

Northumberland

Personal Details:

Name: Mr Martin Chilvers

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Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Elsdon Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Related subject: The comments below are in response to the proposal to move Elsdon from Rothbury to Bellingham ward

At the recent Elsdon Parish Council meeting the Councillors and residents discussed the proposals for the Ward Boundary change. There was agreement from all that the proposals should not be put into place and objection to the proposal that Elsdon should be moved from the current ward.

The reasons provided included

It would appear majority of Elsdon Parishioners have close ties to Rothbury and travel in that direction for most of the required services. This includes

1. Dentist
2. Health appointments including Doctors as well as Hospital and covid / flu boosters.
3. There is also the elderly care in Rothbury that families have connections to and would prefer this to continue rather than having to travel the far greater distance to Hexham.
4. Police and Fire services both travel from Rothbury / Alnwick to Elsdon and it is believed that a change in ward would increase to likely waiting time for similar service to be provided from the Bellingham ward.
5. There are a number of parents whose children attend school in the Rothbury ward and the 3 tier system there is much preferred to that of the 2 tier system in the ward it is suggested Elsdon should be moved to.
6. From a different perspective many of the Elsdon Parishioners travel to Rothbury and beyond for shopping as well as Post Office services and vets and there are close ties to the Out Of Town museum based in Alnwick that are not experienced beyond Elsdon towards Otterburn.
7. Whilst there is currently no bus service specifically for Elsdon in the past (and hopefully in the future) the service used to start from Elsdon and

travel to Rothbury and Alnwick.

8. There are social ties with communities within the existing ward and in particular Rothbury, where many residents come from the Elsdon to attend the annual August village fete and the November bonfire and fireworks. This is replicated with Elsdon residents travelling to Rothbury and Alnwick for social activities including the sports centre in Alnwick rather than travelling to Hexham.

9. The Parish Councillors and many residents feel that as geographically the services highlighted above would still be used such as dentist and health they wish to have a say in these services by voting. If the proposed move to a different ward happened the residents would no longer have a say in the services that the majority in Elsdon use.

Finally it is understood that the Parliamentary boundaries are not changing and the Councillors believe it would not be beneficial to Elsdon to move County Councillor ward but not Parliamentary and would only cause confusion as well as possibility of being 'forgotten' if the proposed changes were to happen.

In summary the Parish Councillors recognise the depth of connection they and majority of the Elsdon Parishioners have to the Rothbury and most certainly wish this to re

Attached Documents:

None attached