

County Durham

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Durham County Council - ward member for Lanchester (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Lanchester Ward

-I think it would be more appropriate to include Maiden Law/ Greencroft Parish into the Lanchester ward. They are currently in Lanchester ward, for obvious reasons of geographic proximity, in that Maiden Law is located a very short distance just under a mile from Lanchester. Lanchester is the main hub for Maiden Law residents who use Lanchester shops, Lanchester medical centre, its churches as well as its 3 schools. Meanwhile, both villages share common rural identity and have similar concerns that would not be reflected in a more urban Consett North focused. Also, many residents of Lanchester use Willow Burn hospice - for work, as a care facility and community hub - which is located on the Maiden View estate, closer to central Lanchester than central Maiden Law.

-Meanwhile, I think if the ward is to be confirmed using the proposed boundaries, I believe it would be appropriate to include the name "Burnhope" in the ward - so it would be come "Lanchester and Burnhope". Burnhope has a significant sense of identity and a population of over 1,500. Burnhope is a former pit village with roots and a sense of place that is very different to that of Lanchester. Recently a Burnhope heritage event was launched called "Burnhope: the village that refused to die" reflecting the pride in overcoming the controversial d-listing the village was given in the mid-20th century, and there is a strong sense that the village is overlooked for historic reasons. Including the village name in the ward name would be a useful way of boosting awareness of the village's identity and significant size.

Attached Documents:

None attached