

Sunderland

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Comment text:

Hi,

I've looked over the proposed ward maps for Sunderland Council and have a few comments to make for the consultation. I am very sad to see St Michael's has not been retained as a ward name and I would urge the commission to consider it as a name for one of the wards whether it be the new name for the central ward where the church stands or Tunstall and Humbledon. St Michael's is the only remaining ward name from the six wards of the original Sunderland Borough Council in 1835 and the draft if accepted in 2026 will end 191 years of its role in the life of the city. Past councillors for the ward included William Reid Clanny the doctor who invented a miners safety lamp and dealt with the town's cholera outbreak in the 1830s and William Blackett a draper who ran a still well remembered department store among many other figures who played a role in the history of Sunderland.

I would also question the boundaries of the Humbledon and Tunstall ward. Whilst I acknowledge the ward maps relatively well onto the medieval manor of Humbledon it misses out Tunstall village and Tunstall Lodge and may cause confusion over where is included in it. The area around Tunstall village green and the hills have been known as Tunstall since the Boldon Book of the 1180s but the 1930s housing within the proposed ward only achieved that name in the twentieth century and many residents in the area would refer to it as an extension of Ashbrooke. I would also question the area of the ward in that whilst others such as Herrington or Ryhope make geographic sense this proposed ward stretches from the city centre right out to the area of Plains Farm formerly in Silksworth ward. This ignores the very busy road cutting it off from the rest of the proposed road on the formerly Barnes side of Plains farm potentially impacting the extent to which those in the ward can feel a sense of shared identity as it is a tricky spot for pedestrians to get across. I would encourage further work on the naming of this ward I recognise the validity of Humbledon on its current boundaries but have concerns over the missing bits of Tunstall so perhaps the village green could be added its only a few houses if the name is kept. An alternative name in keeping with the history of the area would be Bainbridge Holme which had been a large

house on the site of the Tunstall area of the ward from 1405.

I support the new boundaries of Herrington Ward and the renaming of Castle ward as Hylton Castle. However, I would suggest that the proposed Roker ward only partially is covered by the area known as Roker and that Monkwearmouth or the existing name St Peter's would be more appropriate in keeping with the history of the area as it covers much of the old township of Monkwearmouth and includes the 7th century St Peter's church the home of the Venerable Bede so both names would recognise the areas heritage.

For the proposed Barnes and Thornhill ward Barnes is certainly appropriate I am undecided on whether Thornhill or Thornholme would best fit with the area.

I would be keen to know more about the potential impact on council area committee areas and how it will impact policing team areas will they follow their existing ward patterns at the police or will they move to the new wards for their areas. I would like more joined up thinking on Chester Road and I am not too keen to see Queen Alexandra Road on a boundary between wards.

Best wishes,



Sent from Mail for Windows

Attached Documents:

None attached