

Sunderland

Personal Details:

Name: Mr Niall Hodson
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Sunderland City Council

Hello, I am writing as a resident of Sunderland, and current councillor for Millfield Ward on Sunderland City Council.

I have read the Commission's proposals for changes to electoral wards in Sunderland, and I am broadly supportive of the new wards, which seem to have a good balance between electoral equality and setting up wards containing recognizable and cohesive communities.

I am pleased that the plans keeps the area of Thornhill, in which I have lived for 13 years, together in a single ward. Thornhill, bounded by Durham Road, Tunstall Road and Thornholme Road, has a clear identifiable character with similar housing stock and a close-knit community. This area has an active residents association (Thornholme Residents Association), of which I am a member, and I am confident there is broad local support to preserve this cohesive community in a single electoral ward, and recognize the area in the ward name.

However I would like to comment on a few areas where I feel some small amendments should be made:

The proposed Barnes and Thornhill Ward: I think that the Commission has an opportunity to tidily and cohesively contain the entirety of the communities of Barnes and Thornhill in this single ward, whilst maintaining electoral equality. The current proposals exclude a small proportion of the High Barnes area, namely North Hall Road, Broadmayne Avenue and Gardens, and Brierfield Grove. I know this area well, and it is certainly considered part of Barnes by the residents who live there - the housing stock is the same as on the other side of Chester Road around the Wavendon pub (which is the key local community hub). The houses are separated from Hylton Lane Estate to the north, as Hexham Road is not

connected to Broadmayne Avenue or North Hall Road.

Barnes Park should be united in a single ward, and I would suggest it is put wholly into the Barnes and Thornhill Ward, with the southern boundary of the park forming the southern boundary of the ward (rather than using Ettrick Grove and Durham Road as the boundary) - this is because the streets at the south end of Ettrick Grove with the parade of shops are a core part of the Humbledon area, indeed they are known as Humbledon Shops and house Humbledon Fisheries and Humbledon Convenience Store. I welcome the fact that the Commission's proposals unite the communities of Humbledon and Plains Farm in a single ward, and I think it is important to preserve this aspect of the plans, whilst making sure that the new Humbledon and Tunstall Ward does not contain two large city parks.

Central Ward: I do not think this is an appropriate ward name. Sunderland is, and has always been, a cross-river city, formed from the ancient communities of Monkwearmouth (north of the Wear) and Bishopwearmouth (south of the Wear). Monkwearmouth and Roker are just as much the centre of Sunderland as areas like Deptford and Hendon. The part of the city centre north of the River Wear houses much of the university, the football stadium, the National Glass Centre - so it would seem wrong to residents to suggest that the centre of Sunderland is south of the River. I think that the Commission's proposals tidily contain the community of Deptford, most of Hendon, the East End and Old Sunderland. I would suggest a name along the lines of: Deptford and Hendon Ward, Bishopwearmouth and Old Sunderland Ward, or Deptford and Old Sunderland Ward.

Pallion Ward: I currently represent part of Pallion, east of St Luke's Terrace, which falls under the Millfield Ward. I welcome the idea of uniting all of Pallion in a single ward. However I feel that the Commission's proposals fall slightly short of creating cohesive communities, as Ford Estate is now split between the new Pallion and Pennywell Wards. By altering the boundary slightly, to include all the 'F' streets either side of Front Road in a single ward, together with Blackie Park, the Commission could then create a cohesive 'Pallion and Ford Ward' which consisted of the entirety of both communities.

Furthermore: I grew up in East Herrington, and I still have family living and working in the area, so I spend a lot of time there. I support the Commission's proposals to unite East, Middle, West and New Herrington in a single ward. People living in this area regularly travel between East and West Herrington - the A19 is not an impassable boundary, as there are a number of easily driveable and walkable routes across it. Residents of East Herrington for example will often walk over to the pubs (the Stackyard and the Stables) in West Herrington, or make their way to Herrington Country Park for exercise and recreation.

Kind regards,

Niall Hodson
Councillor for Millfield Ward, Sunderland City Council

[Redacted signature]

Attached Documents:

None attached

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- Barnes Park should be united in a single ward, and I would suggest it is put wholly into the Barnes and Thornhill Ward, with the southern boundary of the park forming the southern boundary of the ward (rather than using Ettrick Grove and Durham Road as the boundary) - this is because the streets at the south end of Ettrick Grove with the parade of shops are a core part of the Humbledon area, indeed they are known as Humbledon Shops and house Humbledon Fisheries and Humbledon Convenience Store. I welcome the fact that the Commission's proposals unite the communities of Humbledon and Plains Farm in a single ward, and I think it is important to preserve this aspect of the plans, whilst making sure that the new Humbledon and Tunstall Ward does not contain two large city parks.
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