

County Durham

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Parish or town councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Spennymoor, Tudhoe, Kirk Merrington

Boundary proposals

I would like to comment on the current proposals that impact Kirk Merrington and North Close. I find the logic and reasoning to be flawed and ill informed, as outlined below.

The Boundary Commission report states that one Spennymoor councillor - who is not the ward councillor - said that the arrangement with Kirk Merrington and Ferryhill would be “acceptable”. To dismiss the historic relationship between Kirk Merrington and Tudhoe and Spennymoor, based on a singular view, is particularly frustrating.

As current parish councillor for the Kirk Merrington ward, I would like to stress that public opinion along with the unanimous vote of Spennymoor Town Council is that Kirk Merrington and North Close should return to its rightful place in Spennymoor, which would match its County Council ward with its Parish.

The current anomaly where Kirk Merrington is represented by two different governing organisations across parish and county wards has caused frustration, misunderstanding and confusion for a number of years; now seems the perfect opportunity to correct what is seen by many as wrong.

The identity of residents of Kirk Merrington as Spennymoor residents is strong: they have Spennymoor within their addresses; they have a DL16

Spennymoor postcode; they access doctors, dentists and pharmacy services in Spennymoor; many families living in Spennymoor attend Kirk Merrington primary school and many Kirk Merrington children then access secondary school in Spennymoor. And of course, they have their council tax precept determined by Spennymoor Town Council. To suggest, in the report, that a road link to Ferryhill is the determining factor in the decision on how people are represented is ludicrous; there is equally a main road link from Kirk Merrington through North Close to Ferryhill. Indeed, it is a shorter distance from Kirk Merrington village green to Spennymoor town hall as it is to Ferryhill town hall - and an even greater discrepancy in that for North Close residents.

I strongly urge you to reconsider, just as you have in recognising the split within the new estates at Merrington Lane, and place Kirk Merrington and North Close back into an electoral ward which it represents: Spennymoor and Tudhoe.

The residents deserve it and you in my opinion are duty bound to do it based on the real facts not those determined by a councillor with purely political aims.

Attached Documents:

None attached