

Wakefield

Personal Details:

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

Comment text:

Hello Following the request from the Boundary Commission for comments on the 'May 2024 Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Wakefield Council', I hope you will accept this as my personal submission based on my knowledge and awareness as a person born and raised in Castleford and currently living in the Castleford Central and Glasshoughton Ward. I am an active volunteer member of various community organisations within the town and also an active member of Trinity Methodist Church based in the centre of Castleford, where I helped to establish a Food bank and Food kitchen.

I am particularly concerned about the proposal to split the community of Cutsyke. I think this conflicts quite sharply with the Boundary Commission's aim of recognising community ties. Cutsyke is an area of high deprivation and it will have much stronger representation, speaking with one voice if it remains as a whole community within one Council ward. Splitting this area across two separate wards, I believe, weakens the community ties this area needs to give it the strong voice required to address the many issues and challenges it faces as a community.

Moving on from the above draft recommendations in relation to Cutsyke, I wish to comment on the suggestion that electors residing in the recently developed housing adjacent to Bruce Smeaton Way and near the recycling centre 'view themselves as living in Glasshoughton'. I do not believe this to be the case. I know from living in a new housing estate within the centre of Castleford that residents consider they live on the name of the estate, not in the town's old established communities. Residents living in the new settlement referred to see themselves as benefiting from living very close to the Castleford motor way network and larger West Yorkshire towns and cities, and not in an old established community of Glasshoughton, whose main focus in days past was Glasshoughton Pit.

There are, in my opinion, more cohesive ways to address electoral inequality rather than splitting the community of Custyke and including an area of new housing deemed by some as being in Glasshoughton. The Half Acres estate is a far better fit to Castleford Central and Glasshoughton Ward. The people in this old established area see themselves as being in Castleford town centre and share the same facilities, transport links, services and food banks as those people living on the adjacent streets of Barnes Road and Roundhill Road, etc.,

Attached Documents:

None attached