

Sunderland

Personal Details:

Name: Michael Dixon

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Organisation Name: Chair of St Michael's Residents Association (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

I write as the Chair of St Michael's Residents Association, which meets at the St Michael's Community Centre, Stannington Grove, Sunderland, SR2 9JT.

The proposed Silksworth Ward and St Chad's Ward are not legitimate reflections of local community identity, they do not reflect how people locally live and interact, and they fail to take into account the vital aspect of community services.

The proposed Silksworth Ward is about 50% Tunstall and these two communities - which could not be less alike - are separated by a large open green space. This green space includes two large hills, farm land and no means of easily crossing this space. These should be viewed as communities which are majorly separated from one another, not comfortably co-existent. The previously proposed Tunstall and Humbledon Ward was a much better reflection of actual community identity in that respect: as the St Michael's Residents Association, we deal with concerns from all of Tunstall and the proposed Tunstall and Humbledon Ward reflected that all of Tunstall has shared issues and concerns, as well as a shared community centre and local services..

Second, the proposed St Chad's Ward is not an adequate representation of any community - and Humbledon does not belong to the St Chad's parish. Humbledon has much more in common with Tunstall and we, as a Residents Association, have a many shared issues, local services and commonality than either Tunstall has with Silksworth or Humbledon has with Farringdon. Silksworth and Farringdon, on the other hand, are geographic neighbours, have similar socioeconomic demographics, share a Ranger and other local services, and it is far easier to travel (by foot or by public transport) from Silksworth to Farringdon than from Silksworth to Tunstall. I strongly urge a return to the Silksworth and Farringdon and

the Tunstall and Humbledon
Wards for this reason.

I have consulted with many members of the Association who live in the streets where the new Silksworth ward is proposed (currently St Michael's ward) and It would greatly surprise me if you did not receive an overwhelming response from them and other residents, indicating strong opposition and concern.

I trust that their views, expressed in numbers, will be taken into account, as a negative response from the people who will be affected by your proposal to be incorporated into a newly-created ward where there is absolutely nothing in common with other parts, both community-based and geographically, is surely the most unsatisfactory of outcomes for all concerned.

I therefore urge you to reconsider.

Yours sincerely,
Michael Dixon
Chair of St Michael's Residents Association

Attached Documents:

None attached