

From Councillors Denise Carlo and Tim Jones  
Nelson Ward, Norwich City Council c/o City Hall

We write as elected city councillors (Green Party) for Nelson ward and both live in the ward.

Councillor Denise Carlo was elected to the Council in 2011 and has lived in Nelson for 38 years.

Councillor Tim Jones was elected to the City Council in 2014 and has lived in the ward/immediate area for ten years.

Our comments are based on a whole-city approach taken by Norwich Green Party City Group to revising city ward boundaries to reflect population changes.

Nelson is a compact ward comprising mostly modest Victorian terrace housing. On paper Nelson is under-sized. However, in saying that, we consider that adjustments to the ward boundary should recognise the under-representation of students in voter registration in Nelson. Nelson ward has a high resident student population and many buy-to-let landlords have found it profitable to let all the main rooms in the houses for student sleeping accommodation (eg two up to down terrace house previously occupied by one or two adults may now be rented out to four students). This trend has not always been reflected in student voter registration in Nelson which fluctuates considerably from year to year depending on whether a national or European election is taking place at the same time as a local election.

Our experience of the character of local communities in Nelson and the adjacent wards is that the important determinants include:

- the district shopping centres. Nelson ward has two district shopping centres - Earlham House on Earlham Road and the parade of shops along Unthank Road.
- the transport networks (the main radial roads which support bus routes) and the extent to which the main roads form barriers to movement.
- schools – there are three in the ward, all of which are located within three streets of each other (in NE2) and other community facilities.

The ward roughly divides into two, based on the shopping area they look towards.

Streets between Dereham Road and Portersfield/Jessopp Road look towards Earlham House shopping centre and the facilities nearby eg St Thomas Church.

Streets between Portersfield Road/Jessopp Road and Unthank Road look to Unthank Road shops.

In terms of adjusting the ward, we recommend the following:

- Move into Town Close: the streets south of Portersfield Road/Jessopp Road/Upper Park Lane which have Unthank Road as their community focus.
- Move into University ward: Mornington Road, Muriel Road and Highland Road in NE4.
- Extend the Nelson boundary to include WE2 and the adjoining part of MA4 bordered by Dereham Road, Old Palace Road and Heigham Street. This is a whole community and residents look towards Earlham House for shopping as it is easier to cross over Dereham Road and travel along Helena Road/Edinburgh Road to Earlham Road (or else cut through Earlham Cemetery on foot or by cycle) than it is to cross the barrier of the busy Old Palace Road//Heigham Road junction to the shopping

parade on Dereham Road and Charles Square towards the city centre.

- Extend the Nelson boundary to include the small triangle of streets in WE3 bordered by Dereham Road, Bowthorpe Road and the Norwich Community Hospital (Bond Street, Merton Road, Holly Road and the houses along this part of Bowthorpe Road). The streets here look to Earlham Houses for their services rather than Dereham Road.

At the meeting of Norwich City Council on 20 March, the Labour Council members voted to move MA1 and a small section of MA4 into Nelson. However, this doesn't make sense from a community perspective. The majority of MA1 residents (West Pottergate) look at to the shopping parades along Dereham Road and Charles Square as their focus. Neither does it make sense to include a stand-alone small outcrop of streets forming part of MA4 and bounded by Old Palace Road, Dereham Road, Northumberland Street , West End Street and Armes Street in order to make up the numbers, when the area combined with WE2 forms a single community.

Councillor Denise Carlo and Councillor Tim Jones 4 April 2018