

# County Durham

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Mr Councillor Clive Maddison  
**Email:** [REDACTED]  
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**Organisation Name:** Spennymoor Town Council (Parish or town councillor)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Spennymoor Division and Tudhoe Division

I am a Town Councillor for Low Spennymoor and Tudhoe Grange Ward of Spennymoor Town Council. This Town Council Ward is in Tudhoe Division. I have held this position for 12 years. I am also a resident of Spennymoor, living in Spennymoor Division. I have lived in both Spennymoor and Tudhoe Divisions of Durham County Council.

There has been no local community engagement on the suggestions put forward by the Joint Administration and personal suggestions made by a Town Councillor for Spennymoor Division that were only highlighted to me two weeks ago, ie to move the internal boundary between Spennymoor and Tudhoe Divisions away from the Dene area and place Ox Close and the streets above Ox Close up to Carr Street/Carr Lane as well as the whole of Spennymoor High Street into Tudhoe Division.

Tudhoe and Spennymoor are closely linked by their mining heritage with many collieries, now closed, that were on various sites across the two Divisions. Every year families from both Divisions collectively celebrate the shared mining heritage of the Town and their historic links at events in the Town Centre such as the 'Town Gala' with commemoration services in Jubilee Park and at the Cenotaph in Spennymoor Division, also at Tudhoe Cemetery in Tudhoe Division. These are important annual events that both communities engage with. Each colliery had its own mining banner and some are displayed in Spennymoor Town Hall to celebrate this shared history of the two Divisions. The Cenotaph in the centre of the Town between Cheapside and High Street honour those killed in the two world wars from both Divisions and most recently soldiers' names have been added who have died serving their country in recent campaigns. Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph is attended by residents of both Divisions.

Spennymoor and Tudhoe Divisions are listed on ancient maps and have strong community links sharing the same services of doctors, dentists, schools, leisure services, police and fire authorities and join together for cultural events held in the Town. Whilst they share services they also associate with their local areas by name, eg Tudhoe Community Centre, Tudhoe Cricket Club, Tudhoe Village, Tudhoe etc. Spennymoor Leisure Centre, Spennymoor Cricket Club, Spennymoor Town Hall, Spennymoor High Street, Spennymoor are also named examples. Byers Green carnival is held each year in their local community that is situated in Spennymoor Division. Each of the wards have their own community centres. Middlestone Moor, also in Spennymoor Division and a Ward of the Town Council also has a community centre.

I object to the suggestion of a change of name to Spennymoor East and Spennymoor West as this would cause confusion of place and would not be in keeping with the history of both areas. These should remain as Spennymoor Division and Tudhoe Division.

In your latest review you commented on a suggestion that had been made of moving part of the Greenways Estate starting at Westfields, Parkside, Rosedale and also including the street names ending in 'dale' and 'mere' and following the route of Carr Lane down to Mayfields and placing them into Tudhoe Division. All of these streets only exit onto Carr Lane with the Councillor suggesting Carr Lane as the boundary between Spennymoor Division and Tudhoe Division. Carr Street, Dickens Street Jackson Street, Shaw Street and Jubilee Close also exit onto Carr Street/Carr Lane. All of these streets are in Spennymoor Division currently with the majority of them classed as 'Greenways Estate', Spennymoor Division. Ox Close is also in Spennymoor Division and at the last Boundary Review these areas were agreed as being within Spennymoor Division. A further suggestion that was a personal view as this had not had any community consultation or Town Council Involvement was for Ox Close and streets up to Carr Street/Carr Lane eg Jackson Street, Shaw Street, Dundas Street, High Street, etc should be moved into Tudhoe Division for electoral equality. There has been no new developments in this area since the last Boundary Commission Review that placed this area in Spennymoor Division. My view is that this area should remain in Spennymoor Division.

The Joint Administration of Durham County Council have suggested that the whole of BAAFC Spennymoor 3 should transfer in to Tudhoe Division. This is currently in Spennymoor Division and part of the large Greenways Estate. Residents in the streets of this area identify with Spennymoor not Tudhoe Division and I do not agree with this proposal that would be confusing for local residents who have long been associated with Spennymoor Division and were included in the last Boundary review as Spennymoor Division. I support the view of the Boundary Commission that BAAFC Spennymoor 3 should remain in Spennymoor Division.

The 'Dene' a large expanse of green space between Ox Close and Deneside has been identified as the natural boundary between the two Divisions with High Street and Cheapside shopping areas also being the divide of the Boundary at the Cenotaph between Spennymoor and Tudhoe Divisions. There is an underground stream running the length of the 'Dene' into the Woods opposite to Mayfields Spennymoor. This underground stream flows from under the A688 under areas of the Leisure Centre that had drainage services reroute parts of it, passed the Cenotaph open space towards the 'Dene' area. This identifies the natural boundary between Spennymoor and Tudhoe Divisions and should remain as the boundary.

I disagree with the suggestion to move the boundary of these Divisions and to place Spennymoor High Street and Spennymoor Market area where local events are held, into Tudhoe Division. These are shared facilities and all five County Councillors have worked with County Council Departments and other organisations to improve facilities and engage in Town Centre projects that benefit both Spennymoor and Tudhoe Division residents.

The suggestions that were considered at the latest review were not brought to a Town Council meeting or discussed with County or Town Councillors until two weeks ago. A special meeting of the Town Council that I attended took place this week and the Members present agreed almost unanimously (1 member abstained) that the existing internal boundary between Spennymoor and Tudhoe Divisions - also agreed at the last Boundary Review - should not be changed and remain as passing through the large green open space area of 'the Dene' area and through the open space at the Cenotaph. It was unanimously agreed at this same special meeting of the Town Council this week that the Divisions should continue to be named Spennymoor Division and Tudhoe Division. I agree that the Dene and Cenotaph area should be the Boundary and do not agree with the latest suggestions put forward by the Joint Administration and a Town Councillor. As the saying goes 'if it aint broke why try to fix it'. Spennymoor Division boundary has been through the Dene area and Cenotaph for many years and there has been no issues with this.

The suggestion that part of Merrington should transfer to Spennymoor Division is also not supported as the Ferryhill County Council area that includes Kirk Merrington, North Close and 5 houses of Vyners Close are separated by open countryside from Spennymoor Division boundary. There has been no new house builds in Spennymoor Division that brings this boundary closer. Only the development in the Low Spennymoor and Tudhoe Grange Ward of the Town Council at Merrington Lane, also in Tudhoe Division of the County Council have had new house builds that the Boundary Commission has now suggested that they be brought entirely into Tudhoe Division instead of sharing part with Ferryhill Division. As Ward Councillor for this area I agree with the proposal of the Boundary Commission on this as there was a lot of confusion at the last local elections where residents did not know who the County Councillors or Town Councillors were who were to represent them as they were leaflet dropped by Tudhoe Grange Ward Councillors, Tudhoe County Councillors and on some streets also by Ferryhill Councillors.

For information the Jackson Street, North Street, Dundas Street, Shaw Stret, Villiers Street, Dickens Street, Park Parade, High Street and James Street have used Spennymoor Town Hall as their Polling Station and excluding any postal votes, the annual attendance at the polling station over a number of years of elections was between 30 and 45 voters. Ox Close residents have used the same polling station as the Greenways Estate residents in Spennymoor Division ie Ox Close Nursery, and associate with Spennymoor Division. One of the access points to the Polling Station was directly from Ox Close. Deneside and Wood View access onto Durham Road with their Polling Station as King Street Primary School or Hartley Terrace off Durham Road, Low Spennymoor & Tudhoe Grange Ward of Spennymoor Town Council.

I disagree to the suggestion of moving the internal boundary between Spennymoor and Tudhoe Divisions at Ox Close and the streets above it towards Carr Street/Carr Lane as well as Spennymoor High Street's shopping and cultural area from Spennymoor Division into Tudhoe Division, losing any association or input of Spennymoor Division residents and Involvement of Spennymoor councillors. Both Divisions have worked well together in the past on shared Town Centre projects and are represented by the 5 Councillors for Spennymoor and Tudhoe Divisions. I see no

reason why this should change now and ask for the existing internal boundary to remain as the 'Dene area between Ox Close and Deneside and at the Cenotaph on High Street.

Yours sincerely

Clive Maddison

Spennymoor Town Councillor for Low Spennymoor and Tudhoe Grange Ward.

Also, Spennymoor Division Resident.

My address is

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## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*