

Northumberland

Personal Details:

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

Comment text:

I wish to object to the proposed boundary change to New Hartley which would effectively divide our village into 2 halves.

New Hartley is the smallest village in Seaton Valley and the impact on our community would be huge compared to a larger town or village. I can't foresee any benefits to be gained by dividing New Hartley into separate parishes.

You need to know that New Hartley has a thriving community spirit which over the years has developed into a friendly and caring neighbourhood for us all. We love life as one Village and work together to achieve a lot within our community! We have Village Fairs, Christmas Lamppost competitions, innumerable activities in the Community Centre (including A VILLAGE FOOD BANK), a Village Library where books are donated and borrowed by villagers and coffee mornings at Hartley Court. Historical events are commemorated, such as the Hartley Pit Disaster. The Memorial Garden is maintained by folk from all areas in the village. There are litter picking sessions where all residents in the village are invited to participate. Village BBQs are arranged by the Residents Club and there was a much-looked forward to event in the village on 1 July: the Village Dog Show! Within the last year, at Jill Henderson's suggestion (and help and support), we have set up a Neighbourhood watch scheme for the village as a whole. If the village were to be divided into 2, then all of this would be fractured.

The village enters the 'Seaton Valley in Bloom Competition' each year, which is one of the bigger events we participate in. 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.

Seaton Valley Council have, so far, provided excellent services for all New Hartley residents and have funded many local events. How would funding work under the new proposal? I fear that each area of the village could be too small within the new proposed parishes to warrant any consideration at all and I fear that both areas of the village could be neglected, or one half may have better funding than the other which would be very divisive and unnecessary? The village would have 2 councillors, who may not have like-minded views, causing upset and disagreement.

I have lived in New Hartley for 35 years and one of the best things about the village is the community spirit. Our son has purchased a house in the Barrett Development in the village to remain near us and to continue living in the Village. Under your new proposal the Village would be divided into 2, and our son would be living in a different parish which is ridiculous !!

To divide a village as small as New Hartley will eventually produce an 'us and them' situation thus causing a rift and potentially a breakdown in our community. There will be two names for the different wards in the village. We would like to remain as one. As we are the smallest village in the borough, what is the point of the division? The percentages of responsibility are not great enough to justify the level of disruption that would result from the division! All council related responsibilities would become very difficult to separate and coordinate. The much-needed road re-surfacing of Bristol Street and tree pruning in the Village are just 2 examples which spring to mind.

Would property prices also become effected due to the change?

This will not be the definitive list of issues; some will only become apparent after the proposed change.

I think this has been a short-sighted proposal by someone within the council who really doesn't have a grasp of the potential and unnecessary divisive impact this change will have on our Village. Do you realise that you have upset pretty much everyone who lives here?

Also, as I understand it, there is a 10% variance attached to each County Council ward anyway, so if the Hartley ward stays as it is, it will still be within the 10% variance. So as far as I can see, there isn't any need to change it?

Jill Henderson is one of our Councillors and thus represents the village. She is also a resident of the Village and she is opposed to the proposed boundary change for many of the reasons listed above and more. Why won't you listen to her and leave this happy and united village alone?

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Attached Documents:

None attached