

Sunderland

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Sandhill Ward (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Good morning,

I am writing in response to the consultation on proposals for Sunderland City Council. I am a sitting councillor for the Sandhill Ward, which covers Thorney Close, Hastings Hill and most of Grindon and Springwell.

I largely agree with the commission's proposed 'Grindon and Thorney Close Ward'. The proposed ward keeps the communities of Grindon, Hastings Hill, Springwell and Thorney Close together in one electoral ward, which I wholeheartedly agree with. These communities neighbour each other and are all focused around the Barnes Park Extension/Grindon Sandhills area of green space which united each of the four estates. These communities share community facilities like Grindon Young People's Centre, Thorney Close Action and Enterprise Centre, 111 Squadron Air Cadets on Tay Road and St Mary and St Peter's Community Project in Springwell, all of which provide community groups and services to all four estates.

Grindon, Springwell, Hastings Hill and Thorney Close all share the same secondary school, Sandhill View Academy, as well as its feeder primary schools at Thorney Close Primary, Hasting Hill Academy, Grindon Infants and St Cuthberts Primary School. There are excellent walking and cycling routes between different parts of the proposed ward, and there are good, regular bus services between the four estates provided by the 16, 18 and 23 bus services. There are obvious and locally understood boundaries along the A183, A19 and A690 which it makes sense to utilise as boundaries between wards, and which are hard borders between different communities and therefore should not be crossed.

The Commission's proposals improve the existing arrangements in this part of the city, as the proposed Grindon and Thorney Close Ward contains all parts of Springwell estate (including the area around Saltburn Road and Sackville Road), as well as including all parts of Grindon in a single ward for the first time (including the Broadstairs Court, Glenleigh Drive and Sutherland Drive areas which are currently in a different ward to the rest of the community of Grindon).

In each stage of the Commission's review of Sunderland, it has been clear from the large number of responses from local people that residents wish for the communities of Grindon, Hastings Hill, Springwell and Thorney Close to be kept together in a single ward.

For these reasons, I urge the Commission to retain a Grindon and Thorney Close Ward which unites Grindon, Thorney Close, Hastings Hill and Springwell in a single electoral ward.

I agree with the proposed 'Grindon and Thorney Close' ward name which reflects the two largest communities within the ward. This is an obvious choice for a ward name and would help residents to be able to identify which ward they live in, improving on the current name of 'Sandhill Ward' which isn't a real place and which means nothing to local people.

However, I would like to suggest that the Commission's proposal to include part of Humbleton (Shaftesbury Crescent, Shrewsbury Crescent, Stamford Avenue and part of Durham Road) in the Grindon and Thorney Close Ward does not go ahead. These streets are an integral part of the community of Humbleton and should be included with the rest of Humbleton (e.g. Scruton Avenue), Plains Farm and the rest of the Humbleton Hill area in the proposed St Chad's Ward. These streets have little in common with the rest of the ward, as they use different shops (i.e. Humbleton shops in Ettrick Grove or the shopping parade on Durham Road/Scruton Avenue), different schools (Plains Farm Primary School) and different community facilities (like Plains Farm Youth and Community Centre) to people living in Grindon/Thorney Close/Springwell/Hastings Hill. As such, I think it would be difficult for councillors to effectively represent the needs of people in this part of Humbleton, balance decisions about community facilities and funding etc. as this part of Humbleton will have different needs and demands from the rest of the ward.

Throughout the city, the Commission has proposed keeping recognisable communities or estates together in one ward. The only example of a community being split is this proposal to have a small part of Humbleton in the Grindon & Thorney Close Ward, whilst the rest of Humbleton it is in St Chad's Ward. I support Shaftesbury Crescent, Shrewsbury Crescent and Stamford Avenue being included in the St Chads Ward instead of the Grindon & Thorney Close Ward.

In summary, I would like the Commission to keep Grindon, Springwell, Hastings Hill and Thorney Close together in a Grindon & Thorney Close Ward, but for all of Humbleton to be included in the St Chads Ward.

Best wishes, Paul

Cllr Paul Edgeworth
Sunderland City Councillor for Sandhill Ward



Attached Documents:

None attached