

# North East Lincolnshire

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Dr Bethany Dewires

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**Organisation Name:** 1st Wybers Wood Rainbows and Brownies (Representative of a local organisation)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Freshney Ward

I am writing to you to express my concern at North East Lincolnshire Council's response to the Boundaries Commission regarding their comments made about the Freshney Ward.

I am writing to absolutely disagree with this view. I have been a leader at 1st Wybers Wood Rainbows and Brownies for over 20 years and was a member myself 25 years ago. When I first started, the group met at the old Reading Rooms, in Great Coates. Prior to this, when the Brownies group first started, they met at Wybers Wood school. I believe they moved to Great Coates for financial reasons as the Reading Rooms was cheaper. Unfortunately, that closed around 20 years ago, and since then, we have met at the Bishop Edward King Centre on the Willows estate. This shows how close the three main areas of the Freshney ward are, as each of these locations is a few minutes' drive from the other. When the group has moved location, no-one has ever had to stop coming because they couldn't get there. To say the three areas are geographically separate is completely false, and the three areas feel like one community. The transport links between the areas are so effective. They are linked by bus routes, footpaths and roads. I, myself, grew up on the Wybers estate, but had friends across the ward who I could easily go and see by biking and walking. These are friendships I still have today, even though I no longer reside in Freshney ward.

1st Wybers Wood Brownies started in 1977, and 1st Wybers Wood Rainbows started in 1991. Since then, we have had hundreds of girls through our doors from across the Freshney area. Throughout that time, we have had a thriving group that has constantly had waiting lists and high demand due to its central location of the Wybers and Willows residential areas. We have really felt at the heart of the Freshney community, and the girls have all had a chance to interact with others from all the different schools in that council area. Currently, we have girls from across all three main estates of the Freshney Ward. As evidence, I have submitted a breakdown of the locations our members live in. We also have many who come from other council areas as there is no provision in their area for them. When the girls start, it is amazing how many times they say, "oh

look, there's X, you used to go to nursery with them". The Freshney has a range of primary schools, but only a few nursery provisions, so many of the girls go to nursery together, then go to different schools, but still remember each other after many years. The three areas, Wybers, Willows and Great Coates, have so many links across the community through schools and other organisations such as ours. They do feel like one community, and all the parents I have spoken to about this issue and my response agree completely.

Recently, we had a visit from the local PCSO's who came to speak to the girls about the work they do. Most of the girls already knew them because they go into their schools. The PCSOs work across Wybers and Willows, so were able to talk to the girls about the places familiar to them, like the local parks and shops, and this made their conversations so much more relatable for the girls. It shows that there are more links across Wybers, Willows and Great Coates if even the Police see this as one area.

In the last year, with a previous Conservative councillor's support, we were lucky enough to receive a grant from the Freshney fund. This enabled us to purchase a wide range of new equipment, such as sports equipment, craft materials and equipment and new storage to enable our unit to continue to thrive. We are also lucky to have had a visit from our current Freshney representatives to talk to the girls about their community and allow them to have a voice in the changes they'd like to see in their area. Our ward councillors have displayed such a passion for the area. I have never known the Freshney ward have such representation and councillors having as much of a presence as they do now. It is really appreciated by those of us who volunteer in the ward, and we feel like part of the community more because of this.

I really hope the boundaries commission rejects the proposals by the local authority, as it does not feel representative of the views and feelings of the local people, in the heart of the Freshney community.

## **Attached Documents:**

- [REDACTED]-report-of-locations.xlsx

**Freshney**

|              |    |
|--------------|----|
| Wybers       | 12 |
| Willows      | 7  |
| Great Coates | 2  |

**Yarborough** 6

**Wolds** 6

all Rainbows as there is no unit in Healing

**Immingham** 1

**South** 1

**West Marsh** 1

**Park** 1

**Schools**

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Wybers Wood Academy  | 16 |
| Willows Academy      | 3  |
| Great Coates Primary | 4  |
| Yarborough Academy   | 6  |
| Stallingborough      | 1  |
| Healing Primary      | 6  |
| Grange Primary       | 1  |