

North East Lincolnshire

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: NELC Electoral Review boundary review

I don't support NELC's official proposal put forward to boundary commission to abolish Freshney ward. This is pure gerrymandering due to ward having 3 vocal and proactive Independent councillors. Leaders of the council haven't consulted with the community or local community groups to canvass opinion on options. Awareness has been raised by local Independent councillors. Freshney ward has a unique identity and clear strong connections within the community and between residents and their councillors. All 3 areas of Freshney ward share facilities such as pubs, shops, beauty facilities and the only post office in the area. Great Coates has no shops or pubs but does have the village hall used by all 3 areas for meetings, events etc and also the only train station. The councillors proposing abolishing Freshney ward seem unfamiliar with its geography and unique identifying boundaries and the cohesiveness of the community. There are nurseries, primary and senior schools in all 3 areas with children attending different ones to their area eg great coates nursery, wybers primary then whitgift senior, further increasing community links between the areas. St Nicholas Church is attended by residents from all 3 areas. All of these points increase community spirit and closeness. As the Freshnet is earmarked for more housing developments there would need to be a further review if it is abolished as a ward as residents numbers increase. already overworked councillors will have to work even harder. I firmly feel the NELC proposal doesn't meet the boundary commission criteria.

Attached Documents:

None attached