

[REDACTED]

To: Review Officer, (Durham), LGBCE, PO Box 133, BLYTH, NE24 9FE

1st June 2023.

Consultation on changes to electoral boundaries - those between
Consett North, and Burnopfield, Dipton and Ebchester.

Dear Review Officer,

I refer to the above two divisions, and in particular the settlement shown on the OS map as The Dene. This consists of The Dene, Denecrest, Denesyde, Allendale House and Grange Farm housing. This area is an integral part of the village of Medomsley. The Dene was built as a local authority housing estate in the 1950's to replace the mining settlement near Allendale House which was a class D village – the area is now pasture. The Dene has No Church, No graveyard, No school, No pub, No shops, No Community building, No playing field, No playground. Apart from a small woodyard, woodland and farming pasture, it is 100% housing.

The Dene estate is part of Medomsley Village as a satellite housing estate and forms part of the main village. Residents rely upon such, plus Consett and Leadgate, for all the above facilities, plus the services of Police, Ambulance, Doctors, Fire & Rescue, public and school transport, taxis, etc. all coming from the Consett area, and really should be included with Consett North. Even the postcode is Consett. It has little connection or communication with the Burnopfield area.

The proposal not to include The Dene area within Consett North therefore seems incorrect. Just to keep the numbers within a suggested parameter, surely does not warrant the segregation of The Dene community - isolating its inhabitants from proper representation in the area it relies upon, needs and uses to the full.

I have (without permission) taken a photocopy, and enclose, an extract from the local OS Map. I have marked your suggested boundary between the above two divisions by a blue line. The green line is the County boundary.

May I ask you to consider the following:

The Dene area, hatched purple - be included in Consett North.

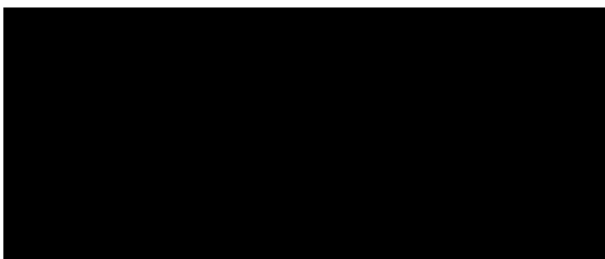
The land hatched pink at present included in Consett North, perhaps should be under the control of Burnopfield. The land, mainly woodland and farming, has few housing and will not affect the voting numbers to any extent. It slopes down to the North East and forms part of the Hamsterley/Mill valley and is much more connected to that area than that of Consett.

The suggested red line to form the new boundary is only a sketch. The area around Flax Farm would, if possible, need to include the whole of their farming land (which I do not know), plus the 7 Penny green burial site across the highway. The boundary could then follow natural boundaries, including a stream, to the Dipton parish boundary to the north of Shipmaster's Hill.

I make these suggestions as it is impossible for you and your staff to cover all areas and be aware of local issues. I would mention that I am now 80 years of age and have no family who it affects, but I am concerned with the impact upon my local friends, neighbours and community.

With kind regards. Keep safe and well. Feel able to contact me if you wish.

Yours faithfully,



APPROX

NORTHUMBERLAND

