

Gateshead

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Brighten Ryton Local Environment Group (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

Related subject: Transfer of properties in Barmoor, Ryton, Crookhill and Stella ward to Crawcrook and Greenside Ward

The proposed transfer does not consider the views of residents who don't just see their community ties are located in Ryton NOT Crawcrook/Greenside, as demonstrated by their amazing support to that community. For fuller details of the objection - please see the attached letter which will also be submitted by post.

Attached Documents:

- letter-to-boundaries-commission-3rd-april-2024.docx



Brighten Ryton Local Environment Group

3rd April 2024

Review Officer (Gateshead) LGBCE,

P.O. Box 133,
BLYTH
NE24 9FE

Dear Sir/Madam,

RYTON/CRAWROOK PROPOSED NEW WARD BOUNDARY

I am writing as chairman of Brighten Ryton Local Environment Group to object to the current proposed inclusion of the remaining portion of Barmoor which since Ryton UDC was formed in the mid-18th century has been a key part of RYTON not CRAWCROOK.

Please consider the following points before finalising your decision and hopefully reject proceeding on the current proposed basis.

1. **Greenbelt:** Gateshead Council Planning Department have purposely created a greenbelt between the settlements of Barmoor and Crawcrook, and have in recent times steadfastly maintained that no building may take place in that area to preserve the segregation of two settlements. The current proposal for new boundaries fails to appreciate and accept that there are two separate communities.
2. **Community Ties:** As chairman of Brighten Ryton Local Environment Group, I can vouch for the fact that high proportion of our volunteers live within Barmoor, who give many hours a month to:
 - a. Maintain roadside flower beds, barrier baskets and planters throughout Ryton,
 - b. Maintain areas Ferndene Park in Ryton, including the bowling green,
 - c. Provide managerial support to our organisation, our hard working secretary being one of those involved in the change,
 - d. Maintain the long rose bed and other prominent features that make Ryton what it is today and
 - e. Work preserving the public areas within the Ryton Conservation Area and heritage sites within Ryton Ward.

No one in Barmoor has shown any willingness or desire to work to enhance Crawcrook's environment. It is clear many residents of Barmoor appreciate their 'belonging' to Ryton and demonstrate this association by undertaking so many tasks, some were doing such volunteer work before the formation of Brighten Ryton LEC, eight years ago.

It is clear from the above that many residents of Barmoor have strong community ties to Ryton and not Crawcrook.



Brighten Ryton Local Environment Group

3 Lack of Consultation: The Ward Councillors and Gateshead Council have failed to consult with residents of Barmoor. Many residents attended a meeting at Ryton Cricket Club last evening where they expressed views that clearly indicated that no one present believed they had any ties to Crawcrook. Had someone consulted they would very soon realised the strength of feeling against this proposal. A snapshot of the views of Barmoor residents I have spoken to recently, or received messages and mails from can be summarised as follows:

- a. They shop in Ryton, Blaydon or elsewhere East of Ryton,
- b. Those that socialise, do so in Ryton, NEVER in Crawcrook,
- c. They walk around Ryton and only cut through Crawcrook to visit other places,
- d. They and their children/grand children play sport in Ryton NOT Crawcrook.
- e. Those who attend religious services do so in Ryton NOT Crawcrook.

It is therefore clear that the residents of Barmoor have no desire to be 'moved' by the Boundary Commission/Gateshead Council to the adjoining council ward of Crawcrook and Greenside.

I am aware of what transpired at last night's community meeting and the strength of feelings expressed. Despite hearing a unanimous view that the proposals were rejected by the residents I later spoke with councillors A. Geddes and C. Buckley who advised that it was pointless them taking the opinions of residents back to council because that body had previously approved the planned change. **These views are in direct contradiction to those conveyed in Gateshead council's Spring 2024 newsletter where they write that residents have until 8th April to express their views.**

Finally, I should point out that my family have their roots in Crawcrook, we owned for over two hundred years one of the remaining public houses, our family were famous the country over in the 18th and 19th century for the manufacture of coal saws and accurate balance weights, we owned a considerable number of properties. So I have an affinity with Crawcrook, but I can understand the feelings of the Barmoor residents.

Yours sincerely,

Aidan Lawson

Chairman, Brighten Ryton Local Environment Group