

Newcastle upon Tyne

Personal Details:

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

Comment text:

Related subject: Jesmond Vale

Hello,

I am writing to strongly object to the proposed changes to the electoral boundary changes that would mean as a resident of Jesmond Vale (south of the A1058), we would now be in the Ouseburn & Shieldfield ward instead of a Jesmond ward. I have been resident in the affected area ([REDACTED] Northumberland Gardens, [REDACTED]) for just over 10 years.

My reasons for disagreeing with this change are outlined below.

- Jesmond Vale, south of the A1058, is very strongly integrated with the Jesmond community. This can be evidenced in many ways. From my own experience:
 - o I send my children to West Jesmond Primary School, as do many of our neighbours. We often share drop off and pick ups as so many of us send our children there. I know of very few families who have chosen to send their children to school in Ouseburn & Shieldfield.
 - o I have used three nurseries for my children over the years, all of which were in Jesmond (Jesmond Nursery, Plantpots and Kids 1st Jesmond).
 - o My medical practice (Jesmond Health Partnership), opticians (Long & Pickard), registered pharmacy (Medicentre), library (Jesmond Library), swimming pool (Jesmond Pool), tennis courts (Northumberland Club), hairdressers (Sassine) and after school clubs are all in Jesmond.
 - o We use the supermarkets, cafes, restaurants, bars and shops in Jesmond. Many of these on and around Acorn Road we use on a an almost daily basis. I have gotten to know staff at many of these places, and find it hard not to bump into people I know. It is absolutely a place of community for us.
 - o I make use of the Metro network using either Jesmond or West Jesmond Metro stations.
 - o The community takes part in events in the Jesmond Festival every year. As an example, we took part in hosting a teddy bear in our window last

year (among several others in the Vale) for the annual Teddy Bear trail around Jesmond. This is organised by Jesmond Library in which families follow a map to find all the bears on the trail. The A1058 was not certainly considered a barrier for this family-orientated activity.

o While the experiences above are very much based on me and my family, we are friends with so many of our neighbours in the Vale who I know follow a similar pattern in terms of how they use the facilities in Jesmond.

- Jesmond Vale, south of the A1058, is not in any way a part of the Ouseburn & Shieldfield community.

o We have no regular need or reason to visit Ouseburn & Shieldfield. Our visits are occasional, for example to go to a restaurant or bar. But they do not feature in our daily lives, and we have no connection to the community there.

- Jesmond Vale, south of the A1058 is unique in its geography and the main links are towards Jesmond:

o It is poorly linked on most sides due to the proximity to Jesmond Dene. The only accessible routes out are onto the A1058 or to cross over the A1058 via Churchill Gardens further into Jesmond (Jesmond Road).

o In the recent Low Traffic Neighbourhood trial, one of the reasons that the bollards were removed after the trial was due to the negative impact it had on Jesmond Vale residents accessing the rest of Jesmond.

o The only other links out of the Vale are a steep set of steps from Jesmond Vale towards Shieldfield. It also has a long winding ramp option, but even that has some steps in it. It was never something I felt was accessible enough to use a pram on. This is also a route that I don't feel comfortable using in the evening (and sometimes during the day) as parts are isolated and there are sometimes individuals hanging around the tower block (Vale House) and the Blue Bell pub that can be intimidating.

o This is why Jesmond is the most obvious and accessible community for us to visit, whether it be on foot, bicycle/scooter, in the car or to access the Metro.

In summary, I have no community ties to Ouseburn & Shieldfield and it is not easily accessible from where we live in Jesmond Vale. This proposed new ward would therefore not fairly represent my community, or that of my neighbours.

Many thanks for considering this feedback.

Regards,

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Attached Documents:

None attached