

Sunderland

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Comment text:

I write in a personal capacity in objection to the current proposals for Sunderland south.

Firstly, the proposed St Chad's Ward is an amalgamation of several communities that are in no way comparable. East Herrington and Farrington are loosely connected; Humbledon and Plains Farm slightly more so. But to put all four of these into a single ward is not reflective of genuine community identity. This is very clearly two distinct areas separated by the Silksworth lake and North Moor Road.

I live in the proposed St Chad's Ward and I have absolutely no relationship with East Herrington at all. I do not recall the last time I had reason to visit it. I rarely go beyond the North Moor Road except to go to Durham.

By contrast, one can walk from Farrington, into Silksworth, via Lakeside Village with ease. Local buses serve this route. This is what the ward should be - instead Lakeside Village is in a ward from which it is cut off by a large amount of open greenspace; Silksworth is combined with Tunstall from which it is cut off by a large amount of open greenspace; and East Herrington and Farrington are included with Plains Farm and Humbledon from which they are cut off by a main road and a large amount of open greenspace. I feel strongly that the Commission has overlooked the vast and divisional qualities of these open fields are. They very much act as barriers between communities, not links between them.

The Commission must take into account the extent to which Silksworth Lake/Sports Complex, Tunstall Hills and the North Moor are a huge physical barrier that separates not only Humbledon/Plains Farm from East Herrington/Farrington, but also Tunstall from Silksworth. Rather than

forge communities across this terrain, the Commission should return to the previous proposals which navigated this space much more sensibly.

I disagree with the notion that the proposed Farringdon and Silksworth Ward had to be changed so fundamentally given that Farringdon emerged from the Old Silksworth Village (as a hamlet of it) and that the two communities share so many amenities: Farringdon Academy, a Ranger, mutual shopping centres. This was a logic ward. The current Silksworth Ward (which is actually only 50% Silksworth) tears Tunstall apart. Tunstall and Silksworth have so little in common and so few shared facilities as to be - like the St Chad's proposal - essentially two wards within one.

I strongly urge the Commission to return to the previous proposals; put all of Hollycarrside into a new Hollycarrside and Grangetown Ward; reintroduce the Herrington Ward; and make minor changes to Farringdon and Silksworth Ward to include the Silksworth streets (balanced out by putting the newer developments into Doxford Park Ward). These represent much more natural communities with clearer links which enable good local governance.

I do, however, support the proposals for the Washington ward names proposed this time around.

Attached Documents:

None attached