

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council



I would like to make clear that the current Grangefield ward devised in the 2003 review is unsatisfactory. Although the variance may have been acceptable in 2003, the ward certainly didn't reflect the communities within it very well. This point was articulated by the Conservative Group in the current consultation process by demonstrating that the Grangefield ward is predominantly made up of what is recognised as Hartburn and Fairfield. Very little of it is actual Grangefield. The LGBCE draft recommendations enhanced the boundaries in this part of Stockton by paying greater respect to the well defined communities of Hartburn and Fairfield while achieving acceptable variances. However, the re-emergence of a single member Grangefield ward in the 'further limited draft recommendation' has recreated the original undesirable situation of absorbing large parts of Fairfield into a Grangefield Ward to make up the numbers, just as in 2003. The result of this is that Fairfield once again finds itself partly in a ward which is actual Fairfield, while the remainder is paired with Grangefield which it has limited association with. I believe the latest proposal from the Conservative Group has succeeded in restoring Fairfield in a way which respects the community. The variance is also satisfactory. Grangefield, just as Fairfield and Hartburn is a well-defined part of Stockton. However it is too small in its own right to justify a councillor. The Conservative Group have found a way to respect Grangefield by pairing it with the estate/community to the immediate north. You just need to look at a map to see that this makes sense. In regards to Ingleby Barwick, I can understand the logic for creating three smaller wards rather than two larger ones. However the notion of carving up Maltby Parish (some into Southern Parishes and some into Ingleby Barwick South) is unnecessary. The whole parish can be maintained and kept with the Ingleby Barwick East ward which it has been associated with since 2003. Removing Maltby parish from Southern Parishes also creates better electoral equality for that ward. Keeping all of Maltby (IBE5) with Ingleby East, which it is already associated also drastically improves the variance of that ward which is desirable. Minor changes to IBW3 as outlined by the Conservative Group also help to prevent splitting the IBW3 polling district (as proposed in the limited draft recommendation) while aiding electoral equality for Ingleby Barwick South.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded