

Derbyshire

Personal Details:

Name: Beth Eadie
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Parish or town councillor)

Comment text:

To whom it may concern,

Please find attached a letter from New Mills Town Council and its twelve independent candidates regarding DCC's proposed boundary changes.

Regards

Cllr. Beth Eadie

Attached Documents:

- Boundary Lines Response (002).pdf

Subject: Concerns regarding Proposed Electoral Division Changes

Dear Members of the Derbyshire County Council,

I am writing to you on behalf of the New Mills Town Council to express our deep concerns regarding DCC's proposed boundary changes that would divide our town into two separate divisions.

DCC's proposed boundaries would effectively remove a large and important part of our town centre and reallocate this to Whaley Bridge.

New Mills is a town rich in cultural heritage, and its cohesive identity with Sett Ward and Hayfield is a source of pride (and good natured competition) for its residents. Your proposed division of the town into separate electoral divisions threatens to fragment our community and dilute the shared sense of identity that has been nurtured over generations. This division may undermine community engagement and involvement in local affairs, ultimately impacting the social fabric that makes New Mills such a vibrant and close-knit town.

Moreover, dividing New Mills into separate electoral divisions could disrupt the representation of our diverse interests. Historically, councillors elected to represent the entire town have been able to address issues collectively and advocate for the holistic well-being of New Mills. By creating divisions, we risk prioritising the concerns of specific areas while neglecting or overlooking the broader needs and interests of the town as a whole. This fragmented representation could lead to imbalances in decision-making processes and hinder our ability to effectively tackle the challenges that affect New Mills collectively.

We are also concerned about the potential for illogical and disconnected boundaries that may arise from redrawing the electoral divisions. Communities that share common characteristics, whether they be social, economic, or geographical, may find themselves represented by different councillors, disrupting the natural cohesion that has been built over the years. This disconnection could impede effective communication and coordination between different parts of the town, hindering our ability to address local issues in a coordinated and inclusive manner.

Additionally, we must consider the potential impact on voters. The proposed electoral division changes may lead to confusion among residents who are accustomed to voting for candidates representing the entire town. Understanding the new boundaries and identifying the correct representatives for their respective areas could prove challenging, potentially resulting in lower voter turnout and reduced democratic participation. It is crucial that we maintain clarity and transparency in the electoral process to uphold the democratic integrity of our local governance.

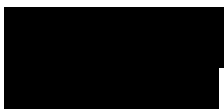
In light of these concerns, we urge that the Derbyshire County Council reconsider the proposed electoral division changes for New Mills. We believe it is essential to preserve the cultural identity of our town and ensure that our community is effectively represented in the decision-making processes that impact our daily lives.

We would greatly appreciate the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue with you to discuss these concerns further and explore alternative solutions that could address the issues at hand without compromising the unity and integrity of New Mills.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your prompt response and the opportunity to work together in the best interests of the New Mills community.

Yours sincerely,

Vice Chair, Cllr. Beth Eadie



On behalf of New Mills Town Council & 12 Independent Councillors