

Middlesbrough

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Acklam/Hemlington

As a lifelong Acklam resident I approve of the changes made in the revised proposals, particularly as they keep the existing wards mostly intact which have provided for effective representation. The proposed boundaries of the Kader, Trimdon & Acklam East & Tollesby wards make a great deal of sense 'on the ground'.

However, I strongly disagree with the renaming of the former Ayresome ward 'Acklam West & Whinney Banks'. While the old name of Ayresome was not in any way suitable, this ward contains very little of Acklam, perhaps a very small peripheral area south of Mandale Road. The name WHINNEY BANKS describes the ward succinctly, the vast majority of the ward could be accurately described as part of Whinney Banks. In all honesty, I think the desire to include Acklam in the name is a result of middle-class snobbery from those residents who wish to be grouped with leafy Acklam rather than deprived Whinney Banks, especially with any resultant effect on house prices. Furthermore, if we are taking such a generous view of what constitutes Acklam, then Kader ward and perhaps Trimdon ward would have a better claim. I would nonetheless keep the names of KADER and TRIMDON as they describe the areas included succinctly, then rename 'Acklam East & Tollesby' as simply ACKLAM & TOLLESBY, as the traditional core area of Acklam, including Acklam Hall and Acklam Academy, is covered by this ward.

One area where I think the review has got things wrong is Hemlington and Stainton. While I'm glad the bizarre 'Stainsby Hill & Stainton' concoction has been ruled out, I don't think the revised proposals in Hemlington are optimal either. I would argue that the ward boundaries should be kept the same as at present; a core HEMLINGTON ward and a STAINTON & THORNTON ward that includes Stainton & Thornton villages, Hemlington Hall and the Hemlington Grange estate. Stainton & Thornton ward should gain a second councillor to account for population growth,

which keeps it within the allowed population variance, but at 10% less than average allows for future growth.

While I can understand this isn't obvious from afar, 'on the ground' the Hemlington Grange estate is rather isolated from the rest of Hemlington and completely different in character. It is an overspill area of newbuild housing which does not naturally flow with the rest of Hemlington, and although it lacks its own amenities, residents use those in Stainton as much as Hemlington.

Hemlington Grange is adjacent to Stainton, connected via footbridge, and has a long history of being connected with Stainton for electoral purposes. It is the most peripheral area of Hemlington proper, furthest away from Hemlington's amenities such as the social club and shops, with residents just as close to amenities in Stainton.

As a result, on balance I think it would be best to maintain the existing boundaries, as I think community ties between Hemlington Hall, Hemlington Grange and Stainton are sufficient and carving up Hemlington further would result in less effective representation of Hemlington as a whole, with the core of the estate being split between two wards.

Attached Documents:

- [boundary-review.docx](#)

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