

# Sunderland

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Ciaran Morrissey  
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**Organisation Name:** (District or county councillor)

## Comment text:

Good evening,

As councillor for the current Hendon Ward on Sunderland City Council I want to comment on the proposed boundaries in this area.

I agree with the Commission's proposed Grangetown Ward.

The Commission's proposal ensures that all parts of Grangetown are included in one ward, focused around the commercial centre of Grangetown which provides shops, restaurants, cafés and pubs for the entire community.

I agree with the Commission that it is important that Grangetown Primary School is in the Grangetown Ward There are good public transport links with bus routes running up and down trunk roads including Ryhope Road, Queen Alexandra Road, Leechmere Road and along Ashbrooke Range/The Cedars. The ward boundaries are easy to identify and explain to residents.

Villette Road is an the only realistic boundary to separate the Grangetown and Hendon areas. There is no hard and fast boundary, with many people at the middle and southern ends of Canon Cockin Street, St Leonard Street, Cario Street, Hastings Street and Percy Terrace saying that they live in Grangetown. Picking an arbitrary side street half way down these streets as a boundary would be substandard and difficult for residents to identify.

Using Spelter Works Road would exclude large part of Grangetown north of that road on either side of the railway line. I also believe that a boundary north of Vilette Road would be harder to identify as this area is comprised on smaller, residential streets that are not obvious or natural boundaries. It would also be harder to explain to residents and would separate the community of Hendon in a damaging way.

The Vilette Road boundary also provides for a clean continuation from the boundary running along The Cedars and Linden Gardens. I would support all of Hollycarrside either being located in the Ryhope Ward or the Grangetown Ward, assuming that can be done within the 10% tolerance. I agree that the name 'Grangetown' ward is simple and makes it obvious which part of the city is represented, and echoes the largest single community in it.

I urge the Commission to retain the proposed Grangetown Ward name and boundaries unaltered in the final proposals. I also support the Commission's proposed Central Ward. The growing community of people living in the city centre will be represented in one ward, together with the surrounding communities on either side of the city centre that all look towards it for their shops and facilities. This includes the development sites and new housing being built in Deptford on the western edges of the city centre.

Hendon, the East End and parts of Millfield share similar social and environmental issues, similar housing types and tenures and so it makes sense for one set of councillors to represent them, as they will be dealing with similar issues. The boundaries are easy to identify, following the Metro line, River Wear and down Stockton Road/Ryhope Road. As outlined above, I support Vilette Road as the southern boundary.

I not believe that this boundary would damage community groups that operate on either side of Vilette Road. Many ward boundaries run down main roads and sets of councillors in different wards work well together to support initiatives, charities and community groups that work on either side of the main road.

I do not believe that having Vilette Road as a boundary puts the work of any local charity or community group at risk. As outlined earlier in this submission, I believe it is better than any alternative boundary between the Hendon and Grangetown areas. I urge the Commission to retain the proposed Central Ward boundary in the final proposals.

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*