

Wakefield

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Ferrybridge and Pontefract North

Please see attached.

Attached Documents:

- re-drawing-ward-boundaries---consult-nov-2023.rtf

Dear Sirs

I am responding to the invitation for views on a proposal for new ward boundaries for the Wakefield Metropolitan District.

I strongly dislike the current arrangement of multi-member wards. It means the wards are too large and as a result contain a mix of local communities. Communities who can have strong views about the individuality of their community, which may conflict with the views and aspirations of other communities in the ward. Thus creating a difficulty for councillors to be able and be seen to treat all areas equally.

Basically, the current multi-member ward system is less able to successfully represent individual local communities and their residents. A multi-member ward means there is a much weaker link between councillors and the electorate. It is a recipe for the representation in local government to seem, and become, impersonal and increase the disconnect from the electorate.

To residents the multi-member ward system can be a cause of confusion, for instance if a person has an issue should they approach a single councillor or all of the ward's councillors? As an individual ward resident can one be confident that the ward councillors have a good and thorough understanding and knowledge of the whole ward?

In reviewing ward boundaries I strongly favour these to be re-drawn so as to create wards that are represented by a single councillor. It should then be possible to create wards that better represent the individual local communities and their interests.

Where I live was moved from a Ferrybridge ward into Pontefract North, I do not feel any affinity with the communities that make up Pontefract North. My affinities are with Ferrybridge and Knottingley - my Church and my Doctors are in Ferrybridge, I shop in Ferrybridge and Knottingley.

I would like to think that in developing your revisions you would give careful consideration to returning the area to the West of the M62 and bounded by Holmfield Lane, Darkfield Lane, Stump Cross Lane and Sowgate Lane into a single unit of Ferrybridge. I appreciate that this would mean changes to the make up of 12NC and 12NA, but I feel the housing developments in the area could facilitate such a change.