0.pdf

Review officer (middlesbrough)

LG BCE

PO Box 133

Blyth

NE 24 9FE





9th Sep., 2024

Review Officer,
Middlesbrough,
LGBCE,
PO Box 133,
Blyth,
NE24 9FE

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been following closely the proposed boundary changes affecting the ward in which I live, and have been talking about this with my local councillor Jackie Young, who is also a neighbour. I fully support there being no change to Ayresome Ward and also the name change to Acklam North. I would like to go into some of my reasons for this.

Jackie Young has been amazing in the way she has represented her ward since being elected, acting above and beyond what might normally be expected of a local councillor. She is extremely well informed on council matters, conscientious in seeking to do her best for local residents, and a strong representative in the Council. She has known the area for many years, and really cares about the people and community she represents. I would be gutted if we lost her representation on some of the issues facing this ward.

Continuity in representation by local councillors is as a principle extremely important, and some of that continuity is immediately lost with any boundary changes. Boundary changes need to always take into account how local the representation is. This particularly applies to councillors that live in the community that they represent, and who are active in seeking to improve the lives of residents in their area. Relationships between the councillor and the people he or she represents are built up over a period of time, and will be lost for some residents or on some issues with local boundary changes. Boundaries should also take into account the nature of the communities which they surround, and wherever possible those communities should be coherent rather than disparate entities. The current ward is a

coherent entity in the nature of its community, and in the area that the community is involved with.

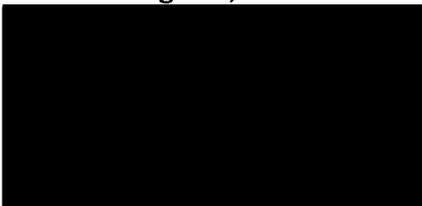
It has been proposed that the area to the north of the A174 and to the east of the A19 should be changed to being in the Stainton and Stainsby Hall Farm ward, however this area is disconnected by the A174 from residents in that ward, and distant from their proposed representatives, but well utilised by residents of the Ayresome, Kader and Trimdon Wards. For some years there have been proposals to the south of and through Mandale Meadow (which is a meadow adjacent to Mandale Road) for a road linking Mandale Road to Stainsby Hall Farm. Many residents in these wards have been up in arms for a number of reasons about these proposals, some of which may well begin to go ahead during the next 10 years. For instance, there is already a traffic bottleneck approaching the A19 from Mandale Road, and this will inevitably cause this bottleneck to become much worse. It is vital that local people should be represented by local representatives, such as Jackie Young, both until decisions are finally made, and during the implementation phase, as the devil can often be in the detail.

Also, the name change of Ayesome Ward to Acklam West and Whinney Banks is not appropriate, since Whinney Banks is now to a large extent historical. Acklam North is a good description, though I think Acklam West would also be suitable.

I would also like to mention that the Mandale Meadow and the area beyond has been somewhere my husband has enjoyed walking on a regular basis over the last 40 years, as I have myself on occasions, along with many other local residents, particularly dog owners.

I very much hope that the boundary commission will take the representations from our area very seriously, as in particular for the reasons given I do think the proposal for the Stainton and Stainsby Hall Farm ward to extend north of the A174 is an extremely bad idea. Also, I ask that Mandale Meadows be placed back into the current Ayresome Ward.

Kind regards,



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