

County Durham

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Parish or town councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Tudhoe and Spennymoor

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your draught report.

My first concern is the reduction in the number of Councillors may seriously undermine the councillor roll. While the primary duty of a Councillor is to represent their constituents. They have a secondary roll in ensuring but the council is well run in both administrative and financial terms. The current proposed reduction to the number of Councillors will seriously undermine the roll in scrutiny. The reduction will also reduce the capacity of Councillors to deal with serious issues such as planning highways and looked after children. The additional pressure on the remaining Councillors will affect their ability to engage with community organisations and even their own area action partnerships.

May I now turn to the proposals for the Spennymoor and Tudhoe divisions.

I believe it is important to retain the current names of these two divisions, both names can trace their origins well into local history. Both are well understood geographically, a point I will return to latter.

I support the decision to ensure that the residents of the Merrington Lane estate are all included in the Tudhoe Division. I would also hope this proposed action is extended to the Cornish Park development immediately adjacent. This is a great help not only to the residents but to the practical running of elections. The situation could be enhanced by the inclusion of Kirk Merrington and North Close within the Tudhoe Division, The proposed boundary change between Spennymoor and Tudhoe would move away from a long established, and well recognised boundary. It will see Spennymoor High Street and surrounding areas moved into Tudhoe. This will include the town hall which is a polling station for a much larger area. The area of Oxclose Crescent was previously moved into Tudhoe much to the aggravation all the residents. Who were pleased when

the status quo was returned at the time of the creation of the unitary council. Please endeavour to retain the existing boundary running from the leisure centre past the cenotaph down through the valley burn to the River Wear.

I understand given the expanded numbers required the extension of Tudhoe to include Croxdale, Sunderland Bridge and Hett. However, none of these areas have formed part of the Spennymoor Township whereas Kirk Merrington and North Close are part of The Spennymoor Council Area. It would be easier for residents to understand placing Kirk Merrington and North Close within either Spennymoor or Tudhoe rather than the proposed inclusion of Binchester and Newfield or Croxdale, Sunderland Bridge and Hett.

Your proposal not to include Kirk Merrington within Ferryhill is very much dictated by your decision not to include West Cornforth and Metal Bridge within Ferryhill.

I understand that the numbers allocated to each division is important however I would argue having local cohesion and community buy in is of equal importance.

Attached Documents:

None attached