

Northumberland

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Organisation Name: Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Response to draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Northumberland County Council: Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst Parish Council

Please find attached two response letters with respect to the draft recommendations:

1. Response to draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Northumberland County Council: Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst Parish Council
2. Response to Consultation Process for the draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Northumberland County Council: Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst Parish Council

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information or clarification

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Garth Rhodes

Clerk

Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst Parish Council



Email: Clerk@Brinkburn.net

Web: <https://northumberlandparishes.uk/brinkburnandhesleyhurst/brinkburn-and-hesleyhurst>

Attached Documents:

- 20230620_Boundary Commission re Process.doc
- 20230620_Boundary Commission.doc

Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst Parish Council

Review Officer (Northumberland)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for
England
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE
Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Garth Rhodes: Parish Clerk



Email: Clerk@Brinkburn.net

20th June 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

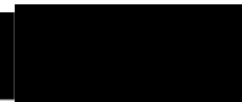
Response to Consultation Process for the draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Northumberland County Council: Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst Parish Council

On behalf of the Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst Parish Council, I am writing to you separately, from our response to the consultation, with particular regard to how information is provided within the consultation process.

Both within the original email sent by the Commission on 2nd May 2023 and the Summary of Parish Electoral Arrangements in the Conclusions of the Draft Recommendations Document, proposed changes at Parish level, which significantly affect Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst, were not mentioned. Only by looking into the detail in both the report and the proposed boundary maps did it become clear that such a dramatic change to our Parishes was being proposed. It was most fortunate that the officers of the Council did look at this detail, otherwise this information would have been overlooked.

Small parish councils such as ours which rely on the good services of volunteers and part-time staff are under a great deal of pressure to cover a large range of duties and need every assistance to deal with the vast array of documentation that passes through their hands. We would recommend therefore the Commission review the way in which they provide summary information in their documentation to include all relevant changes that may have a significant impact on the lives of many people.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Garth Rhodes.

Garth Rhodes
Clerk

Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst Parish Council

Review Officer (Northumberland)
The Local Government Boundary Commission
for England
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE
Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Garth Rhodes: Parish Clerk



Email: Clerk@Brinkburn.net

22nd June 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

**Response to draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Northumberland County Council:
Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst Parish Council**

The Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst Parish Council would like to thank the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (BC) for the opportunity to respond its draft proposals to electoral arrangements for Northumberland. proposals

The BC report outlines a major implication for the grouped parish of Brinkburn (currently in Shilbottle Division) & Hesleyhurst (currently in Rothbury Division) with a proposal that they be moved into the Longhorsley Ward. The Parish Council has seriously considered its position on this matter and consulted widely across the two parishes.

The PC has carried out a consultation across the grouped parish. This has confirmed that members and residents do have concerns as to the impact this change will have on the grouped Parish which has always aligned itself to Coquetdale of which Rothbury is the principal town. All those who have expressed a view about this are strongly in opposition to the proposal to move Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst into the Longhorsley Division. The PC is therefore recommending an alternative proposal to that of the Boundary Commission; for Brinkburn Parish to join with Hesleyhurst Parish to be within the Rothbury Division. Attached please find a representative sample of our responses

There are clear reasons why this is a more logical proposition. Our natural affinity is with Coquetdale. The Boundary Commission proposal appears to be purely concerned with electoral equality across the County and takes little cognizance of our strong links historically, culturally, socially and economically. Our cultural and community identity, shared community provision and effective local government are with Rothbury & Coquetdale with Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst holding a key position as the main entrance into the Coquetdale valley.

The benefits of Brinkburn becoming, and Hesleyhurst remaining, part of the Rothbury Division are:

Health, Care & Well-being services. Our doctors, community hospital, respite and residential care and other health services are situated in Rothbury.

Schools and Education. Nursery, first and middle school provision for the majority of our families is provided within Rothbury.

Emergency Action. Formal links for emergency provision. Rothbury was the central hub for the Coquetdale community during Storm Arwen and has developed an effective Emergency Action Plan a service offered to all of Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst.

Shopping, social and community facilities which for many is centred around Rothbury

Close Links with the National Park & Dark Skies. Part of Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst is within the National Park and we are proud to be linked to its Dark Skies initiative. Holiday accommodation within the Parishes is used by 'dark sky' tourists.

Transport & Highways provision. The B6344 is the spine that runs the length of the Coquet Valley and is the arterial link that services the communities within it. All of which is maintained and co-ordinated by NCC Northern Highways.

Employment. For those who work locally, they do this mostly within the Coquet Valley.

Local Government. The County Councillor for Rothbury strongly supports the people of Coquetdale. Local Government in the Longhorsley Division has few links if any with Coquetdale. Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst Parish

Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst Parish Council

Council is an active member of the Coquetdale Cluster of Parishes which provides the hub for collective Coquetdale matters.

Burial & Cemetery Provision: Joint burial arrangements with other Coquetdale parishes within the Rothbury Joint Burial Committee where local people are buried at the Rothbury Cemetery

Climate Change & Biodiversity: Topographically BHP lies within the Coquet Valley with similar flora and fauna. There is a keen interest in biodiversity and currently parishes within the valley including Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst are considering the development of a Coquetdale Climate Change and Biodiversity Action Plan.

There are few if any similar links between Longhorsley and Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst and therefore our view backed up by the evidence provided, is that at a move into the Longhorsley division must have a profound detrimental impact upon our daily lives. Moving Brinkburn to be with Hesleyhurst in the Rothbury Division would be popular with our residents and cement existing links.

We therefore request that the Boundary Commission revise its recommendations.

Yours sincerely



Garth Rhodes
Clerk

Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst Parish Council

Representative Sample of Responses from Parishioners

Contact details can be forwarded on request

I write with regards to the proposed boundary changes for Brinkburn & Hesleyhurst. We are strongly opposed to the move of the parish into Longhorsley Division; but are strongly in favour of Brinkburn joining Rothbury Division.

The reasons for this are as follows:

- * The geographic ties of Brinkburn to Rothbury as part of the Coquetdale Valley.
- * Our primary healthcare is with Rothbury Hospital - of which I am in support of long standing specialist medical treatment
- * Our shopping, local businesses, banking and garages are based on Rothbury
- * Our house is situated directly on the B6344 - the main transport link to Rothbury
- * Local council and government support for Coquetdale is in Rothbury

Thank You for your time and attention. Please feel free to contact us should you require anything further.

████████████████████

I am writing to express my opinion on the proposal to place us into the Longhorsley Parish.

The proposed changes may have implications on our community which is based around Rothbury and Longframlington. It will move us away from the Coquet Valley out of the National Park. We are a rural community with strong ties to Rothbury, not Longhorsley. This could mean school catchment area changes and healthcare changes for the local residents. Nursery and first school provisions are in Rothbury.

We are connected to Rothbury with the crisis management scheme that began after Storm Arwen. This group was formed so that the local community can react in case of emergency. There have already been several meetings.

I would like to register that I strongly oppose the proposed changes.

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I..... wish to express my view as a very long-term resident that Embleton Terrace should be in the Rothbury Division. The core services (eg primary healthcare, education to age 13, shops) we use are in Rothbury and our rural location means we identify more strongly with Coquetdale than with communities along the A697. Our needs are also similar in the event of storms, snow, flooding, etc and associated loss of power and means of communication.

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Brinkburn and Hesleyhurst Parish Council

I would like to stress how both my husband and I (and our son) are strongly against this proposal. We hope common sense prevails.

Regards

[REDACTED]

I'm writing to object to our Parish becoming part of Longhorsley.

I'd suggest it sits better with Rothbury.

Thanks

[REDACTED]