

Kirklees

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (District or county officer)

Comment text:

Related subject: Kirkburton Parish Council area and Kirkburton ward

I am writing to express my support for the draft proposals, I am a current Kirkburton Cllr but also a Parish Councillor for Shepley on Kirkburton Parish Council, having been first elected in 1999. Currently Kirkburton Parish Council is spread across 3 Kirklees wards with the majority being in Kirkburton ward and Lepton village in Almondbury ward and Kirkheaton village being in the Dalton ward. These proposals move the Kirkheaton village (DA06) into Almondbury ward which means that in the future the parish Council would only be split across 2 Kirklees wards which makes the engagement of the Parish Council with Kirklees Cllrs that bit easier. I also feel, having been on the Parish Council since 1999, that the village of Kirkheaton has more in common with Lepton & Almondbury villages on the edge of Huddersfield, rather than the much more urban Dalton and Rawthorpe areas.

When it comes to Kirkburton ward itself, I recognise the need to increase it's size to remain electorally equitable and the proposal to include the villages of Whitley & Briestfield are the only real viable proposal. Under the proposed parliamentary constituency changes, Kirkburton ward is split between the cross border seat of Ossett & Denby Dale and the seat of Dewsbury and Batley. AS the Denby Dale Kirklees ward is the right size and is coterminous with Denby Dale Parish Council, if the ward was to take in any other areas which it bordered, other than Whitley & Briestfield it would mean that the ward would be sat across 3 parliamentary constituencies which again would make managing relationships with MPs even more complicated for the ward Cllrs. I would also agree with the view of the Commission that the villages of Whitley & Briestfield have more in common with the neighbouring villages of Grange Moor and Flockton, rather than with more urban Dewsbury.

Overall I think that the draft proposals do keep communities together and in North Kirklees do seem to address some of the issues about split

communities which were created by the previous boundary review.

Attached Documents:

None attached