

North Yorkshire

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Comment text:

Related subject: Nidderdale

The latest ruthless cut of the the Nidderdale region into two goes against two of the avowed reasons for reshaping.... It splits a community and it is too large and difficult to traverse to make local governance easy.

Nidderdale IS a cohesive entity. Anyone living in the area would say they live in Nidderdale, as well as the particular village. Everyone identifies with Pateley Bridge as its hub, and visits to go shopping, walk, attend events and meetings. There is a definite Nidderdale community, exemplified by the Nidderdale Plus organisation that works with the whole area, the Nidderdale Agricultural Society and Show, Nidderdale Young Farmers, Nidderdale Group Practice (doctors surgeries), Nidderdale Museum , Nidderdale Society - to name a few. Police and fire resources are centred around Pateley Bridge to deal with local emergencies.

A Nidderdale Community Partnership is currently being established, including representation from all community organisations and councils of Nidderdale, and this will be fighting for funding to help all those living in Nidderdale. There is no interaction with Wharfedale and it is nonsense to cut Nidderdale in two and lump half of it with Wharfedale. Many people in Upper Nidderdale will never have visited Buckden or Leyburn, and certainly will not see anywhere other than Pateley Bridge as 'their town'. In the previous local government, Nidderdale looked towards Harrogate, whereas Wharfedale looked to Skipton. They are very different communities.

The breadth of the area of Upper Wharfedale and Upper Nidderdale is tremendous - some 45 miles, I believe, with poor transport links. There are no public transport routes and only one B road that snakes across, and is not easily travelled during bad weather. One councillor will struggle to go to all Parish Council or other representative meetings and I fail to see how one person can represent the two diverse communities.

This previous review was much more sensible, and represented far better the communities within the area. Nidderdale must stay as one division, with Pateley Bridge at its centre. I hope that you will revise your current proposals and return to a sensible conclusion.

Attached Documents:

None attached