

North Yorkshire

Personal Details:

Name: Roberta Swiers

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Organisation Name: Cayton Parish Council (Parish or town councillor)

Comment text:

I am the current councillor for Cayton which I represented on North Yorkshire County Council before continuing on the new unitary for almost a decade. I also represented this area on Scarborough Borough Council for a decade and most importantly have been on Cayton Parish Council for 24 years, so I know the area quite well!

I appreciate that there need to be changes to the division boundaries as a result of population changes but I want to strongly object to the proposal to put parts of Eastfield south of the Eastway into a division with Cayton. The current Cayton division is made up of four villages which have a completely different character to Eastfield which is far more urban. Although we are going to see a lot of development in the area in the coming years these villages will retain a separate identity to Eastfield and to Scarborough town itself and it would make it very hard to have a councillor who can adequately represent the whole ward if you put the heart of Eastfield into a rural division.

My alternative suggestion which I understand also has cross party support from North Yorkshire Council is to move the new estate which is called Middle Deepdale and is just north of Eastfield into the Cayton division. These houses will have much more in common demographically with the new estates being built next door in Osgodby and in Cayton and will ensure that Eastfield does not get diluted and lose it's voice. I believe it is important that the traditional parts of Eastfield be maintained in a single division as the needs of the residents there are such that they need a councillor who focuses on the town. If the commission were to instead put the area north of Crossdale Way which is currently being built it would both make sense in terms of population numbers but protect Eastfield in one division whilst also allowing Cayton and the villages to have a councillor who will not have divided loyalties between the urban and rural parts of the division.

I hope the commission will agree that this would be a much better way to draw the boundaries to maintain traditional communities whilst also meeting the needs of the commission to have a certain number of voters in each division. Middle Deepdale already identifies much more closely with Osgodby, residents who have moved into the new housing say they live in Osgodby as it is closely connected to the village through Priory Place and regularly visit the local pub, the Poachers Barn or attend events at the Osgodby Community Centre.

Although on a map it may look like moving the roads south of the Eastway in Cayton is the easiest solution there is a chasm between those areas and it would not be fair on residents in either if they find their voices are swallowed up and diminished due to a boundary that leaves part of their community unmoored and stuck onto a totally different area.

Many thanks.

Roberta Swiers

Attached Documents:

None attached