

Northumberland

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: New Hartley, Seaton Valley

I object to the proposed boundary changes for New Hartley for the following reasons.

Currently the Hartley Ward consists of three Parish Cllr's and one County Cllr and this mix works exceedingly well. The proposed change to the boundary which divides the village in two will see one County Cllr for the north side of the village and another for the south and then two Parish Cllr's for the south side of the village and one for the north. So clearly this cannot promote effective and convenient local government. Ostensibly this will also cause confusion for residents as it will become unclear which Cllr to go to for advice and help, or indeed who to vote for.

Dividing a small village through the middle to create two different Wards cannot even in theory be seen to promote the identity and interests of a village community. In fact, the only plus and it is a tentative one, is that there will be electoral equality. However, this equality is only numerical and does not address at all how this would work in practice. Separated by almost two miles of greenbelt there are no public transport links or public footpaths to combine New Hartley North and New Delaval together. How then would there be effective and convenient local government or community identity. The electoral equality mooted by this proposal is an extremely tenuous plus. The negative effects this will have on a small vibrant community is quite frankly not worth it.

Attached Documents:

None attached