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FAO: Review Office (Sheffield) 24th August 2026

Re Local Government Ward Boundary Review and public consultation – Sheffield

I would like to give my thoughts on the above, which I hope shall be taken into account when reviewing the area in which we live. This is the first time it's been possible to do this, and I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute.

I know many of my neighbours haven't seen the article in Active 8, but I have passed the word around a little so more contributions may come to you hopefully.

When I bought the house in 1989 it was referred to as Norton/Backmoor. When the houses were built, and photographs exist of the rural nature surrounding this location at that time, they were identified with Norton and Graves Park, and also to Norton Lees.

In 1888 the committee, looking at enlarging the borough, included Norton and Ecclesfield for its recommendation in enlarging the borough of Sheffield. This was delayed until 1901. In 1933 under an Extension Norton Rural District was added to the Borough and a new Norton Ward was created.

The houses we live in were planned to be built in the 1920's and so by the time they were built, in the 1930's, they became part of broader Norton/Backmoor.

Houses in Norton & Norton Lees (modern} were also built in the 1930's, so the similarity to and connection with Graves Park, Norton Lees as well as with Broader Norton is long standing.

Gleadless Valley and Hemsworth were developed, as you'll know, between 1955 and 1962.

Ashbury Drive is not a through road, so we automatically face towards Graves Park Ward area. Graves Park Itself is a 5 minute walk away.

Our children go to Norton Free School on Matthews Lane or to the Mundella School in Norton Lees on Derbyshire Lane, both of which are closer to the Ashbury Drive locality than the majority of people who live in the broader area of the Graves Park Ward. Norton Free School, for example, is only a few minutes walk away.

Norton Free School is linked closely with St James Church, which again can be closer to Ashbury Drive than many roads are in the broader Graves Park Ward area. Many school events, including with families, take place there or at the Methodist Church in Norton Lees where people from here attend either for services and to help with events. Many long held friendships and memories are made this way too.

All mentioned are easily reached on foot from here.

After attendance at the Norton Free Primary or the Mundella Schools, children go on to Meadowhead School in Norton, or to the Comprehensive School in Norton Lees.

Friendships and support networks are thus continued into teenage years and beyond, which of course forms part of their identity.

Similarly, pupils attending the Norton Free and Mundella Schools who live in the broader Graves Park Ward areas also often go to either the Meadowhead School or to the Comprehensive school in Norton Lees. In this way friendships and support networks first developed at the two primary schools mentioned continues, and their sense of their community is further deepened in those local communities in which they live.

Graves Park is a much loved area to take our children to, and also many memories are and have been made by families using this space regularly. It is also used daily by many neighbours for exercise and dog walking. Young people also make it their space to meet up after school too.

What this all adds up to is the broader association we have with that close-by leisure location just minutes away from where we live. It is where people have made friendships and it's in the area in which they live and where they and their children have made their community, and that is the Graves Park Ward.

Some neighbours still have their birth parents in those close by localities mentioned.

We have an enlarging friendship group on our road where our children have played together, gone to the same school together and beyond. We have many new arrivals on the road and they too are starting families and it's heartening to see the same cycle continue.

Many of my neighbours use the same doctor's surgery, which is in Woodseats. We shop in Woodseats and at St James's Park in Norton, and call in at the Norton Lees Co-op on Derbyshire Lane, and, of course.
If travelling through Blackstock Road we might call in to the shop on Constable Rd but that is likely the single connection we have with Gleadless Valley.

Ashbury Drive is a small Cul de sac and as said is not a through road, so although we do travel down Blackstock Road it's a road used to get to somewhere else in the city. There's simply no historic association with schools, churches, or other public services or leisure in the ward of Gleadless Valley.

Finally, I would say that with regard to the Gleadless Valley Ward it's difficult to see how we can contribute to what local people living in the main areas of that ward would like to see happen in their localised communities.

Particularly given that we face towards and feel we live within the Graves Park Ward which contains the Schools, churches, leisure facilities and businesses we use on a daily basis. It is where we and our children have our friendship groups and it is where we have developed a sense of belonging to a known and familiar community.

It is where over many years this community has grown organically according to how local people use local facilities necessary for communities to thrive, and it is where new arrivals to our small area automatically locate themselves, and those links can't be stopped by lines on a map.

However if lines are drawn to continue as before then this small locality will continue to be adrift from where it feels it belongs, and where it could better contribute to the actual community it functions within through the voting system.

We wonder if this is simply to make the numbers for local councillors add up regardless of the call for local people to have their say? I do hope not.

We are like many other streets and roads on the edge of communities that they either strongly identity with, or have no sense of identity with at all. Identity is shaped through participation in and contributions to local community life. Voting enfranchisement should surely take this on board even if it is inconvenient insofar as where the lines are drawn.

Yours Sincerely,

[redacted]

Enc: map locating where we live - on the little pointy bit stuck out and adrift. Dots in red show what parts of each ward we use.