

Newcastle upon Tyne

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Comment text:

I notice the proposed changes will remove Jesmond Vale from the South Jesmond ward. This seems a very strange decision - the clue is in the name - Jesmond Vale is in Jesmond.

Jesmond Vale has historically been part of the Jesmond community since its development in the late 19th century.

The area, formerly known as the Minories and now commonly referred to as Jesmond Vale, was originally part of the Jesmond Park Estate and has strong historical and community ties to Jesmond. It is bounded by the roads Churchill Gardens, Lansdowne Gardens, Northumberland Gardens, Selborne Gardens, Roseberry Place, Roseberry Crescent, the A1058, and Jesmond Dene Road.

Upon reviewing the Boundary Commission's submission, it appears that the recommendations are largely based on a virtual tour of the area and input from local councillors. However, it is important to note that none of the local councillors reside in this specific part of Jesmond. Additionally, a virtual tour alone cannot provide a complete or accurate understanding of the strong community ties and practical considerations that link this area to Jesmond. For the following reasons, Jesmond Vale should remain part of the Jesmond ward:

Access to Essential Services: All essential services that residents rely on, including doctors, dentists, opticians, supermarkets, and local shops, are easily accessible within the Jesmond ward. Residents can walk or cycle to these services with ease, further strengthening our connection to the wider Jesmond community.

Limited Connectivity to Ouseburn and Shieldfield: A proper analysis of the topography would reveal that there are very few accessible routes connecting Jesmond Vale to Ouseburn and Shieldfield. The only direct route involves poorly maintained step access on a steep incline, making walking or cycling impractical. This severely limits the area's integration with Ouseburn or Shieldfield.

A1058 Cradlewell Bypass: When the A1058 Cradlewell bypass was constructed in the 1980s, it was deliberately built in a tunnel to avoid severing Jesmond Vale from the rest of Jesmond. This decision was made to maintain the community's cohesion with Jesmond and should not be overlooked in current boundary discussions.

In conclusion, the historical, geographical, and practical connections between Jesmond Vale and Jesmond are strong, and the proposed boundary changes would disrupt these longstanding ties. I urge the Commission to reconsider the proposal and keep Jesmond Vale within the Jesmond ward.

Attached Documents:

None attached