



BOUNDARY COMMISSION. 3.7.23

DEAR SIR, MADAM,

OVER THE RECENT PAST I'VE BEEN INCREASINGLY AWARE OF HOW DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL VIEWS CONSETT i.e. PERIPHERAL. THE RECENT "IMPROVEMENTS" IN MIDDLE STREET BEING A CASE IN POINT; A TICK BOX EXERCISE AND COMPLETE WASTE OF PRECIOUS COUNCIL TAX. YET, WHEN IT SUITS, CONSETT CAN BE "USEFUL" e.g. THE RE-APPLICATION TO HAVE AN "APPROVED PREMISES" IN A RESIDENTIAL AREA OF THE TOWN. THIS PROPOSAL IS AN INSULT TO THE PEOPLE OF CONSETT. DOES ANYBODY BEHIND THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION HAVE ANY AWARENESS OF CONSETT'S HISTORY? A STEELWORKS (CLOSED WHEN MAKING A PROFIT) WHICH PRODUCED SOME OF THE FINEST QUALITY STEEL IN THE WORLD; AN INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX WHICH MUST HAVE BEEN A GREAT SOURCE OF RATEABLE VALUE IN COME FOR DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL. THE ARGUMENT ABOUT THE PRESENT SITUATION WITH REGARD TO BISHOP AUCKLAND AND BARNARD CASTLE SEEMS

TO PLACE THEIR HISTORY AND STATUS ABOVE CONSETT'S, WHICH, OF COURSE, HAS VIRTUALLY BEEN OBLITERATED BY THIS PROPOSAL. THIS BOUNDARY IS A NONSENSE RUNNING THROUGH THE TOWN CENTRE AND THE WHOLE SENSE OF COMMUNITY.

TEMPLETOWN AND BLACKHILL ARE HISTORICALLY PART OF CONSETT; THE FORMER GRAMMAR / ^{SCHOOL} COMPREHENSIVE AT BLACKFYNE BEING A CASE IN POINT.

CONSEQUENTLY, THE WHOLE OF CONSETT NOT TO HAVE ITS OWN DEDICATED COUNCILLOR IS A DISGRACE. THE NEW BOUNDARY CONTRADICTS THE FIRST THREE OF YOUR AIMS IN THAT IT DOESN'T REFLECT A COMMUNITY'S IDENTITY, IT DOESN'T CREATE A "STRONG EASILY IDENTIFIABLE BOUNDARY".

IN A DEMOCRACY PEOPLE WITH A VOTE SHOULD FEEL IT IS IMPORTANT AND USEFUL, SEE PROGRESS AND EFFECTIVE USE OF COUNCIL TAX. INSTEAD, WE GET SELF-JUSTIFIED BUREAUCRACY AND DISRESPECT OF A TOWN AND ITS COMMUNITY

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