

## **To whom it may concern on Boundary Commission Board**

I am writing this letter concerning the **Boundary Review of County Durham Proposals for Consett North.**

It is with grave concern that I write this as a life time citizen of Consett.

I have seen many changes to the town centre and immediate surrounding areas of the town, but the constant value which has always been maintained, is the people themselves within their own community..their energy to help others around them and the concern for those who need support and encouragement at any time.

This is a reassuring yet often invisible, asset in the community. It is founded on familiarity of the welfare of the community and esoteric principles, which make the town a happy place to live in and work.

The town has seen hardship and changes, but has risen up and continued to survive and thrive, because the residents enjoy the family atmosphere in the community and show pride in living here. Many new houses have been built and welcomed in new residents who enjoy the facilities Consett has to offer.

The town's history has produced expanded, surrounding villages. Each surrounding village has its own unique community, all there to maintain a good quality of life.

The business in the town centre has changed...only one bank now, a leisure centre in great demand, a wonderful theatre which has been threatened with closure, churches regrouping but very active with a food bank, lively youth groups and high quality of music making, restaurants and pubs struggling to offer social opportunities and family businesses hoping to survive, despite the present economic situation with competitive supermarkets in abundance.

I mention these aspects as I see them as an ordinary resident, who relies on my voice being heard and listened to (when needed) by my representative councillor...the person who understands and

has full knowledge of the area ....to highlight the problems and act on them.

By enlarging the area and changing the boundaries, and shrinking the number of councillors representing these areas, the people of Consett **cannot** have the same quality of representation enjoyed at present.

I would be grateful if you would explain the criteria used to change the present representation, and assure (and convince) me that it will improve the quality of life in the immediate vicinity. To amalgamate the villages with the town, in order to have fewer representative councillors, can threaten our democracy as this thins out the necessary need for deeper representation!

Consett needs its own representation ie Consett CENTRAL, not division and addition of surrounding villages. The activity in the town warrants a dedicated representation of its own, to deal with problems relevant to the town..just as the surrounding villages themselves need their own representation for their unique needs.

I ask you to reconsider your first ideas, consult with the relevant local people and finally conclude the best outcome.

My concern is echoed by other proud residents of the town, who strive to maintain and welcome a growing community and thriving quality of living, with fair and trustworthy representation of their voices.

