

County Durham

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Comment text:

Related subject: Durham County Council - Leadgate and Medomsley Division

COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION PROPOSALS FOR THE LEADGATE AND MEDOMSLEY DIVISION.

The Boundary Commission proposals are opposed for the following reasons: -

? The existing Leadgate and Medomsley Division (including all the 6/7 separate villages) is predominantly a rural based Division, with extremely limited transport links particularly for the rural villages and has no direct correlation with the ever-expanding Urban Conurbation of Consett Town. Most of the electors within the Leadgate & Medomsley division want to maintain the rural relationships and not be considered co-joined to the Township of Consett.

? Para 47 states that the Consett North Division would be split by the Villa Real Road, as per the proposal by the Joint Administration yet the Boundary Commission have used the entirety of Front Street and Genesis Way (Para 48) as “clear and identifiable boundaries” between the divisions of Consett North & Consett South. This indicates a lack of continuity or double standards being applied in the Boundary Commission decision-making progress.

? Para 43 in the report refers to Ebchester, Hamsterley and Hamsterley Mill all being linked along the A694, in the Derwent Valley “with Leadgate and Medomsley somewhat separated from these communities by significant elevations”. There is no reference in the Boundary Commission report that both Burnopfield and Dipton (which is in a completely different valley to the A694 villages) are further separated from the communities

on the A694 by even more significant elevations.

? Para 42 refers to the introduction of Greencroft Parish with Consett Town Centre (an unparished area) yet the Boundary Commission declined the Joint Administration proposal for the amalgamation of the Dipton Division (unparished) with Tanfield Division (Parished). This appears to be another example of lack of continuity being exercised by the Boundary Commission decision makers.

? There is a cluster of Church of England religious communities across the churches at Hamsterley, Ebchester, Leadgate, Medomsley (H.E.L.M.) which has encouraged real partnership, evident in the shared congregations which are directly linked to the community-based groupings within their respective and adjoining villages.

? High Westwood and The Dene (which is closer to the Medomsley village than Medomsley Edge) are being included in the proposed Burnopfield/Dipton/Ebchester division whilst Medomsley village and Medomsley Edge are being in the proposed Consett North Division.

? Medomsley Community Action Group (MCAG) are a volunteer group operational across this locality. If this area (covered by Medomsley Community Action Group) were to be split as suggested by the Boundary Commission between different divisions, it would cause significant disruption to this group which strives to work together for the better of all residents across the whole community.

COMMUNITY PROPOSAL FOR THE DIVISIONAL BOUNDARIES.

? The current division of Leadgate/Medomsley (6850) is amalgamated with the current Burnopfield/Dipton division ((6212) to create a 3 Councillor Division entirely rural based with a cumulative total electorate of circa 13000.

? The Electors/Councillors = circa 13000/3 Councillors = 4335/Councillor which is +4.4% within the accepted +/-10% Elector/Cllr threshold.

? The new amalgamated division should be considered to be named as follows :-The Derwent and Pont Valley Division, therefore no one village has predominance over the other villages across the new division thereby reflecting the complete rurality of the whole area.

? It is proposed that Consett North becomes a one Member division based solely on the Town Centre Conurbation with an expected electorate of circa 4255 with a +2.7% within the +/- 10% elector threshold.

? Maiden Law (240 Electors) within the Greencroft Parish is proposed to be assigned to the Annfield Plain/Tanfield Division (Stanley Town Council ward) to balance and improve elector equality across the North Durham area ensuring parish boundaries are not compromised.

Attached Documents:

None attached