

North Yorkshire

Personal Details:

Name: Mr Andrew Williams
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Organisation Name: (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Ripon

Having reviewed the proposals for Ripon I note that you have currently adopted the proposals from the Liberal Democrats which are highly partisan in nature and opposed by Ripon City Council.

They exclude the new housing development at West Lane from the Parish of Ripon yet the developers are selling the homes as part of the City of Ripon, they have no connection to Littlethorpe at all and it makes no sense for these properties not to be within Ripon Parish.

The boundaries for the proposed new Parish divisions do not seem to have equal numbers of electors in them and I would urge you to look again at these boundaries and names. It would be better to keep the existing ward names which have been in existence for years and to which residents have some understanding than the bland names proposed. If the West Lane development is included in Ripon Parish suitable adjustments to the existing ward boundaries can be made to deliver equal elector numbers.

Turning to the proposals for the North Yorkshire divisions frankly there is no ideal solution given that Ripon is too big for two members and too small for three. This means that some Ripon residents will have to be in a division where rural voters are in a majority.

The Liberal Democrats have been trying to tell local residents that the draft proposals deliver three seats for Ripon and that they are responsible. A division dominated by rural voters and given a Ripon name is not a Ripon division . You can call beef Salmon but it remains beef!

The blatant gerrymandering proposed by the Liberal Democrats which you have accepted places virtually every terraced house in Ripon in with rural voters simply in attempt to make the rural division potentially marginal. There is no logic at all to dividing North Street and Bondgate in two to create an arbitrary boundary. This proposal places some of the most urban voters in with a majority of rural voters with whom they have no connection at all. Whilst no proposal is ideal at least NYC was seeking to mix suburban and rural voters together those who have at least some common issues such as accessing services in the city centre. Urban voters have no such issues. NYC also recognised that placing the army quarters properties in a rural division would have less impact as these residents are here on short term postings and are more transient as a result. Placing a number of other residences adjacent to these properties and placing them in the already neighbouring rural division of Masham and Fountains to which they border seems to be the least worst option which is available. I note the boundary commission complains of a lack of a natural boundary for this proposal yet there is no natural boundary for the draft proposal it has adopted which draws equally arbitrary lines along two major streets in Ripon. The name of the division is also an insult to the villages contained within it , they are communities of their identities they are not suburbs of Ripon. They are villages with their own communities and to simply parcel them as Ripon is wholly wrong. I urge you to think again on your proposal for Ripon.

Attached Documents:

None attached