

# Middlesbrough

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## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Ayresome Ward (mainly)

Thank you for providing a copy of your draft recommendations for ward boundaries in Middlesbrough.

My main interest is in the proposals for the current Ayresome Ward as my wife and I have lived in Heythrop Drive since August 1992. At that time the area which you refer to in the draft recommendations as 'the Heythrop Drive area' was in Kader Ward. That always seemed a little strange as the properties in the area have a logical separation from the rest of the ward by the fact that their outlook is towards Mandale Road whilst the outlook of the rest of the ward is towards Acklam Road.

It is a mere ten years since 'the Heythrop Drive area' moved from Kader Ward to the current Ayresome Ward. The reasons behind that move (no direct vehicular access to the remainder of Kader Ward, due to the Acklam Grange School and playing fields, and much in common in terms of housing and socioeconomic factors with the area bounded by Mandale Road, Levick Crescent and Acklam Road) have not changed in the intervening time.

There appears, therefore, to be no logic behind the proposal in the Labour scheme to include 'the Heythrop Drive area' in Kader ward. Indeed, it seems strange that (having proposed the move from Kader ten years ago) the Labour Group now wishes to reverse it.

In a similar vein, there seems to be no logic in moving the Mandale Meadow open space area from the current Ayresome Ward to the proposed Stainton and Stainsby Hall Farm Ward. The area was purchased by the local authority, after nearly 20 years of negotiations, specifically to provide open space for 'the Heythrop Drive area'. It remains primary open space for residents of that area. In addition, even if the full proposed

housing estate is eventually built, it will stop far short of Mandale Meadow.

The same sort of consideration applies to Acklam Meadow/Newfield. Residents of the immediate area fought long and hard to have it declared a village green so there is no good reason to move it out of their ward.

If the Stainton Ward is to be extended it should not be beyond Blue Bell and Saphwood Becks.

When it comes to the renaming of the current Ayresome Ward, I remain of the opinion that 'Acklam North' is far more appropriate than 'Acklam West & Whinney Banks'.

The Plan of Middlesbrough drawn up in 1874 by E. D. Latham (Borough Surveyor) shows that the area of the Acklam Estate referred to as West Acklam was the area around Acklam Hall in the current Kader and Acklam wards.

The Whinney Banks housing estate was built in the north of the historical Acklam Estate, so it would be inappropriate (even divisive) for the ward name to infer that it is somehow separate from the rest of the ward (which also includes areas known as West Lane and Acklam Gardens).

The name 'Acklam North', therefore, reflects the history of the whole of the ward area.

It is significant that you note that the only ward representative who actually lives in the ward, Councillor Jackie Young, supports the same name of Acklam North.

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*