

County Durham

Personal Details:

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

Comment text:

Related subject: Shincliffe Parish

I feel that the best option for Shincliffe's future would be being part of a two member county council division called Elvet and Gilesgate, preferably based on the present Elvet and Gilesgate area plus Shincliffe Parish. I feel this would likely give a similar number of electors compared to the current revised proposals for an extension of Elvet and Gilesgate to include the area around Churchill Avenue; and in addition would result in a good balance of elector demographics by counterbalancing the current Elvet and Gilesgate area which has a high population of students who are often not resident in the same area for long periods of time.

As a resident of Shincliffe Village, all of the local services I use are in Durham City Centre or in Gilesgate. For example, I regularly visit the University Library where I am a member, go for walks along the bank of the River Wear towards the Racecourse area (Green Lane, Territorial Lane), and do my day-to-day shopping either in the City Centre or at the supermarkets on Dragon Lane in Gilesgate. Neither myself or my partner make use of the local facilities in Bowburn and certainly have no knowledge of or link to the other villages proposed to be within the division such as Coxhoe. For council services including the Libraries my first port of call would be Clayport Library / Durham City Customer Access Point.

I agree with the statement that "Shincliffe parish is distinct from the city centre" as stated in the notes for the Elvet & Gilesgate division. The parish has historically had a large proportion of residents who are employed by the University (lecturers, profesors etc.) and this represents a strong link to the City Centre. I strongly feel that Shincliffe is closer to the City Centre than it is to Bowburn, Coxhoe etc. based on my comments above regarding use of local services.

Finally, the Boundary Commission for England Final Recommendations for the North East Region have Shincliffe Parish being part of the City of Durham parliamentary constituency, whereas Bowburn etc. is part of Newton Aycliffe and Spennymoor CC. I feel that having a conflict of the assignment of Shincliffe Parish to the 'City' constituency, but then in a village-based county council division is confusing for residents and non-sensical.

Shincliffe Parish is closely linked to the City of Durham and would be most appropriately placed in a division along with the existing Elvet and Gilesgate area.

Attached Documents:

None attached