

12th October 2009

Dear Sir,

As a resident of Baldersdale, I would like to comment on your review of the boundaries of the Durham County Council divisions.

I do not agree with your proposed single member ward to cover all the area south of the River Tees. If we follow your proposal it would split similar communities such as Lunedale & Baldersdale from those such as Forest & Harwood-in-Teesdale. Many residents of these look to Middleton as the service centre of the upper dale, for shops, banks, Drs, schools, Fire, Police etc. It would be harder for our Cllrs to represent us effectively as they would be split by the river. Also I believe your single member ward would be a large area for one person to cover.

Issues I have with services such as highways gritting and snow clearance would be best dealt with by a Cllr whose patch covers all of the gritting run.

Therefore I support the Council's proposal of an East/West split of the dale at Barnard Castle with two member wards. It groups together communities, like those I mention above, which are of a similar character and have similar issues. The natural pivot of the dale is Barnard Castle. All roads up and down the dale go through it, and east of it you get into lowland/arable farming and the A66/A67 commuter villages.

The character of the dale changes as you go *down* the river, not *across* the river. I urge you not to split the dale by the river.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs T Sinclair