

County Durham

Personal Details:

Name: Chris Hood

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Please find attached my comments and recommendations regarding the proposal for a new 'Easington and Shotton' electoral division.

I would be grateful for an acknowledgement of receipt.

Best Wishes,

Cllr. Chris Hood
County Councillor - South Hetton, Haswell & Shotton Colliery ward
Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Adult & Health Services
Durham County Council

Attached Documents:

- BOUNDARY COMMISSION - CHRIS HOOD PROPOSAL.pdf

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR THE

'EASINGTON AND SHOTTON' DIVISION

The Boundary Commission for England proposes that a new 'Easington and Shotton' division be made, covered by 3 councillors.

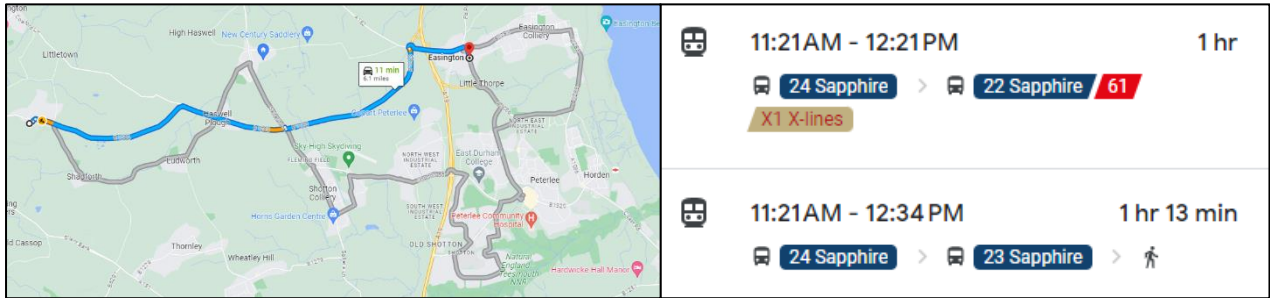
I propose the following, as I feel that they are more functional and appropriate make up for residents:

- Easington (Easington Village & Easington Colliery) – 1 Councillor.
- Shadforth, Haswell & Shotton (Sherburn, Shadforth, Ludworth, Haswell, Haswell Plough & Shotton Colliery) – 2 Councillors.

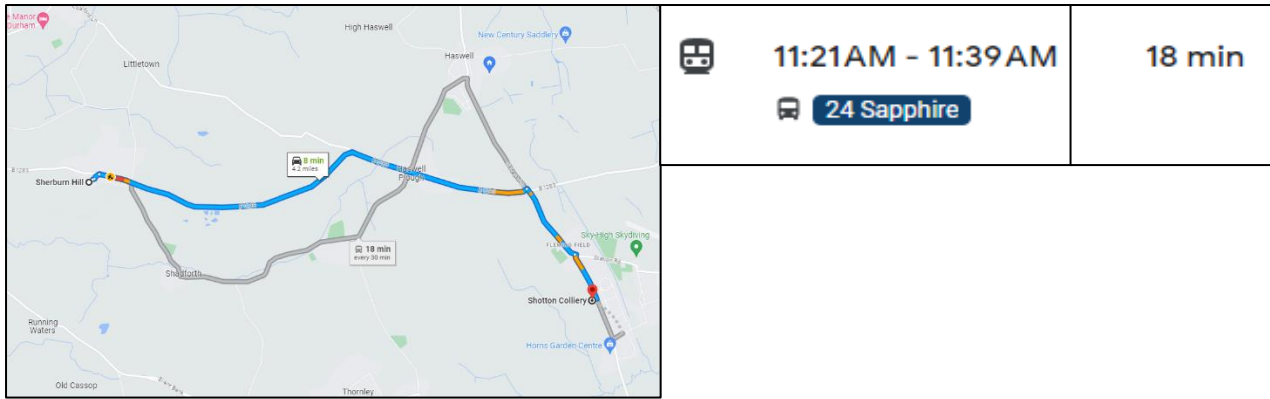
I propose the above is a better fit and more appropriate for the electorate in these areas for the following reasons:

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

My proposal is better served by the current public transport provision. Residents cannot travel throughout the BCE proposal without having to travel out of it and then change buses in Peterlee.



My proposal means that residents can travel on one public bus throughout every village within the ward:



PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The vast majority of school children who reside in my boundary proposal travel to primary schools within the ward. Children from the following villages primarily go to the following schools:

1. Sherburn Hill – **Sherburn Primary School** or Ludworth Primary School.
2. Shadforth – Ludworth Primary School.
3. Ludworth – Ludworth Primary School
4. Haswell Plough – Ludworth Primary School, Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School (Shotton), Shotton Primary School.
5. Haswell - Ludworth Primary School, Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School (Shotton), Shotton Primary School or **South Hetton Primary School**.
6. Shotton Colliery - Our Lady of Lourdes RC Primary School (Shotton) or Shotton Primary School.

Schools in **Red** denote that the school is located outside of the area covered in my proposal. Virtually no children living in my ward proposal go to either Easington Village Primary School or Easington Colliery Primary School due to distance, lack of public transport or lack / distance of walking routes.

A19 DUAL CARRIAGEWAY

The BCE propose a ward that is split by a major arterial road, namely the A19 dual-carriage way. This creates serious issues regarding connectivity and accessibility for the ward to be linked by walking and cycling. There are no footpaths between Easington and the rest of the ward. There is no public transport either.

RURALITY

Sherburn Hill, Shadforth, Ludworth, Haswell Plough and Haswell are all small, rural villages with very few amenities such as shops, pharmacies, post office etc. For example, Haswell Plough has no amenities whatsoever, Ludworth has 1 shop, the only doctors that is open to see patients is located in Shotton. Whereas in the area I call 'Easington', there are an abundance of those amenities, as well as a library, working men's club, garages, hairdressers, major retailers, dentists etc. By its very nature, the requirements of constituents are very different to those in Easington Village & Easington Colliery. An elected member would have very different challenges in either ward, and therefore I feel that 2 councillors covering the area I call 'Shadforth, Haswell & Shotton' and 1 councillor covering

the area I call 'Easington', would provide constituents with a councillor who is better focused on their needs.

CHURCH PARISHES

Shotton, Haswell and Haswell Plough are together in their church parish, as well as Shadforth and Ludworth. However Easington Village and Easington Colliery are completely separate and have no links via churches to the rest of the proposal.

B1283 ROAD

This road runs straight through the parishes of Sherburn Hill, Shadforth Haswell Plough and Haswell. It is well used and has several footpaths and bridleways. This helps with connectivity of the villages within my proposal.

DISTANCES

The distances between the villages in my proposal are much more manageable for walking, cycling and sustainable transport:

- Sherburn Hill to Shadforth – 1.1 miles
- Shadforth to Ludworth – 1.3 miles
- Ludworth to Haswell Plough – 0.7 miles
- Sherburn Hill to Haswell Plough – 2.4 miles
- Haswell Plough to Haswell – 1.0 miles
- Haswell to Shotton Colliery – 2.0 miles
- Haswell Plough to Shotton – 1.8 miles

There are footpaths connecting all the above villages, as well as public transport as previous explained.

However, the distance between Easington Village / Colliery and the rest of the ward is much greater:

- Haswell to Easington Village – 3.0 miles
- Haswell Plough to Easington Village – 3.7 miles
- Shotton Colliery to Easington Village – 3.8 miles

It is important to note, that there is no direct public transport between Easington Village / Colliery and the rest of the proposal, and there are no footpaths on the B1283 road between Haswell Plough and Easington Village, or cycleways either.

Summary

The proposals create an unnecessary pressure on residents who are geographically wide-spread and have different requirements of their county councillors, due to issues such as rurality, public services etc. as all outlined above.

My proposals fulfil the requirements for the number of county councillors to be reduced but ensuring that the needs of residents will be met in the most functional and efficient manner.

Best Wishes,

Cllr. Chris Hood

Independent County Councillor for South Hetton, Haswell & Shotton Colliery ward

Cabinet Portfolio Holder – Adult & Health Services

Durham County Council