

Northumberland

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Organisation Name: County Cllr (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Prudhoe

Comments of Gordon Stewart Cllr for Prudhoe South

I have reviewed the proposals from the boundary commission and in general across the county I agree with many of them.

Locally, in the Tyne Valley I support the commission proposal to place the community of Riding Mill into the Corbridge Division.

It is my feeling that the community of Riding Mill looks more towards the area of Corbridge and Hexham than to Prudhoe.

Regarding the divisions of Prudhoe South, Prudhoe North, Stocksfield + Broomhaugh, and Bywell I think that there is a better arrangement that could be developed as some of the boundaries proposed are not logical from a community or administrative position.

The proposals for Prudhoe South are not logical with an area of the division (right at the south of Prudhoe South) moved into a new "Stocksfield" division.

These residents have no sense of connection to Stocksfield and would have to travel through at least two other divisions to drive there. It would be better if they remained in a Prudhoe division.

In the wider Prudhoe Town Council area, I would observe that the area of Mickley has limited actual connection with Stocksfield but has in the past presumably been located in the Stocksfield and Broomhaugh Division to balance elector numbers. I think there is an opportunity in this boundary review to correct this anomaly and create a more administratively neat solution that connects the community of Prudhoe TC together better and thereby better represents them.

I have provided input to the Northumberland Conservatives proposals for the divisions of Prudhoe South, Prudhoe North, Stocksfield + Broomhaugh, and Bywell. I am in agreement with their proposals which have been carefully developed. I make the below comments to emphasise the logic in the Northumberland Conservatives proposals.

The proposals create a logical “rural” division of “Stocksfield and Bywell” capturing the more rural parishes that have much in common with each other from a day to day “issues” basis. In these areas the children for example children qualify for free school transport, there are issues with rural roads / verges etc, the parish councils have similar characteristics and day to day concerns. This rural ward would allow a councillor to focus on working with the parishes rather than have a small part of Prudhoe Town Council with which to engage in addition.

Of course this “rural” division only works if the remainder of the area can be effectively split into logical divisions. I think that it is demonstrated by the Northumberland Conservatives proposals that this is perfectly feasible.

There is a logical grouping of lower Prudhoe with Wylam and Ovingham the proposals call “Prudhoe North and Wylam”. These communities all have a lower Tyne Valley connection and share common issues,

Many children from this area attend Prudhoe schools hence the logic of formally connecting Wylam and Ovingham to lower Prudhoe at the county division level.

There is considerable logic also in the creation of the other two divisions of West Prudhoe and Prudhoe South. For example the proposals restore administrative ties and the county level between Prudhoe town and Mickley. Mickley looks far more toward Prudhoe as a community than to Stockfield for services, schools etc making the change highly appropriate.

The location of the boundary between West Prudhoe and Prudhoe South in the Northumberland Conservatives proposal may need some refinement to ensure that the relevant number of electors is adhered to but I feel there is a clear solution here that should be developed and implemented.

Prudhoe is a modern town with a very long history, residents have great pride in where they live.

Attached Documents:

None attached