

Northumberland

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Please see my attached submission regarding the Boundary Commission review.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Attached Documents:

- Boundary Change.docx



Review Officer (Northumberland)

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

PO Box 133

BLYTH

8th July 2023

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

My name is Teresa Jackson and I was born in the village of New Hartley in 1949 where my parents and grandparents lived. In those days it was a very close-knit friendly mining community but even though times have changed it has continued to be so, right up to the present day.

I am strongly opposed to the Boundary Commission's recommendation to split New Hartley into two wards. The proposal to join the northern part of the village, which is where I live, into a ward with New Delaval, which has never had any association or transport links with New Hartley, would not get my approval. The split would divide infrastructure and community amenities into two separate camps which in my opinion would cause disharmony.

Historically New Hartley has always had closer links with Seaton Delaval and Seaton Sluice. For a small village it is unique in having both Anglican and Catholic churches which are both over 125 years old, within its boundaries. The Anglican parish serves parishioners in Seaton Sluice and New Hartley. The Catholic parish boundaries encompass New Hartley, Seaton Delaval, Holywell and Seaton Sluice. 'Delaval Churches Together' work closely in unison with each parish. Both churches are located in the proposed south ward of the village.

New Hartley has a very active Community Association which organises regular events in the Community Centre for the benefit of all residents. It is the hub for many different community groups e.g. Women's Institute, Craft Group, Keep-fit etc. The building is used as the Polling Station for all elections. Alongside the Community Centre is a large open field area, comprising football pitches and children's play areas which are important assets for residents. The Residents Club (formerly New Hartley Victory Working Men's Club) is a popular social amenity and also has a community garden in its grounds. Again these very important community amenities are located in the proposed south ward of New Hartley.

Another important asset in the village is the Post Office which incorporates a Coffee Shop which is very popular with residents and the wider community. Next to it is a grocery shop, a beauty salon and a Children's Crafts facility. The block of shops is located on the south side of the village.

Most importantly New Hartley First School would be part of the division as it located on the north side. The children move on from that school to Seaton Sluice Middle School where they join children from Seaton Sluice and Seghill. They then progress to Astley High School, Seaton Delaval, because they all live within its catchment area. Children in New Delaval are within the Blyth schools catchment areas and have never had any official links to schools in the Seaton Valley area.

To conclude my reasons for opposing the boundary change in New Hartley is that it is totally unnecessary to split a clearly identifiable community with a distinct natural boundary so that it can be joined with New Delaval which has never had any links to the area. There is no need to change the current arrangement of Seaton Valley Councillors which has worked very successfully for the benefit of all residents.

Yours sincerely

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