

Sunderland

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

Comment text:

Related subject: Grindon and Thorney Close

I am writing as current ward councillor for Sandhill Ward to respond to the Commission's draft recommendations for the Grindon, Thorney Close, Springwell and Hastings Hill areas.

I support the Commission's proposal for the Sandhill Ward for the following reasons:

- i) The proposal follows easy to understand and sensible boundaries along the A19, Durham Road to the south and Chester Road to the north. These are main roads and dual carriageways that are difficult to cross and that naturally separate communities. I believe it is sensible to use them as boundaries. I also believe that including all of Springwell Estate also makes sense and would allow local people to easily know that all of the houses in Springwell are in this ward, but that High Barnes and streets in Humbledon (Shaftesbury/Shrewsbury/Stamford) are in different wards. This will be easily understood by local residents.
- ii) The proposal improves on the current warding arrangements by ensuring that all parts of the communities of Grindon and Springwell are included in this ward, instead of small parts sitting in Barnes Ward (Springwell estate east of Springwell Road) and St Annes Ward (Broadway estate, Broadstairs Court and Glenleigh Drive).
- iii) The ward represents a cohesive set of communities that share community facilities, amenities and assets. This includes the Barnes Park Extension/Grindon Sandhill/Hastings Hill green space that runs through the middle of the ward and which unites all four communities that

surround it. It makes sense for this green space and for the four estates of Grindon, Hastings Hill, Springwell and Thorney Close to be represented together in a single ward. These areas all share and rely on community centres like Grindon Young People's Centre, Thorney Close Action & Enterprise Centre, St Marys & St Peters Church Project and Grindon Church Community Project. The main secondary school, Sandhill View Academy, is also in the centre of the proposed ward and unites these areas and the feeder primary schools in each estate.

iv) There are good public transport links with a variety of footpaths and cycle paths linking all four estates in the ward. There are many bus routes running west-east along Durham Road and Chester Road, and regular buses that run between the estates (the 16, 18 and 23 buses) making it easy to get between different parts of the proposed ward.

v) There is strong public support to keep Grindon, Hastings Hill, Springwell and Thorney Close together in one ward. Residents believe that these areas share many bonds and community facilities and have separate needs and identities to those estates north of Chester Road (Pennywell) and south of Durham Road (Plains Farm and Farrington).

For these reasons, I do not wish to see any changes to the proposed Sandhill Ward.

However, I would urge the Commission to change the name from 'Sandhill' Ward to 'Grindon and Thorney Close' Ward. This is because there is no such place as 'Sandhill'. Whilst there is a Grindon sandhill as part of the green space west of Tay Road, this is not a widely understood place or a recognisable place name.

I believe that calling the ward after the two biggest estates in it (Grindon and Thorney Close) would better connect people with their local councillors and enable people to understand which ward they live in.

Best wishes,

Councillor Paul Edgeworth

Attached Documents:

None attached