

# Darlington

## Personal Details:

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## Comment text:

As someone who lives close to Haughton Village, I know the area well and recognise that there are links across the wider Haughton and Whinfield community. However, I do not believe there are uniquely strong ties between Haughton Village and the rest of the current Haughton ward that do not also exist across the wider north east of Darlington. In my experience, the village's connections are just as much with the surrounding communities across the north east of the town as they are with any one particular area.

For that reason, I believe the Commission has reached a sensible conclusion. The reduction in councillor numbers means the current arrangements cannot continue, and some compromise is unavoidable. The proposals keep Haughton Village and Stockton together, preserving the historic core of Haughton, while avoiding the creation of wards that cross the River Skerne or the East Coast Main Line, both of which are clear and recognisable boundaries.

It also makes sense that the larger ward should be the one on the edge of the town, where future housing growth is expected. Expanding the ward in that direction is a far more logical approach than dividing established communities or creating wards that stretch across obvious physical barriers.

Overall, I believe the Commission has found the best balance between electoral equality, community identity and effective local government, and I support the proposals.

## Attached Documents:

*None attached*