

County Durham

Personal Details:

Name: Mr Paul McAdam

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Organisation Name: Greencroft Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Disagree with Greencroft Parish Council moving from Lanchester Ward to Consett Ward.

Attached Documents:

- Boundary Change Feedback.docx

Greencroft Parish Council

www.greencroftparishcouncil.info



I would like to express the view of Greencroft Parish Council that it is most important that it remains a part of the Lanchester Ward rather than moving to the Consett North Ward due to the many long standing, and close, links that exist with the village of Lanchester, and Lanchester Ward, as a whole

Greencroft Parish Council covers a small rural area which for many years has consisted mainly of farm land and the small village of Maiden Law which amounted to a population of just over 80 households.

This has increased over the last 2 to 3 years with the development of a new housing estate, Maiden View, which has added another 45 households to the parish area and also contains the long established Willowburn Hospice which began in some of the old hospital buildings that were previously on the site.

The boundaries of the parish council have no services other than a public house.

Greencroft Parish Council and its residents have very strong community ties to Lanchester Ward which are in danger of disappearing if it is moved to the very different environment of Consett, a much bigger town in its own right and based on a strong industrial background, and with different issues and problems to those experienced in smaller, rural communities.

The links between Greencroft Parish Council and Lanchester Ward are not just the rurality and the large proportion of farming land but also the fact that the vast majority of local services used by the population of Greencroft Parish Council are based in Lanchester – including doctor, schools, pharmacy, post office, library, community centre, hardware, greengrocer and grocery store etc.

These services are 1 mile away, even less for the residents of Maiden View, who are so close to Lanchester that the majority probably consider themselves to be living in Lanchester itself.

Public transport is a major concern across the whole county but particularly in rural areas and the transport from Maiden Law to Lanchester is an important feature and there is a real possibility that transport concerns for a small village could be lost within a bigger, industrial, urban ward.

As a consequence of all of the above, the residents in Greencroft Parish Council area have strong connections with Lanchester, use the services there and share similar community issues.

All our churches are in Lanchester and our community is actively involved with the many events organised by both the Churches and Lanchester Ward. Also our community

receives and contributes to the monthly local community news magazine - The Village Voice. Greencroft Parish is intrinsically linked to Lanchester, it's part of our identity and the base for many community activities.

The MP understands those issues and the current County Councillors represent the 2 areas and fully understand those issues and work most effectively and efficiently to represent and provide solutions for both communities.

A boundary move for Greencroft Parish Council to Consett Ward will put our community at a disadvantage due to the issues raised above, particularly the fact that Consett is a much bigger town, with very different features to Greencroft Parish Council.

It is important that Greencroft Parish Council remains part of Lanchester Ward to maintain the existing strong community links.

Paul McAdam

Parish Clerk

Greencroft Parish Council