

Darlington

Personal Details:

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

Comment text:

Related subject: Mowden, Hummersknott, College and Park West

See file.

Attached Documents:

- boundary-commission-submissioin.docx

Hello. I am making this submission as a local resident who grew up in Darlington in the '50s and '60s and returned 17 years ago after 40 years working in local government as a chartered highways engineer in both Greater Manchester and East Sussex.

Darlington, as the name suggests, developed from Saxon times as a thriving market town. In the Victorian era, partly due to the influence of two Quaker banking families, Pease and Backhouse, it grew rapidly as the industrial revolution brought heavy industry and, famously, the railways. Like many towns, housing development started along the main roads radiating from the centre, followed by infilling 'estates' to meet the needs of the increasing population.

My detailed observations relate to the four wards – Hummersknott, Mowden, College and Park West – comprising the 'west end' which is where I live and know best. Each has elements of older ribbon development but are mainly more recent 'estates'. In Hummersknott this is mainly 1950s, in Mowden 1960s and in both College and Park West 1930s and 40s, and this is responsible for the differences in character between the wards. They are all mainly middle class and as such do not exhibit the sense of community found in older areas, for example, the Denes or Cockerton. There are no distinct community centres with social activities mainly focussed on Churches and schools. For example the only small group of shops, in Mowden, surprisingly has no café, and, due to the historical Quaker influence, there are only two pubs, also in Mowden.

Based on these characteristics, in order to achieve the required ward sizes and reduce the number of councillors, my suggestion would be;

- 1) combine College (with the exception of the ribbon development in polling district COC) and Park West wards into a single 3 councillor ward with an electorate of 6299 and a variance from average of -4.29%.
add COC to Mowden to form a new 2 councillor ward
 - 2) with an electorate of 4075 and a variance of -7.13%.
 - and 3) add the new Coniscliffe Park development currently under construction*, which I assume will have 750 electors by 2031, to Hummersknott to form a 2 councillor ward with an electorate of 3934 and a variance of -10.34%.
- * whilst this is physically in the current 'rural' HCI district its nature and location make it more obviously a part of the adjacent 'urban' ward.

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Please add to my previous submission ref 1168496 :

Although the numbers for Mowden and Hummersknott are low, they do leave room for the proposed further development of 985 dwellings in Coniscliffe Park together with shops, a primary school and a surgery, for which Bellway Homes have already carried out a pre planning application public consultation.

Attached Documents:

None attached