

# Northumberland

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Mr Barry Flux

**Email:** [REDACTED]

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**Organisation Name:** Northumberland County Council (District or county councillor)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Cramlington

Please see attached letter

## Attached Documents:

- bf1.pdf

Dear commission,

I am writing to you in the capacity as County Councillor for the Cramlington West Division. I also represent the area as a coterminous ward on Cramlington Town Council.

The electorate as displayed in your useful information links stands in 2022 at 5,532, already at a variance of 47% from the average. This makes Cramlington West the largest electorate of any single member division in Northumberland with a projected electorate of 7,352 by 2028 and a variance of 85% from the average. It is very clear therefore that change is required here.

I support the commission's proposal to split the area between a Cramlington South West division and Cramlington North West division.

Your Cramlington South West proposal at present covers the long established Beaconhill and Beacon Lane estates. I have lived in this area for the past 13 years and both are a linked cohesive community.

Residents of both areas largely share the following similarities.

- Use of the shop and takeaway at Kielder Avenue.
- Sending of primary age children to Beaconhill Primary School
- Use of the park known as Beaconhill Park
- Use of the cycle path parallel to Beaconhill Primary School to access the wider Cramlington area.
- Use of the 58 bus service

The newly under construction West Meadows and Beaconsfield Park estates are proposed to be within this Cramlington South West and division and it is clear to me that both of these new estates will share the same similarities as the Beaconhill and Beacon Lane estates as listed in the bullet points above. Further to this Beaconsfield Park shares the similar 'Beacon' name.

It is unfortunate that Fairways estate has to be placed in Cramlington North West, but I appreciate the issues with numbers, and having represented such a large electorate over recent years I understand the importance of balancing the number of electors in a fair manner.

**To be clear;** despite being a Councillor on Cramlington Town Council **I do not support** the proposal from the Town Council and I actively voted against this at their meeting held on 06/07/2023.

My reasoning for this is:

- They have drafted a Cramlington South West division with too many electors on the 2028 projections.
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The easy solution to all three of these problems is to add The Fairways estate to Cramlington North West and transfer Barns Park to Cramlington South East as per the initial draft recommendation from the commission. I personally consider Barns Park as a southern suburb of Cramlington where residents use the shop at Glenluce Drive within Cramlington South East and have similar community concerns as the residents on Southfield Green estate.

Finally, I understand there has been extensive interest from New Hartley residents about keeping that village intact within one division. Whilst it seems difficult to keep the Seaton Valley parish within 3 whole divisions, the second best scenario to not being able to do this, would in my opinion be to link Cramlington East with Ambridge Way etc. in Seaton Delaval.

It is notable that the councillors in Cramlington East and Seghill with Seaton Delaval have worked together to provide funding for East Cramlington Nature Reserve, which I think demonstrates links between Cramlington East and this area, to a better extent than any links with the Newsham area of Blyth.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Barry Flux

Northumberland County Councillor and Cramlington Town Councillor for Cramlington West.