

County Durham

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Ebchester Village Trust (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

Related subject: Burnhopefield, Dipton & Ebchester / Consett North

The current Leadgate & Medomsley division (6-7 separate villages) is predominantly a rural based division. We have strong objections to Ebchester being added in with Burnopfield and Dipton, in the way that it has, which we consider puts it very much 'out on a limb' away from the heart of the proposed new division of which it would be part. The report refers to Ebchester, Hamsterley & Hamsterley Mill all linked along the A694, with Leadgate & Medomsley separated from these communities by significant elevations. However, it is not referenced in the report that both Burnopfield and Dipton are further separated from these communities on the A694 by significant elevations. Dipton lies beyond Medomsley, across the next valley on the next ridge – an additional two miles beyond Leadgate, i.e. through and beyond what would be a different ward. Burnopfield lies a further 2 – 3 miles further to the north. There is no direct road connection between Hamsterley and Dipton, making it even more difficult for members to circulate within the division. It would be preferable for Ebchester to remain as part of a rural division, connected to Medomsley/Leadgate and Hamsterley/Hamsterley Mill, and for a much smaller division of 'Consett North' perhaps to be created as a one-member division. We have also seen an alternative community proposal that the current division of Leadgate/Medomsley (6783) is simply amalgamated with the current Burnopfield/Dipton division (6212) to create a larger 3 councillor division with a total population of 12995 population. We would support that proposal also.

Attached Documents:

None attached