

Darlington

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Comment text:

Related subject: Haughton and Springfield

On reading the proposals for the boundary changes to our current ward "Haughton & Springfield", I am totally shocked to discover that the historical boundaries of the entire ward are to be changed in one fell swoop! It is apparent that whoever is making these suggestions has no knowledge of the proud and significant history of the area.

The oldest part of Haughton is the Green and Stockton Road. Once this area was surrounded by fields, market gardens and farmland. A lot of the land to the rear of Stockton Road was purchased by the Darlington Borough Council via the Compulsory Purchase Act. Welbeck Avenue was built in 2 stages. The 2nd part of it was then built on the newly purchased now council owned land. followed by Fryer's Crescent, Feethams Avenue and Gouldsmith Gardens. To the rear of St Andrew's Church, Salter's Avenue, Latimer Road and Springwell Terrace were also built.

Local children attended St Andrew's Church of England School and then Haughton Secondary School, now the site of Haughton Academy and the Education Village.

Haughton Green is a central point where our community meet and socialise at St Andrew's Church, the Methodist Chapel, Haughton Working Men's Club, the Highland Laddie and Grey Horse public houses.

We use the Post Office, the Secret Garden Nursery, the hairdressers, a fish and chip shop, a nursing home and other businesses on Stockton Road and Salter's Lane South. Ted Fletcher Court was built on land once part of the Rectory Garden.

HAUGHTON VILLAGE IS DEFINITELY 'NOT A SEPARATE ENTITY' to the surrounding streets - it is its heart in the centre of the community. The entire parish of Haughton-le-Skerne has a fantastic sense of community spirit and we are all proud to be part of it.

Our community turned out in force in 2025, to celebrate St Andrew's Church 900th year, the Methodist Chapel's 200th and the Stockton and Darlington Railway's (which rant through the parish) 200th. Our local councillors are very proactive and supported and attended these events.

My family has lived in Haughton-le-Skerne for generations; grandparents, parents, siblings, aunts, uncles and cousins. Many other local families fall into this same category.

The village and the surrounding streets mentioned above, are a joint part of this amazingly proud community, we are not separate entities we are one unit. Please do not split us apart.

The new proposals do not follow natural boundaries. Our rear garden off Stockton Road (which has always been part of Haughton) and backs onto Welbeck Avenue, would suddenly become part of Springfield, when looking over the garden fence!

PLEASE THINK OF OUR COMMUNITY.

Attached Documents:

None attached