

County Durham

Personal Details:

Name: Mrs Janet Wainwright

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Haswell Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Related subject: Easington and Shotton

1. The creation of a new Ward, represented by only 3 elected Ward Members, comprising the villages of Haswell, Haswell Plough, Sherburn Hill, Shadforth, Ludworth, and the larger settlements of Shotton Colliery, Easington Village and Easington Colliery will adversely and disproportionately affect democratic representation of the residents of the smaller villages such as Haswell and Haswell Plough.
2. Currently Haswell is represented by 2 Ward Members (alongside South Hetton and Shotton Colliery) and Haswell Plough is represented by 3 Ward Members (alongside Trimdon, Thornley, Wheatley Hill and Ludworth). The current proposals will reduce the number of elected Ward Members whilst significantly changing the geographic and demographic make-up of the Ward. As a result we are concerned that the residents of Haswell and Haswell Plough will not be adequately represented.
3. We are concerned that there will be consequential impacts in terms of spending decisions and neighbourhood budgets, as these would likely need to be stretched across a wider area and that this is likely to disproportionately disadvantage the smaller villages.

4. Whilst there is merit in creating a Ward comprising the villages of Haswell, Haswell Plough, Shotton Colliery Shadforth, Ludworth and Sherburn Hill, the inclusion of Easington Village and Easington Colliery lacks any logic.
5. The villages of Haswell, Haswell Plough, Shadforth, Ludworth, Sherburn Hill and Shotton Colliery, are rural villages and have no synergy or connectivity with Easington Village and Easington Colliery.
- a) The challenges experienced in the rural villages differ significantly from those experienced in Easington Village and Easington Colliery, and thus the needs of the residents in those areas also differ.
- b) No children from the villages of Haswell, Haswell Plough, Shadforth, Ludworth, Sherburn Hill, Shotton Colliery attend schools in Easington Village or Easington Colliery, again demonstrating that the areas lack any commonality.
- c) No public transport links exist between the villages of Haswell, Haswell Plough, Shadforth, Ludworth, Sherburn Hill, Shotton Colliery and Easington Village and Easington Colliery, demonstrating that the areas lack connectivity or indeed the need for connectivity. All of the villages except for Easington Village and Easington Colliery are on the same bus route.
- d) The A19, which is a main arterial route divides Easington Village and Easington Colliery from the other villages

Attached Documents:

None attached