

Darlington

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Comment text:

Related subject: Blackwell

See attached

Attached Documents:

- [REDACTED].pdf

Review Officer (Darlington),

LGBC, 7th Floor, 2 Bishophill Row,

London, EC1Y 8YZ

Response to the Local Government Boundary Commission Draft Proposals

Dear Sir/Madam

As a resident of Blackwell, I was disappointed to see my community overlooked in the draft proposals for local government boundaries in Darlington.

The Commission cited a resident who claimed that the Park West ward "lacked a clear centre, shared facilities or established identities." I am writing to strongly object to this assertion.

Blackwell, which makes up the majority of the Park West ward, has existed for over 1,000 years. Originally an Anglo-Saxon village separate from Darlington, it retained its own distinct identity as the town expanded around it. Today, Blackwell remains a recognisable and cohesive community centred on the original village and the services that serve local residents.

Residents rely upon a range of shared facilities and institutions that help define its community, including Blackwell Post Office, New Blackwell Lawn Tennis Club, All Saints' Church Blackwell, Blackwell Meadows Rugby Football Club, and Blackwell Heritage Parkland. These facilities provide clear evidence of a shared local identity and community focus.

Furthermore, I believe Blackwell has stronger community ties with Hummersknott than the draft proposals recognise. We share important green spaces, including Broken Scar Riverside Walk, Elm Ridge Church and the areas surrounding West Cemetery. Many local primary schools in Blackwell also have established links with Hummersknott Academy and Carmel College, both of which serve families across these neighbouring communities.

Transport links further reinforce these connections. Coniscliffe Road provides a direct route between Blackwell and Hummersknott, while local bus services connect residents to shared facilities and to Darlington town centre. These links help create a natural community that extends across the current Park West and Hummersknott wards.

I am also concerned that the draft proposals overlook the importance of the town centre. In the current economic climate, small businesses in the town centre require effective and coherent local government representation more than ever. While I understand that the town centre may be too small to form a ward in its own right, communities within the existing Park West and College wards, particularly around Southend Avenue and Abbey Road, have strong connections to the town centre through proximity and shared concerns, including parking pressures and congestion during peak shopping periods.

For these reasons, I urge the Commission to reconsider its assessment of Park West. Blackwell possesses a clear historical identity, shared community facilities, and strong connections both within the ward and with neighbouring communities. Any revised boundary arrangements should recognise and reflect these established community ties.

Yours faithfully,

