

Your News

RESIDENTS ASKED TO COMMENT ON BOUNDARY CHANGES

SPECIAL REPORT

The Boundary Commission for England has recently published proposals for revised parliamentary constituency boundaries in the North East.

There are three key proposals which affect *our* residents:

1) It is proposed that South Tynedale and Haltwhistle, historically part of Northumberland, move into a new Co. Durham based Constituency called Consett & Barnard Castle.

2) It is proposed that Ponteland is split in two and that Ponteland East is moved out of the Hexham Constituency into the Berwick-upon-Tweed constituency.

3) It is proposed that Chopwell and Rowlands Gill, Ryton, Crookhill & Stella, along with Greenside & Crawcrook are put into the Hexham Constituency.

The Boundary Commission is inviting local people to tell them whether they agree with the revised boundaries.

It seems clear to many local residents that these proposals would adversely impact on our local communities and the bonds and links which tie them together. Already several residents have commented that:

South Tynedale and Haltwhistle are historically part of Northumberland. It would be crazy to link them with Co. Durham, with which they have no ties.

Ponteland is a coherent town with its own identity. It makes no sense to split the town in two.

Certain places such as Rowlands Gill and Chopwell are actually joined by the Derwent Valley to Consett, and they are much closer to Consett than they are to Hexham. They were of course formerly part of Co. Durham.

This leaflet has been created by your local Conservatives and residents, at no cost to the taxpayer. We urge you to get involved. This is your chance.

How you can have your say...

The more people who take time to write to the Commission, the more likely it is that they will re-consider their proposals.

1) You can express your concerns by your own letter:

Send your comments to:
Boundary Commission for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BQ.

(A personalised objection would be preferable. Your letter will carry more weight if it actually makes both counter proposals and objections. You must include your name and address.)

2) Or you can use the specimen letter on the reverse.

3) Alternatively you can simply email:

reviews@bcommengland.x.gsi.gov.uk
(Your email will carry more weight if it actually makes both counter proposals and objections. You must also include your name and address.)

The deadline for receipt of your comments is 5th December 2011.

There are also Public Hearings, where you can voice your views, on 14 and 15 November at Newcastle's Civic Centre, Barras Bridge. Find out more and register online if you wish to attend:

* You must fill in your name and address

Name*

Date

Address*

Dear Sir/Madam,

I object to the Boundary Commission's draft proposals for the North East.

I disagree specifically with the proposals set out for the Hexham Constituency, namely the transfer of Haltwhistle and South Tynedale County Divisions from the current Hexham Constituency to the proposed new Consett and Barnard Castle Constituency. I also believe it is wrong to split up the town of Ponteland by transferring Ponteland East to the Berwick upon Tweed Constituency.

I support the counter proposal to retain the Haltwhistle and South Tynedale Divisions. It seems to make much more sense to transfer Derwent Valley based communities, Chopwell and Rowlands Gill, to the Consett and Barnard Castle Constituency. I also support the counter proposals to retain Ponteland East in the Hexham Constituency, and Rothbury in the Berwick upon Tweed Constituency where they historically belong. My objections to the Boundary Commissions proposals are on the following grounds:

- 1) **The guidelines to the Commission make clear that existing constituencies should be retained where possible.** They have not been followed in this case.
- 2) **The shape and accessibility of the proposed Constituency makes no logical sense.** The major transport links run East to West, such as the A69 and the Newcastle to Carlisle railway line that run along the Tyne valley.
- 3) **There are significant inconveniences that would result from the proposed changes.** The proposed Constituency of Consett and Barnard Castle would run from Hadrian's Wall all the way to the Yorkshire Dales, and Haltwhistle and South Tynedale would become marginalised outposts.
- 4) **Important local ties would be broken by these proposed changes.** The town of Ponteland would be literally split in two. The Hexham hinterland, 'the Shire', would be cut off from the town. The residents of South Tynedale and Haltwhistle, as part of South Northumberland, generally have much more in common culturally, economically, and historically with Hexham and the Tyne Valley than with Consett or Barnard Castle in Co. Durham with which there is little connection. Tynedale and Ponteland should remain as they are, in the Hexham Constituency.
- 5) **Chopwell and Rowlands Gill on the River Derwent were always areas of Co. Durham and would fit naturally into the proposed Consett and Barnard Castle Constituency.**

Yours sincerely,

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PS: (Any additional comments you may have)

You can also write to the Boundary Commission with your own individual letter if you prefer.

Remember to focus on the following criteria: Geographical considerations, including size, shape, and accessibility; boundaries of the existing Constituency; any local ties that would be broken; inconveniences coming from these changes.



Please return to:
**Boundary Commission for England, 35
Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BQ.**
For more details on the consultation go to:
www.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk

If you would like more information please call us on
01434 603777
Or email us at:
hexham@tory.org