

County Durham

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

I am writing in relation to the LGBCE review of warding arrangements in County Durham.

I am a regular visitor to the Consett area for work purposes, for leisure and to see family and friends. I wanted to comment on the proposals in this part of the county.

I was concerned to see the Commission's proposal for a three-member Consett South division, and do not believe that such a division would be conducive to effective community representation.

I would like to support the alternative proposal, as referenced in section 53 on Page 11 of the Report, to sub-divide this division into a two-councillor Delves Lane division and a single councillor Consett South division which linked the communities of Moorside, The Grove and the parish of Healeyfield.

Moorside, The Grove and Castleside are distinct communities, and whilst certainly in the greater Consett area they do have a distinct identity, sense of place and unique needs that would be neglected if they were subsumed into a larger three-member Consett South division.

Friends and family in these communities certainly tell me that they see themselves as distinct places, each with a village feel rather than being mere suburbs of Consett town.

I regularly worked at an office at ■ Taylor Street, Consett, ■ for many years. This part of Consett in the current Delves Lane division is very much part of the town of Consett, with communities running into one another all focusing on the town centre for their amenities and community facilities. They also share bus links.

This is not the case with Moorside, The Grove, Castleside and the parish of Healeyfield which run into one another along the A692 and have a distinct break between them and the town of Consett.

Moorside, The Grove and Castleside do not share similar community and transport links with Delves Lane.

Moorside, The Grove and Castleside share a range of local shops, food outlets, community pubs and social clubs, primary schools and community facilities like churches and play parks. These are used interchangeably between residents of these 3 areas as they are close to one another. However, people from the main town of Consett would not travel down to Moorside, The Grove or Castleside to use them.

Neither should these three communities be included with Lanchester or Wearside, neither of which share community facilities, have a sense of cohesion or share public transport links between them.

As a regular walker along the Waskerly Way footpaths, it is clear that the wider Healeyfield parish area provides recreational facilities for nearby communities in Castleside, Moorside and The Grove, and so the entire parish should be in the same division as these three communities. I believe it would make sense for these areas to be represented by a single member division.

I urge the Commission to adopt the proposal for a single-member division comprising Moorside, The Grove, Castleside and Healeyfield Parish; and a two-member ward containing Delves Lane and the other parts of Consett town proper.

Attached Documents:

None attached