

County Durham

Personal Details:

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

Comment text:

I, [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] Selby Gardens, The Grove, Consett, wish to make my views known about your proposals to change council ward boundaries where I live.

I have been settled in The Grove for many, many years. I know this area very well indeed. I hope that you will hear my opinions sympathetically as a result.

The Grove itself is a distinct community, however, it shares a great deal of character and local cohesion with the buildings and residents of Moorside and Castleside. Furthermore, Allensford is our nearest major park, which connects well with The Grove and Castleside, forming a boundary there with Northumberland. All three villages face the valley, unlike Delves Lane. There is woodland around the north of The Grove which also forms a boundary with the rest of Consett. The housing in The Grove and Moorside is largely social housing operated by Karbon Homes. These vary but are largely similar in nature.

The local cohesion is likely an historic artefact of Moorside Community College on Dunelm Road being located there and the majority of local families sending their children there. It is also, sadly, as the result of a closure of local facilities. The Grove's community centre closed, with the Phoenix Centre at Moorside also closing. Now most social community activity is at St John's Church Hall. I occasionally go to The Grove Club if there is a singer on or Castleside Club, so there is some travel between these areas because of their proximity, which also fosters a sense of community spirit. As the Standfordham/Castleside Inn closed we also make use of the Horse and Groom in Moorside. Most of the banks in Consett have closed, however, people can do their banking at the Post Offices in Moorside and The Grove shops, and there is an external cash

point at the shop in Moorside, so we have no reason to go to the town centre or Morrisons or Tesco for this facility.

There are a few play facilities in each village. The Grove's is very basic, so we take the grandchildren to Moorside or Castleside, and occasionally down to Allensford. There is a youth club that children in The Grove and also Castleside attend at the Church Hall in Moorside.

There are a number of walking routes that connect the villages in addition to the main road running through all three. People access Waskerley Way from a large car park just outside The Grove. This goes over the Gill Bridge in Moorside and up to Whitehall in Healyfield. There are also routes from Moorside and The Grove and Castleside going down to Allensford.

I could go on, but I think it is quite clear that these villages are a distinct community. We have little, if not nothing, in common with Delves Lane or Templetown. We have also not integrated with all of the new housing just north of us, with it being different in character and the type of families living in them. Removing that part of the ward but adding in Healyfield would therefore mean the ward boundaries reflect our distinct community and make local representation more effective and democratic.

Attached Documents:

None attached