

Derbyshire

Personal Details:

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

Comment text:

Related subject: The boundary between the existing Matlock and Derwent Valley Wards

Dear Sirs,
Derbyshire County Council Ward Boundaries

I would urge that, when reviewing Derbyshire County Council ward boundaries where Matlock Town adjoins the rural parish of South Darley, any revised ward boundary should follow the parish/town boundary and NOT the new district council ward boundary. The whole of South Darley parish should be included in a rural County Council ward, as at present.

The recent Boundary Commission review of Derbyshire Dales District Council wards made the unfortunate mistake of splitting the parish of South Darley so that the rural hamlets of Oker and Snitterton became part of the urban Matlock West ward while the rest of the parish was included in the Bonsall and Winster ward. This change was made at the last minute, after the final consultation and in contravention of the Commission's own stated principles.

Following representations from residents of South Darley, the District Council submitted a request to the Boundary Commission for a revision to the ward boundaries, such that Oker and Snitterton would, together with the rest of the parish, form part of the Bonsall and Winster ward of DDDC. Unfortunately, the response from the Boundary Commission was delayed until it was too close to the May 2023 local elections. The

request is due to be repeated in good time before the 2027 elections.

If the County Council ward boundaries in this area were revised to follow the new District Council ward boundaries, it would compound the regrettable error and make it harder to remedy the division of the parish of South Darley.

The residents of Oker and Snitterton form an integral part of South Darley and identify with this rural group of several small villages. The communities are linked by many local organisations, such as the parish church, the village school, village hall and numerous societies and groups. The residents do not regard themselves as being part of Matlock town and have no wish to become a small rural anomaly attached to a town. The needs and aspirations of the town are very different.

This is apparent from a recent poll of residents' opinion of the Boundary Commission's last minute change to include Oker and Snitterton within the new Matlock West DDDC ward: of the 121 respondents, 118 strongly objected to the proposal.

I should be grateful if you would take this matter into consideration when reviewing county ward boundaries in this area.

Attached Documents:

None attached