

Sunderland

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Dear Review Officer (Sunderland),

We are residents of [REDACTED]

We recently received a letter from Cllr Paul Edgeworth, councillor for the Thorney Close & Grindon ward outlining the proposal by the Local Government and Boundary Review to make Shrewsbury Crescent, Shaftesbury Crescent, Stamford Avenue and parts of Durham Road part of the Thoney Close & Grindon ward.

We are writing to share my views of the proposed boundary change.

To make our point very clear, we DISAGREE with and therefore VERY STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposed plans. The Barnes ward boundaries MUST NOT be changed, and the aforementioned streets and the affected part of Durham Road MUST remain part of the Barnes ward and to continue to be represented by the local councillors of Humbledon and High Barnes.

This part of the Barnes ward has very little in common with Thorney Close & Grindon. Thorney Close in particular has:

- high levels of unemployment
- is very untidy
- fly tipping is an issue which rarely results in the swift removal of mess

- speeding is an issue on Tay Road and has been for many years with no sign of action being taken to fix the issue
 - roads surfaces are outdated, many are concrete
 - roads are plagued by potholes
 - has high levels of anti-social behaviour
 - lot of graffiti
 - green areas are overgrown, such as the parks/fields which runs along Tay Road
 - many children's playgrounds are in urgent need of repair, such as the one behind St. Cuthberts RC Primary School
 - it is not clear where current Thorney Close and Grindon councillors live so we cannot be assured as to their level of interest in the ward
- We have noticed an increase in these problems in the last 3 - 4 years, and we have friends and family who live in Thorney Close and Grindon who echo the same concerns.

On the contrary, in Barnes ward:

- low levels of unemployment
- very tidy - any litter is quickly removed
- reported fly tipping is cleared very quickly
- speeding issues are taken serious and action is currently being taken
- fixed potholes
- cleaning up Barnes park
- low levels of anti-social behaviour
- graffiti is not a major issue
- green areas are well maintained
- children's playgrounds are well maintained
- Two fantastic councillors: Cllr Mullen and Cllr Dunn

o the ward is well managed since they came in in 2018 and 2021 respectively

o succeeded in getting appropriate speed limits in place throughout the ward

o succeeded in getting traffic calming measures in place on Ettrick Grove

o genuine efforts are being made to clear fly tipping and keep the ward clean and tidy

o communication skills are excellent. Always answering emails, and showing genuine enthusiasm for making Barnes ward a great place to live, and not being distracted by the major developments happening in the city centre or what other political parties are doing - unlike Labour and the Liberal Democrats

o they are visible all year round, and not only at election time like Labour and Liberal Democrat councillors

o we often get newsletters from them telling us what they are doing/have done, and are not using this method as a vehicle to deprecate or diminish an opposition party or member, unlike Labour candidates

o they live in the Barnes ward. This gives us assurance they have a shared interest in the area in which we live

Even though Cllr Mullen and Cllr Dunn do not currently hold the seat for the ward, they are our councillors of choice if we want progress to happen and to get things done. They are the most influential councillors in the ward.

We have lived in the Barnes ward for almost 10 years now, and most of the issues we have raised with Cllr Mullen and Cllr Dunn since 2018 have been dealt with swiftly. They have taken a very keen interest in major issues such as speeding on the Durham Road for which we recently received a survey from Cllr Dunn who is keen to take these problems further to make the ward a safer place. They are doing tremendous work and it is great to live in a ward where we have two councillors who are focused on ward issues and are not obsessed with the large-scale redevelopments happening in the city centre, like opposing councillors do.

We fear that if the aforementioned streets do become part of Thorney Close & Grindon, they will start to decline and become neglected like many areas of Thorney close are. Afterall, we would become a handful of streets on the very edge of a larger ward. Why would Thorney Close & Grindon councillors feel they need to give us special treatment?

We would appreciate a decision being taken by the Local Government Boundary Review which means Shrewsbury Crescent, Shaftesbury Crescent, Stamford Avenue and parts of Durham Road must REMAIN part of BARNES WARD. This is the correct and only acceptable result of this review.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Attached Documents:

None attached