

Northumberland

Personal Details:

Name: Mrs Jill Henderson
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: New Hartley, Seaton Valley

I object to the proposed boundary changes in New Hartley for the following reasons, I also concur with objection from the Conservative Party.

Electoral equality.

It seems that Electoral equality is based on a presumed forecast regarding the amount of houses that may be built by 2028. Clearly in this current economic climate the proposals are relying on a tentative projection at best so there is no guarantee that there will be electoral equality by 2028. Thus equality, which is the only positive outcome from these proposals is somewhat negated by the factors surrounding the amount of houses that may or may not be built.

Community identity.

New Hartley as with most small villages has a strong community spirit. It is home to a Residents Club, a Memorial Hall, various volunteer groups a public house, a village shop, post office and café, all of which contribute to ensure there is a well established community in the village. We are also supported by a well managed Parish Council with three Parish Cllr's and at County level by one Cllr in the Ward. We also have a very good first school whose feeder schools are all within Seaton Valley. New Hartley has been a village since 1845, its boundary line follows the outskirts of the village, to then divide the village in two and expect the community to thrive or indeed remain as it is beggar's belief.

Effective Local Government.

How dividing a village in two and having differing Parish and County Cllr's for each side of the village will promote effective local government is

difficult to comprehend. In addition, the proposal to combine New Hartley North and New Delaval will see a County Cllr having to represent both a small village and the outskirts of a town. The Parish Cllr assigned to the new Ward will face similar problems. Here once again, the dynamics are not conducive with effective local government. Furthermore, the distance between New Hartley and New Delaval without any public transport links or indeed public footpaths is not ideal for building a community within this new Ward. It would appear that Cllr's will have to provide assistance for two communities that will never be as one.

In conclusion, the best option for New Hartley is to retain the 'status quo' any changes to electoral equality will have a huge negative impact on the village and more importantly to those who live here.

Attached Documents:

None attached