

County Durham

Personal Details:

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Comment text:

I am writing to give my support to the proposals put forward by the Local Government Boundary Commission for new electoral divisions in County Durham.

As a Town Councillor in Spennymoor I believe the proposals put forward for the Spennymoor parish area are sensible whilst maintaining good electoral equality. Although I note that the proposed Spennymoor division has a high variance at +10% and would not support this variance being any greater.

Ideally the villages of Kirk Merrington and North Close would be in the same division as other areas of Spennymoor, but this seems difficult to achieve whilst maintaining good electoral equality. These villages have been part of the Ferryhill division since 2013 and I therefore believe that arrangement should be maintained for continuity reasons and in recognition of the close geographical link that exists between these communities via the B6287 road.

I support Croxdale and Hett parish coming into the Tudhoe division as geographically they are much more connected to Tudhoe and Spennymoor than they are to the Coxhoe division of which they are currently a part of. Tudhoe Colliery Primary School serves as the local school for the Croxdale area and it makes sense in that respect to bring Croxdale into the Tudhoe division.

I am pleased the proposals make arrangements for the new estate on Merrington Lane to be entirely within the Tudhoe division, rather than the existing situation which sees part of the estate within the Ferryhill division.

I also believe the proposal to bring the unparished villages of Binchester and Newfield into the Spennymoor division to be a sensible one. These villages are geographically well linked to Spennymoor and share much in common with the village of Byers Green that is part of the Spennymoor parish area. The primary school in Byers Green is a local school to both Newfield and Binchester, so it is sensible for these villages to be within the same electoral division.

I do not support any proposal to bring Coundon into the Spennymoor division though as it is a completely distinct community from Spennymoor and is much more closely connected to both Bishop Auckland and Shildon.

The new boundary between the Spennymoor and Tudhoe divisions is broadly acceptable to me also. It keeps the Greenways housing estate together in its entirety in the Spennymoor division, whilst uniting the main Town Centre area into the Tudhoe division through moving the Ox Close Crescent, Jackson Street and Dundas Street areas from the Spennymoor division into the Tudhoe division.

My only concern is the slight anomaly that what is considered Spennymoor Town Centre will be in the Tudhoe division rather than the Spennymoor division and that this may cause some confusion. This is why in my initial response I had suggested renaming the divisions Spennymoor West and Spennymoor East to remove such confusion and in recognition that the vast majority of both divisions are part of the Spennymoor Town Council parish area.

To conclude I am in support of the proposals put forward for the new electoral divisions covering the Spennymoor Town Council area.

Councillor Dean Ranyard
Member of Spennymoor Town Council representing the Spennymoor ward

Attached Documents:

None attached