

# County Durham

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Liz Maddison

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**Organisation Name:** (District or county councillor)

## Comment text:

I am a County Councillor for Spennymoor Division of Durham County Council, also a Spennymoor Town Councillor for Spennymoor Ward. There has been no meetings of either the County Council or the Town Council where any change of boundary of Ox Close into Tudhoe Division and the shopping area has been discussed with members.

Additionally the streets above Ox Close towards Carr Street/Carr Lane have always been in Spennymoor Division for as long as I have been a Spennymoor Councillor of 21 years.

In your latest review you indicated that you were minded to place the whole of the Town Centre shopping centre into Tudhoe Division that I object to as we have two clear areas for retail and have done for many years ie Cheapside area (from King Street/St Andrews Way up to Cenotaph; the latter is a mid point between Cheapside and High Street; Cheapside is in Tudhoe Division. Secondly, Spennymoor Division starts from Cenotaph to North Eastern and this is known as High Street, Spennymoor Division. There are also shops on Whitworth Terrace and Clyde Terrace above the North Eastern that come under Spennymoor Division. All retail areas are the responsibility of a central team of the County Council's Town Centres Economic Development Team and I am concerned that with a move to move the high street retail and events area to Tudhoe division of the County Council that Spennymoor residents and Councillors will be disadvantaged with lack of information and any input into the future viability of this area should the whole of the retail and events area be placed in Tudhoe Division.

The County Council's Town Centre Economic Development Team work closely with all five (current) County Councillors in both Divisions to ensure retail and economic recovery/regeneration works well. They also consult with partner organisations and the County Council offer business

advice, shop frontage improvement funding and Business training course packages as a central team. County Councillors discuss these opportunities with local businesses. This operates successfully in Spennymoor and across the whole of the County Council area. In our area County Councillors have contributed their Member Neighbourhood funding and input into recent central market area regeneration on behalf of both Spennymoor and Tudhoe residents. We are all currently working with the Regeneration Team of the County Council regarding our Leisure Centre upgrade. The Leisure Centre is in the centre of the Town just behind the Cenotaph and between both Divisions.

As advised I submitted comments to the first and second consultations as a County Councillor and as a Spennymoor resident and I would ask why the split of divisions at Ox Close has been suggested in your latest response as this has not previously been put forward as a proposal; I would have commented on this at the time?

There was no suggestion in the first two Boundary Commission responses to consultations that the boundary between Spennymoor and Tudhoe Division would be changed to place Ox Close and streets above Ox Close that join with the main road of Carr Street/ Carr Lane in Spennymoor Division into the Tudhoe Division; especially when there is a natural green belt and large open space between Ox Close (Spennymoor Division currently) and Deneside (Tudhoe Division) that is also an open area through to the Cenotaph in centre of the Town between Cheapside shops and High Street shops. The split of the two divisions at the Cenotaph has worked well in the past. I commented on this in my submission no 1006691.

I have also commented that since discussions on boundary changes first started a number of housing developments have come forward that will increase housing numbers before the next boundary commission review especially for the Tudhoe Division and leaving current boundaries as they are now would not affect electoral equality between the two Divisions.

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*