

East Riding of Yorkshire

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Comment text:

Related subject: Bridlington and Driffield

I'd like to thank the Local Government Boundary Commission for inviting comments to this consultation and providing the map of wards and polling districts with numbers of electors in each. This proves very useful in helping me to summarise some of my thoughts on the northeastern part of the county.

I was born in Driffield and have lived much of my 94 years in the Driffield and Bridlington area, including the past 35 years in Bridlington itself. I aim to make comments on 3 areas.

Firstly, I was for some years the church warden in one of the churches in the Benefice of Rudston, Kilham, Carnaby, Boynton & Burton Fleming with Fordon, Grindale & Wold Newton. As part of my duties, I would often attend "churches together" services in each of these Anglican parishes, as well as in neighbouring Bempton. These are all rural villages. They are not suburbs of Bridlington and the people living there do not think of themselves that way. Although the Benefice falls within the Bridlington Deanery, the environment and lived experience of these villages have little in common with the town and seaside resort of Bridlington. The current boundary review seems an ideal opportunity to move the civil parishes of Bempton, Boynton and Grindale out of Bridlington Central & Old Town and into East Wolds & Coastal, a ward name far more fitting the character of these villages. Bempton is coastal, while Boynton and Grindale are more agricultural in nature.

By my calculation, the electorate in Bridlington the town, according to the figures you provided, amounts (with one adjustment, to which I will return shortly) to just under 28,000 in 2023 and 29,200 in 2029. This provides a good basis for a total of 7 councillors (not 8), serving 3 wards: this

could comprise one 3-seat ward and two 2-seat wards. There would thus be no need to append any rural villages to sustain the current 8 seats.

Secondly, the ward name Bridlington Central & Old Town is apt as one of the three wards outlined above. Bridlington Old Town is a real place, essentially consisting of High Street and some of the adjoining roads; its distinctive architecture and road layout signal that it is an older part of Bridlington, around which the rest of the town has developed over time. However, the parish ward described as “Bridlington Old Town Ward” goes beyond the historical old town. In particular, the area to the west of the A165 Scarborough Road (polling district BC) does not fit the “Old Town” description. Neither, for that matter, can it properly be described as part of Central Bridlington. In contrast, the area between Pinfold Lane and Bempton Lane (polling district CD) is central to the town. Evidence to support this is the catchment area of Burlington Junior School (attached). The school sits in the middle of what might be called Central Bridlington and includes polling district CD but not BC. Best variance would therefore be achieved by constituting Bridlington Central & Old Town as a 2-seat ward serving the four polling districts: BD, BE, BF and CD. The BC polling district might then be allocated to the East Wolds & Coastal ward, along with Bempton, Boynton and Grindale.

Thirdly, the population growth in Driffield means that the fit would be improved by making Driffield Town itself – along with Kirkburn (most of whose electors are in Driffield’s close neighbouring township of Kelleythorpe) – a 3-seat ward, without the need to expand to the separate rural villages: Bainton, Cottam, Fimber, Garton, Sledmere or Tibthorpe, which currently make up the rather over-large “Driffield & Rural” ward. Kelleythorpe (Kirkburn) feels very much part of Driffield, whereas the rural villages do not.

Attached Documents:

None attached