

North Yorkshire

Personal Details:

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

Comment text:

Related subject: Birstwith and Pannal Ward

It is the view of Birstwith Parish Council that the proposed changes to the existing boundary will be detrimental to our parish. The reasons for this are as follows:-

1. The proposed Ward will be dominated by Pannal. This is a commuter town for Leeds (primarily) and Harrogate. Their needs are completely different to a small rural parish such as Birstwith.
2. The proposed Ward has a significantly increased number of Parish Councils compared with the existing Ward that Birstwith is in. It is already difficult for the County Councillor to attend PC meetings. This problem will be exacerbated by the proposed change thus limiting the ability of PC's to raise local issues with County Councillors.
3. The proposed changes would mean the Ward spans two parliamentary constituencies which makes the job of the County Councillor harder and will likely lead to less MP involvement in important local issues.
4. Birstwith is part of Nidderdale and parts of the Parish are in the Nidderdale Area of Natural Beauty. It makes no sense to separate Birstwith from our Nidderdale neighbours where we share similar issues (eg bus routes, access to schools etc).

In summary, it is the unanimous view of Birstwith Parish Council that the proposed change should NOT go ahead and that the existing Ward should remain untouched.

Attached Documents:

None attached