

Darlington

Personal Details:

Name: Cllr Paul Walters

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: N/A (Councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Hurworth Ward

I support the Commission's draft recommendations for the Hurworth Ward. The proposed boundaries accurately reflect established community identities and provide a coherent framework for future growth, ensuring that all developments surrounding the Darlington Arena are incorporated within a single Hurworth Ward. Residents in these areas already share common facilities, transport links, and community activities, making the proposed alignment both logical and beneficial.

My co-councillor and I presented the Commission's draft proposals at the May/June Hurworth Annual Assembly, Hurworth Parish Council, and Neasham Parish Council and Assembly meetings. Attendees at all meetings were supportive of the proposals. Hurworth Parish Council already includes a parish councillor representing the Elderbrook/Hurworth Gardens developments, demonstrating that this community is already well integrated and effectively represented within Hurworth. Retaining this arrangement will ensure that councillors can continue to advocate for the shared priorities and interests that span the whole area.

It was also agreed at these meetings that the ward should continue to be named Hurworth. The alternative names suggested by the Commission did not reflect local sentiment; maintaining the single name "Hurworth" is far more likely to strengthen community cohesion. Neasham, Low Dinsdale, and Dinsdale Park—already part of Hurworth Ward—do not have separate designations, and residents felt that introducing new labels would be unnecessary and potentially divisive.

Overall, I believe the draft proposals achieve an appropriate balance between electoral equality and community identity. I encourage the

Commission to retain the proposed Hurworth Ward in its final recommendations.

Attached Documents:

None attached