

Northumberland

Personal Details:

Name: Mrs Jill Henderson

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Organisation Name: New Hartley First School (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

Related subject: New Hartley, Seaton Valley

New Hartley First School object to the proposed boundary changes for reasons set out below.

Whilst we understand the need to rebalance electoral inequality throughout Northumberland, we feel that the boundary changes for New Hartley fail to meet other criteria regarding the 'good pattern of divisions' contained in your literature.

New Hartley is the smallest village in Seaton Valley. It has definite boundaries at present provided by green belt land of approximately 1.75 miles between itself and New Delaval. The proposed boundary changes using Bristol Street does not ensure a clear boundary line but rather promotes a division between the north and south side of the village.

Although a small village, as a whole the residents of New Hartley are bound together by it's churches, community groups, residents club, volunteer groups and more importantly the school and parish council. Additionally, there are no public transport links between New Hartley and New Delaval neither are there suitable public footpaths between the two. Thus the creation of this new ward will cause a division from the onset.

As New Hartley First School sits on the most northern side of the village it will be aligned with New Delaval, however, we are a feeder school for the middle and high schools within the Valley. If these proposals go ahead New Hartley will have two County Cllrs, we would be dealing with the Cllr for the New Delaval and New Hartley ward and not with the Cllr for our feeder school. We are concerned that these proposals should they be implemented could see a loss of identity within the village which would undoubtedly reflect on the school.

Attached Documents:

None attached