

Northumberland

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
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Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Good morning,

As a longterm resident of the village of New Hartley, there are a few issues that stand out that would become problematic following any division of our village.

Firstly, Can I start by saying that I think this has been a short-sighted proposal by someone or a committee within the council that thinks that their duties are more important than the actual areas that they are responsible for!

The percentages of responsibilities are not clear! i.e, Hartley Ward = -5% and Delaval/New Hartley Ward = +7%

What would the percentages be if New Hartley remained complete?

As we are the smallest village in the borough, what on earth is the point of the division. The impact on our community will be huge compared to a larger town and the percentages of responsibility are not great enough to justify the level of disruption that would result from any division!

All council related responsibilities would become very difficult to separate and coordinate, in particular, any road surfacing of Bristol Street, as this is to be the where the division lies.

New Hartley has thriving community spirit which over the years has provided friendly and caring community for us all.

Seaton Valley Council have provided excellent services for all New Hartley residents and have funded many local events. Funding is also provided for planting etc in the village.

The village is entered each year in the 'Seaton Valley in Bloom Competition', in which many residents in the village are involved. Since the proposed changes to the Parish will see a great proportion of the village in the newly formed New Hartley North Parish Ward which, in turn will be part of the proposed New Delaval and New Hartley County Council Ward, it is difficult to understand how a community proud of its village can all enter the same competition. This is not conducive of maintaining a well-established community spirit.

To divide a village as small as New Hartley will produce an 'us and them' situation thus causing a rift and potentially a breakdown in our community.

There will be potentially be two names for the different wards in the village. The part staying with Seaton Sluice will be known as Hartley Ward and those of us potentially leaving will be known as New Hartley North Parish Ward.

Would property prices also become affected due to the change?

Jill is one of our councillors of whom the village voted in, who will also be affected by the change as she too is a resident in our village. She also opposes this change. Her opinion should be respected and acted upon as she is representing the whole of the village.

Finally, this will not be the definitive list of issues; some will only become apparent after the proposed change is implemented and sincerely hope that you take note of my opinion and rethink your plans.

Regards,
Mr Stephen Howes
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Attached Documents:

None attached