

Sunderland

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Pallion and Ford Liberal Democrat Councillor (Parish or town councillor)

Comment text:

Dear Sir/Madam

Following the release of the draft proposals for new ward boundaries in Sunderland I would like to submit some comments and request some changes to the proposals:

In the proposals the current K01 Polling District is being moved into the new Pennywell ward. This move would mean that Ford Estate is split in two with Low and Mid Ford remaining in the new Pallion Ward and High Ford being moved into the Pennywell Ward. I oppose this move and request that the K01 polling district remains in the new Pallion Ward on the below grounds:

- The Ford Estate is marked out by a specific set of housing styles and brick work being used in the homes and commercial units which make up the estate. This gives the area a distinctive look and people travelling through the area know they are entering Ford Estate when they see the properties of this style. Further, the streets on the estate predominantly start with an "F" with Fordfield Road running the length of the estate East to West and Front Road running the length North to South. Ford Estate therefore forms a distinct community and splitting this community along Front Road doesn't make sense.
- The community of Ford Estate is served by Highfield Academy with children and parents from across Ford Estate using the school it is a corner of the community and the current proposals split the school off from Low and Mid Ford. The community also shares key green spaces such as Hylton Road Playing Fields and Blackie Park and community hubs such as Lambton Street Youth Centre and the Ford Football Hub. To split these facilities between two separate wards and removing the unified representation of the community as it current stands is a bad move.

- There would be a significant impact on representation for the residents of Ford Estate with council representation split between two wards and six councillors. Many residents use facilities in what would become different wards and potentially their ward councillors would be unable to secure funding for these facilities if they end up in a new ward. Furthermore, as a current councillor for the area I regularly get casework from one household in Ford and then those residents will sign post friends and family in to me as 'councillor for Ford' and I would potentially have to sign post 50% of these contacts to other councillors in a different ward. For those residents it would make no sense that Low and Mid Ford have one set of councillors and High Ford has another set of councillors. Further, residents in either area would want to seek funding for their local community assets however the separated parts of Ford being smaller than the larger Pallion and Pennywell geographical areas encompassed by the new Pallion and Pennywell Wards would potentially mean there is not a fair share of funds for these assets.

To balance out the number of electors which are being removed from the new Pennywell Ward into the new Pallion Ward, I would recommend that Hylton Lane Estate is unified in the new Pennywell Ward. Currently the estate is split as below:

Pallion Ward

Hexham Road, Helmsdale Road, Highgate Road, Hadleigh Road, Hartford Road, Hart Square, Heath Square, Holylake Square, Huntley Square, Halstead Square, Harrow Square, Haydon Square and No. 1-79 of the odds on Holborn Road.

St Annes Ward

Hollinside Road, Hartside Road, Hampstead Road, Hampstead Square, Howe Square, Hollinside Square, Hawkesley Road, Henley Road, Holborn Square and No. 2-122 Holborn Road.

Hylton Lane is itself a distinct community with the properties all being of a similar build style, managed by the same housing providers and the street names beginning with an "H". Residents living in the Hylton Lane Estate do not recognise a boundary in their community despite the local government boundary being along Holborn Road. The two sides of the state should be merged into one as this will mirror the reality of the community there. Further it will improve representation as at the moment the estate is split between two wards and both elements are smaller sized estates than the larger Ford Estate in Pallion Ward and Pennywell Estate in the St Annes Ward. Improved representation would be of benefit to the residents.

Finally there is a small section of High Barnes in the current Pallion Ward and it would be better placed in the new Barnes and Thornhill Ward. The streets in this section of High Barnes are:

North Hall Road

Brierfield Close

Broadmayne Avenue

Broadmayne Gardens

Nookside (22-42 Evens)
The Broadway (2-62 Evens)
Holborn Road (81-115 Odds)

All of these properties are a similar build style and design to the High Barnes properties on the other side of The Broadway which already falls within the new Barnes and Thornhill Ward. The residents in this area use the shared community facilities such as Broadway Junior School, The Wavendon Public House and the local shops on Melborne Place and at The Broadway/Nookside.

The move of the properties in Hylton Lane and High Barnes mentioned above would, when taken in conjunction with the move of K01 into the new Pallion Ward, balance out the electorate size between the wards and prevent a significant imbalance.

Finally, I would recommend that the new Pallion Ward name is changed to Pallion and Ford Ward. The reason for this change is that Pallion and Ford are two distinct communities which share various facilities and community assets however they are distinct areas.

Pallion is a community in which most of the buildings were built during the Victorian Era and consist of large, terraced houses built for shipbuilders, but also smaller one-storey cottages in other areas for local workers. These are predominantly private owner-occupied properties with a community which has been in the area for many years with the suburb having grown from around the former Pallion Hall which has since been demolished and has subsequently re-centered around Saint Lukes Terrace, the local shopping promenade. The inclusion of the J01 polling district from the current Millfield Ward means that all of the area know as Pallion is now included within the Pallion Ward.

Ford Estate is a separate suburb which was built around the Second World War in the 1930s and 1940s and focused on council housing at the time. The suburb was developed around the former Ford Hall which has since been demolished. As these two areas have a sense of being their own community and both geographical areas will be contained within the one ward (if this request is agreed in full) then the ward name would be reflective of the community which it contains.

The ward name should reflect the communities which exist within the area and as the ward will include all of the geographical Pallion area and all of the geographical Ford Estate area, it would be logical and recognisable to residents for the ward to be called Pallion and Ford Ward.

Kind regards

Martin Haswell
Liberal Democrat Councillor for Pallion and Ford
Telephone [REDACTED]

Attached Documents:

None attached