

County Durham

Personal Details:

Name: Dr Gavin Jarvis

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Organisation Name: Greencroft Parish (Parish or town councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Maiden Law / Consett North / Lanchester

I am a Parish Councillor of Greencroft Parish Council. However, I wish to make a personal submission in addition to our collective one.

I am a relative newcomer to the area having lived in Maiden Law for just 2 years. I was both surprised and disappointed to find that the proposed boundary changes would have Maiden Law moved from Lanchester, which is 1 mile away, to Consett North, which is 6 miles, in a northwesterly direction. Maiden Law is in no way north of Consett!

I struggle to see the logic of this boundary change. The proximity and character of Maiden Law as a rural village make it well-suited to links with Lanchester. My closest Catholic Parish is in Lanchester; my closest shops and restaurants are in Lanchester. I can easily walk to Lanchester.

Maiden Law feels and relates to Lanchester as a small cousin up the hill. There is no comparable sense of connection with Consett, an industrial town some distance away.

I note, again with some disappointment, that Maiden Law does not even get a mention by name in the Full Draft Recommendations, although I realise that Greencroft parish is mentioned. Nevertheless, I do feel that the civic identity and practical situation of the small village of Maiden Law has not been taken into account in the setting of these proposed boundary divisions.

From what I can see, it would be a relatively simple matter to move the boundary as proposed to ensure that Maiden Law remains connected to Lanchester, rather than a distant outpost of Consett North. I would ask that you make this change when considering the final boundaries after this consultation exercise.

Attached Documents:

None attached