

# Northumberland

## Personal Details:

**Name:** [REDACTED]  
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**Organisation Name:** N/A (Member of the public)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Within New Hartley

My comments relate solely to the proposed Parish Warding Arrangement for Seaton Valley. I appreciate the purpose of the arrangements is to retribute electoral numbers but part of the definition of a "good pattern of division" means to reflect community identities and be based on easily identifiable boundaries.

I live within New Hartley and the current proposals would cut through the village, severing it, into two divisions 47 (New Delaval and New Hartley) and 30 (Hartley). The village should be contained entirely within one division to ensure the needs of the community are met consistently.

From the report, it reads: "We propose to amend the existing Seghill with Seaton Delaval to move all electors lying to the north and west of the railway line in our New Delaval and New Hartley division. This division will also include the rest of the existing Newsham division which consists of the settlement of New Delaval, as well as the area of New Hartley to the north of a boundary along Bristol Street, Lysdon Avenue and Hastings Terrace. The remainder of New Hartley will remain in Hartley division."

The need to ensure electoral fairness should not trump the need to ensure that communities are represented accurately. I'm not convinced that, from the reasons outline in the report, that there has been suitable justification to separate the village in this way. Overall I disagree that the current form of these divisions meet two criteria the revisions are seeking to achieve:

- Community identity: reflects the identity and interests of local communities.

- Effective and convenient local government: helping your council discharge its responsibilities effectively.

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*