

Sunderland

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Sunderland City Council (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Hastings Hill, Thorney Close, Grindon and Springwell

I am writing as one of the ward councillors for the Sandhill Ward on Sunderland City Council.

I would like to propose that the communities of Grindon, Springwell, Thorney Close and Hastings Hill are included in a single ward for the following reasons.

All 4 areas run naturally into one another and all border a large green space starting at Hastings Hill, through the Grindon sandhill and leading into the Barnes Park extension from Tay Road to Springwell Road. This is a large natural space which is used and valued by residents of all 4 estates and which brings these communities together rather than dividing them.

In contrast, the obvious boundaries of Durham Road to the south and Chester Road to the North are busy main roads in and out of the city centre which are largely comprised of busy dual carriageways that are difficult to cross. These main roads divide communities rather than unite them. For the most part they have no shopping parades or amenities along them. Housing estates on either side of these main routes face away from the main road, meaning that estates either side do not look to each other and are not united by these roads.

Grindon, Thorney Close and Springwell are all post-war 1950s council estates which have similar housing types and therefore similar issues.

All 4 estates share common facilities and amenities. For example, the main community centres and youth provision is provided for by Grindon

Young People's Centre, Grindon Church Community Project, Sandhill Community Group, 111 Squadron Air Cadent, St Mary & St Peter's Community Project and the Thorney Close Action and Enterprise Centre. All of these centres provide services for young people, and the community more widely, across all 4 estates. It would not make sense for this group of community facilities to be represented in different wards as it would make local government and decision making less convenient.

Grindon, Thorney Close, Springwell and Hastings Hill are all served by the same secondary school at Sandhill View Academy in the centre of all 4 estates. Similarly, the main GP surgery serving these communities is located at Springwell Medical Centre on Springwell Road. The nearby Grindon Primary Care Centre is another key medical facility.

Amenities like schools, medical facilities and community groups in Grindon, Thorney Close, Hastings Hill and Springwell are all easily accessible by walking, cycling or by public transport with the 16 bus linking Hastings Hill, Grindon and Springwell; the 23 bus linking Thorney Close and Springwell; and the 18 bus linking Thorney Close, Grindon and Hastings Hill.

For these reasons I request that the communities of Hastings Hill, Thorney Close, Springwell and Grindon are included in the same electoral ward.

Attached Documents:

None attached