

North Tyneside

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Cullercoats and Whitley Bay South, Tynemouth (& Marden)

As a resident of Cullercoats I disagree that Cullercoats and Whitley Bay South are a recognisable shared community.

There is a much stronger link between Tynemouth and Cullercoats historically, the shared physical feature of Longsands beach and common residential and tourism-related issues as well as the shared socio-economic history linked to Tynemouth Priory.

There are also factors which differentiate Cullercoats and Whitley Bay South, for example, different school systems (3-tier and 2-tier) in the proposed ward with residents of Cullercoats being outside of the catchment area for Rockcliffe First, Marden Bridge Middle and Whitley Bay High School system. In addition, Whitley Bay South is highly residential compared to Cullercoats Bay. In my view there is a distinct and historic boundary along Burnside Road (harking back to the Marden Burn which gave the road this name) and this residential community is grounded around two physical attributes - Marden Quarry and Rockcliffe.

Cullercoats is not solely a residential area as stated in the rationale for combining with Whitley Bay South given the tourism from Longsands, with Cullercoats Bay and King Edwards Bay either side. It is simply not true and confuses the distinction that exists between the inland Marden area (West of the Broadway) and Cullercoats as a historic fishing village and bay.

The original proposals made much more sense on a community basis, but with some revisions to take into account some valid conservative observations on the Marden boundary. I would recommend extending Tynemouth ward to incorporate Cullercoats using the Broadway and

Burnside Road as boundaries. I would then recommend that Marden and Whitley Bay South ward is created which combines an actual residential area centred around Marden Quarry (noting the Whitley Bay South Middle School is, already called Marden Bridge Middle). This allows (i) original proposals aimed on bringing Cullercoats and Tynemouth ward together and end the division of Longsands, Cullercoats Bay and King Edwards Bay with regards to council representation; and (ii) recognise Marden as separate to Cullercoats and incorporate the equally residential WB South.

I am not resident in Marden however, my view is that Beach Road is a sensible boundary and cannot understand how a boundary on Hartington Road through the middle of Marden Estate makes more sense on the rationale of keeping communities together, than a boundary on a major road like Beach Road. I would push the Tynemouth ward back to Beach road rather than encroach on Marden Estate which is a recognised area.

Thank you.

Attached Documents:

None attached