

Darlington

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Comment text:

Related subject: Haughton and Springfield

Response to the Darlington Ward Boundary Review Consultation

I am writing to object to the proposal to transfer Cottage Mews from Haughton ward into the proposed Springfield ward.

Cottage Mews forms part of the historic Haughton-le-Skerne village area and lies within the Haughton-le-Skerne Conservation Area. Residents of Cottage Mews identify strongly with Haughton and its unique history, character and community. The area is physically and historically connected to Haughton village rather than Springfield.

The proposed change would separate part of the Haughton Conservation Area from the wider Haughton community for electoral purposes. While ward boundaries do not affect conservation area status, they should, where possible, reflect established communities and recognised local identities. In this case, the proposal risks weakening the link between residents and the historic community with which they identify.

The Local Government Boundary Commission's statutory criteria include reflecting the identities and interests of local communities. Cottage Mews shares the same heritage, local character and community interests as the rest of Haughton village. Residents use the same local facilities, participate in the same community life and regard themselves as part of Haughton.

I therefore request that the Commission reconsider the proposed boundary and retain Cottage Mews within a Haughton ward so that electoral

arrangements better reflect the area's established community identity and historic character.

I have lived in Cottage Mews since the cul de sac of houses were built in 1997. Our house backs onto St Andrews church and we feel part of Haughton village community. We were married in the local church on Haughton Green and held our 25 year wedding anniversary renewal of vows there too. Our neighbours also consider themselves to be a part of Haughton village not Springfield. Our neighbours volunteer at the church and food bank and we all feel part of that community.

Thank you for considering my comments

Attached Documents:

None attached