

Northumberland

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: New Hartley Residents Club (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

Related subject: New Hartley, Seaton Valley

New Hartley Residents Club objects to the proposed boundary changes for the following reasons:

Village identity.

Since it's beginnings in 1845 New Hartley has evolved over the years and has always been noted for it's community spirit. This is because it is supported by resident's groups, church groups, volunteer groups, a school and parish council who all work together to represent and help the community. In addition to this New Hartley boasts a club, pub, café, hairdressers, post office and a small well stocked corner shop. Over time residents have continually made an effort to built a close knit community, which for those who live in the village provides a sense of place, and a sense of belonging and security. These intrinsic bonds not only give a village it's identity, they also give the people an identity too.

The proposal to use Bristol Street as the new boundary line will geographically split the village in two, however, more importantly it will cause residents to loose that 'sense of place', belonging and security.

Identifiable boundaries.

At present the whole of New Hartley sits within the boundary. To divide the village in two and align the northern part of the village with New Delaval does not follow the protocol set out by the Boundaries Commission of keeping communities together. There is a least 1.75 miles of green belt between New Hartley and New Delaval and with no public transport or indeed footpaths it is extremely doubtful how any community could develop under circumstances such as these. New Hartley has much better links with the villages within Seaton Valley, through education, amenities, public transport links and a well established parish Council.

Electoral equality.

Clearly the Boundary Commission proposals meet this objective, but at what price? Surely out of the 3 questions asked by the Commission, if two are deemed to have a negative cost against one positive one then the proposal for new Hartley needs readdressing. It is far more important to recognise how people identify with the community they belong to than be 1% outside the allowed 10% variance

Attached Documents:

None attached