

Northumberland

Personal Details:

Name: Mrs Catherine Harrison

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Broomhaugh & Riding Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Related subject: Riding Mill NE44

Please see attached document

Attached Documents:

- Boundary Review response.pdf

Broomhaugh & Riding Parish Council
Comments submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Northumberland Electoral Review

Comments relate to the proposal to include the parish of Broomhaugh & Riding in the Corbridge division

The Parish Council has sought to share the proposals with its residents via its website and email.

We have received a limited number of responses but have noted the following comments and concerns:

- Some residents feel a closer community involvement with Stocksfield e.g. involved in the WI or Stocksfield Community Centre.
- It's possible to walk to Stocksfield but there is no path to Corbridge.
- Quite a few residents of Stocksfield use our pub, our tennis club and the cricket club at Riding Mill
- Corbridge feels more like a town than a village because it has a butchers and more shops than Riding Mill and Stocksfield put together and because it has a middle school. Hence community wise Stocksfield and Riding Mill as villages have much more in common and there is a greater common community feeling.
- A county councillor is likely to want to look after the Town of Corbridge rather than the village of Riding Mill and Broomhaugh. The population of Riding Mill is only small and would only supply a quarter of the electorate in a ward with Corbridge making it less likely that we will be looked after so well as Corbridge.
- I am aware that our schools are integrated with those in the west of the county - i.e. Corbridge and Hexham. However I use Stocksfield doctors, as do many in the village. I use the Stocksfield post offices as it is easy to park which is not the case in Corbridge. It is easy to use the chemist at Stocksfield, and parking is easy and free.
- I do not disagree that Riding Mill has much in common with Stocksfield. I agree, too, that it is possible to walk to Stocksfield whereas walking to Corbridge is a dangerous pastime. However, I regularly cycle between Stocksfield and Riding Mill and between Corbridge and Riding Mill and rarely see pedestrians at any point on the A695 so whilst it may be easier, most people are actually not doing it.
- There is no supermarket in Stocksfield - unless you count the garage. There is no butcher in Stocksfield. Indeed, there is not really much by way of retail in Stocksfield, so one shops online or goes to Prudhoe or Hexham - or Corbridge - and I know many residents who regularly pop into Corbridge because they need something in a hurry.
- There is absolutely no grounds to argue that a Corbridge County Councillor will ignore Riding Mill and will instead look to Hexham. Why should they? If Riding Mill shared a county councillor with Corbridge, then Riding Mill would provide more than

a quarter of the electorate and would thus be important to whoever represents the ward.

- The schools look west, towards Corbridge and then Hexham. At least as many people seek doctors and dentists in Corbridge as they do in Stocksfield. The tennis club attracts more members from Corbridge than it does from Stocksfield.
- My understanding is that objections to the proposals from the Boundary Commission have to be based on whether they reflect communities. I see nothing to suggest that there is a single 'community' of Stocksfield and Riding Mill. Rather, I see two distinct communities that come together, with other communities such as Broomley or Mickley or Corbridge when required and depending on the circumstances. Going to the doctor or pharmacy in Stocksfield does not make us a community. If Stocksfield ends up with part of Prudhoe, then it will in all probability become less of a single community than it is now and will probably have less in common with Riding Mill as well. I do see that Riding Mill is a community and, to me, it does not matter in which ward we find ourselves as long as we have fair representation. Under the current proposals, that is more clearly served by being linked with Corbridge.

In summary, the parish council is happy with the status quo and feels well-represented whilst included within the Stocksfield Ward. The village has well established links with both neighbouring villages and whilst continuation of the current arrangement might be preferred, its inclusion within the Corbridge division would be an acceptable outcome too.