

# Northumberland

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Mr David Ferguson  
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**Organisation Name:** (District or county councillor)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Hartley Ward

I disagree with the proposal to split the village of New Hartley in to two wards.

The proposal to move the boundary of Hartley ward in order to create a new ward needs a rethink. To suggest splitting a small village down the middle is ludicrous and goes against the commissions own criteria of reflecting the interests and identity of a community. New Hartley is a small village and the new boundary will leave people living on opposite sides of the streets, living in different wards. The village is linked to Seaton Sluice and Old Hartley, the other village in the current Hartley ward, through their joint history. When the pits at Old Hartley closed, the new pit was opened at New Hartley and the village grew around it. Following the Hartley pit disaster the pits closed, but the disaster still links the village to this day.

Looking at the proposed new ward of New Hartley & New Delaval, it is impossible to find justification. There are no direct transport connections. There are no historical links. There are no shared shops, GPs, community groups. It crossed 2 parish/ town council boundaries.

At present there are 3 County Council wards within Seaton Valley. These 3 wards are mirrored exactly at a parish council level. This promotes an effective and convenient system of local government. This would be lost under the current proposals. The current ward set up within Seaton Valley works. A change of the internal boundaries to balance the 3 wards out would make sense, but taking part of one village and putting it in with a part of Blyth makes no sense.

## Attached Documents:

*None attached*