

County Durham

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Proposal to move Greencroft Parish to Consett North

I strongly disagree with the proposal to move Greencroft Parish from Lanchester to Consett North.

Greencroft Parish is a small rural area consisting mainly of farm land and the small village of Maiden Law. The village has no services other than a public house. Until that last few years its population was relatively small with around 84 households; the majority centred in Maiden Law, the rest are mainly farmhouses. This was boosted a few years ago when the derelict site of the former Maiden Law Hospital was redeveloped into a modest sized housing estate (Maiden View). This site also houses the long established Willowburn Hospice which originated in some of the old hospital buildings.

Greencroft Parish and its residents have very strong community ties to Lanchester. Both areas are rural each with a large proportion of farming land. All local services are based in Lanchester; schools, Doctor, pharmacy, post office, library, community centre, hardware, greengrocer and grocery store etc. These services are 1 mile away, less than 1/2 mile for residents of Maiden View and currently accessible by a bus.

As a result, the residents in Greencroft Parish area have strong connections with Lanchester, we use the services there and we share the same community issues. Over the years our County Councillors (regardless of political affiliation) have understood those rural issues and have worked most effectively and efficiently to represent and provide solutions for both communities. The sharing of that County Councillor resource has definitely benefited both communities.

The proposed boundary move for Greencroft Parish to Consett North will put our small community at a disadvantage because Consett is an ex industrial town with its own set of issues and problems that are not experienced nor shared by this small rural community. We will no longer share a County Councillor that has worked efficiently on issues that relate to the two rural adjoining Parish areas.

I can understand the requirement to even out the electorate numbers to enable fair representation, however the proposal to move Greencroft Parish to Consett North should not just be a numbers exercise. Please reconsider the recommendation and ensure that Greencroft Parish remains with Lanchester to maintain our identity and the existing strong community links and County representation.

Attached Documents:

None attached