

Middlesbrough

Personal Details:

Name: Mr Luke Myer MP
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of Parliament)

Comment text:

Easterside becoming a two-member ward with Beechwood

I support the proposal to combine the area of Easterside with the area of Beechwood to create a new ward.

Easterside residents often find their social, family, and professional lives centred within the estate. When Easterside residents use facilities outside of the immediate area, their preferred destinations tend to be nearby in the Beechwood/Saltersgill area. Facilities such as the Beechwood and Easterside Social Club, Saltersgill Avenue Shops, and Trinity Catholic College are popular choices shared across both communities. Conversely, there is a notable lack of shared identity with the neighbouring Marton Manor, currently combined with Easterside in Ladgate ward.

Both Easterside and Beechwood share similar demographics and identities. Easterside features a mix of private rented and socially rented homes, while Marton Manor is predominantly owner-occupied. Easterside's economic activity aligns more closely with Beechwood; residents are more likely to be in work or looking for work compared to their Marton Manor counterparts, who are often retired or semi-retired.

The proposed ward boundary for Easterside and Beechwood would also follow local geographical features, such as the busy roads of Marton Burn Road, Belle Vue Grove, Ladgate Lane, and Marton Road.

Marton East and Marton West

While I support the principle of disassociating Marton Manor from Easterside and associating it with Marton, I am concerned that the current proposals for the two Marton wards do not adequately reflect the natural geographical features nor the shared activities of residents.

The Commission's proposed Marton East ward, centred around Stewart Park, creates a fragmented ward with three distinct areas separated by the busy A172 and the large park.

To address this, I propose retaining a two-member Marton East ward and creating a three-member Marton West ward, with Marton Manor included in the larger Marton West ward.

Residents of Marton Manor have a stronger affinity with amenities in Marton West Ward, such as the Southern Cross and Tesco Express, than with those in Marton East Ward. The demographic makeup of the area is more similar, with Marton Manor and Marton West having a predominantly older and more affluent population, while Marton East has a younger, more economically active population due to its proximity to James Cook University Hospital. By maintaining the A172 as the east-west boundary and incorporating Stokesley Road and Marton West Beck as natural boundaries, the proposed wards would better reflect the geographical and demographic realities of the area.

I hope that the Commission will consider adopting this proposal.

Attached Documents:

None attached