

Northumberland

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Organisation Name: Northumberland County Council (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Cramlington Village

As both Town and County ward Councillor I disagree with the proposed draft changes for the boundary for the Cramlington Village ward. As in my previous submission the projected increase in headcount for this ward is excessive as the only possibility to increase to this level would be via additional development, however there is no possibility for this on the ward without building on either the current Park, which is part of a Conservation Area, or on school land – both of which could not happen due to green space and planning restrictions.

Cramlington has an ageing population, and like much of Northumberland a reducing child population, this has all been previously calculated alongside the approved ongoing development in the town, therefore I find it confusing that there is a projected increase in numbers for the ward which contradicts known and carefully calculated data, similarly it is unusually coincidental that the proposed draft changes are now within a handful of the projected figures.

Barns Park estate has been part of the Village community for many years, they have, and still are even now campaigning alongside fellow Village residents to maintain open access to a Public Right of Way were there are current attempts to expunge this. To then move this, with a natural boundary of four lanes of dual carriageway, and attach to the Cramlington South East ward is senseless in order to only achieve a target of projected numbers which is incorrect.

Barns Park also holds a significant and important aspect of natural open green space enjoyed by many Village residents, one of only two on the Village ward at present. By comparison South East has an abundance of open green space, so this will create a considerable imbalance when

attempting to apply for related project funding to maintain and protect on a ward basis.

The current population of the ward has a good socio-economic balance across the area, and if the draft changes were to take place this would create an imbalance both in the Village ward and similarly in South-East as a result. This needs to remain as it is.

The statements made in the draft proposal regarding Cramlington Town Council not proposing to make any changes to Cramlington Village division (p.36) is incorrect. Their proposal, was to move residents from Station Road/Osborne Terrace, and Sunnyside over to the proposed new North West area, therefore creating the natural boundary at the Manor Walks shopping centre. This would retain Barns Park and reduce the numbers accordingly, but in addition the Village division would take on the small nearby Arcot Grange development adjacent to Barns Park beside the railway line, raising these numbers for the ward to balance.

The areas added at the top of the division do not form a natural boundary, now even further parted by significant highways development underway with main road intersections.

I did not agree with, nor support the proposal put forward by the County Council previously submitted. Despite this being put to a vote the option of voting against this was removed from me at that time.

I note that the '10%' rule is not applied in other parts of Northumberland therefore question why communities have to be carved up, based on inaccurate projections, just to try and achieve this figure which was not achieved previously either?

The changes should be as follows:

I support a 7 ward proposal.

With the exception of the creation of the new ward (named North West) the remainder maintain the existing boundaries and community aspects very well, without significant changes except for the following:

Cramlington Village will gain Arcot Grange from Cramlington West - this small group of housing is quite distant from the rest of Cramlington West ward but a few metres from the existing Village ward so would make sense to join.

Cramlington Village loses Station Road/Osborne Terrace, and Sunnyside to the new North West ward and moves the boundary to Manor Walks shopping centre instead. There is already confusion with new development surrounding part of the existing houses, and it also causes problems with maintenance matters.

This will now create a natural boundary with this move, simplifying matters and creating greater cohesion.

Colt Park Place and Carlcroft from Cramlington South East to Cramlington East ward - some of this was originally part of Cramlington East ward previously.

The volumes for each ward in the town add up to the total projection 'proposed' for Cramlington as a town, but maintain the existing community aspects and have predominant natural boundary focus.

There are no possibilities for further increase across the town due to planning restrictions in place with an approved Local Plan and also a Neighbourhood Plan in place showing that development has already exceeded required need for the town and there is now no available land to develop.

Attached Documents:

- town 7 submission.jpg

town council submission

