

Sunderland

Personal Details:

Name: Margaret Crosby
Email: [REDACTED]
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Organisation Name: (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Sandhill

Dear sir,

I am responding to the Commission's consultation on ward boundaries in Sunderland.

I am Councillor for the Sandhill Ward and am writing to support the Commission's proposals for a new Sandhill Ward.

The proposed ward reflects community links and identities by making sure that the entire of Grindon, Springwell, Hastings Hill and Thorney Close are included in the same ward. The Commission's proposal has significant benefits to the existing warding arrangements by ensuring that all of Springwell Estate is included in one ward, and that all of Grindon is now united in one ward too through the inclusion of the Glenleigh Drive, Broadstairs Court and Sutherland Drive areas.

All four of these estates share the same schools, doctors, community groups and churches. I believe including them together in a single ward will make for efficient local government as one set of councillors can effectively represent the interests of the areas and have meaningful input into community projects, initiatives and funding decisions.

Crucially, all four estates are linked by the extension park, sandhill and Hastings Hill area of greens space that is at the heart of the area geographically. This recreational space binds these four communities together rather than dividing them.

The boundaries of the proposed ward are sensible and recognisable by local people. The following of main roads (A19, A690 and A183) which divide rather than unite communities makes sense and will be easy to understand by residents. The other boundaries are the edge of identifiable estates (rear of properties in Springwell around Saltburn Road and rear of properties along Townsend Road and Tilbury Road) and will be easily understood by residents who know where Thorney Close and Springwell estates end and neighbouring areas begin.

There are good walking and cycling routes across the proposed ward. The 23 bus route links Thorney Close and Springwell; the 18 bus links Grindon, Hastings Hill and Thorney Close; and the 16 bus links Hastings Hill, Grindon and Springwell. These routes provide a comprehensive public transport network to all sides of the ward.

For all these reasons, I urge the Commission to retain the proposed boundaries for the Sandhill Ward in your final recommendations.

The only change I would like to request is the name of the ward from 'Sandhill Ward' to 'Grindon and Thorney Close Ward'. This is because Grindon and Thorney Close represent the largest communities and I believe it is better to have a ward named after real, identifiable place names instead of 'sandhill' which isn't a real place, and risks alienating residents.

Attached Documents:

None attached