

# Durham County Council

## Personal Details:

**Name:** David Murrell

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:** North Lodge Parish Council

## Comment text:

North Lodge Parish (polling district NDMA), and also the unparished area of North Lodge Ward, should remain as it is currently and not be broken up into different wards. Any options for change are likely to adversely affect the community cohesion that currently exists, and which has developed over the years. The existing Parish and Ward boundaries form a unique area, part of northern Chester-le-Street, characterised by a distinctive, traditional 'street scene' in its most prominent areas, comprising stone bus shelters, tree lined main roads and horticulture that is maintained by the precept that residents of the Parish contribute towards. The northern area of Chester-le-Street Town has a separate community character within the town, with its population 'facing' towards Gateshead and Newcastle (polling districts NDMA, NDLA, NDMB, NDLC1). This is clearly defined with the boundary of the railway line to the West and the River Wear to the East. This community shares strong transport links by bus, heading North with the 21 service that runs between Newcastle and Chester-le-Street, and with frequent services to the City of Durham. It is considered that having multiple wards around Chester-le-Street that surround the town centre, would continue to provide effective local democracy. This would allow the different discrete communities across Chester-le-Street to have a stake and representation covering this important area of the town. North Lodge Parish Council should not be in a ward linked with semi rural villages, such as Ouston and Pelton to the West, and Bournmoor to the East. These communities are part of Chester-le-Street but do not share the same character, local issues and transport links as North Lodge Parish. They are also clearly geographically and physically separated from the main residential areas of North Lodge Parish and Chester-le-Street. They lack common community linkages. Other relevant factors to take into account include the further development of the Drum Industrial Estate and the significant new housing development at Barley Mow. The growth of this housing stock at the north end of the Parish serves to consolidate existing arrangements, rather than justify joining with neighbouring Pelton in the west and the Town area to the south. The expansion of the Drum Industrial Estate presents an enlarged divide between the North Lodge and Pelton communities because of the increased scale of the site, and also between North Lodge and the Town, owing to the much busier A693 road. These changes reinforce our view that the Commission's conclusions in 2011 (link below) remain just as valid today, and even more so. <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/media/local-electoral-arrangements-for-durham-county-council-finalised>

## Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded