

Northumberland County Council

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Organisation Name: Northumberland County Council

Comment text:

I am aware that Cramlington Town Council has submitted a proposal of increasing the number of wards within the town to 7 wards due to development over recent years and I support this 7 ward proposal. With the exception of the creation of the new ward (named North West) the remainder maintain the existing boundaries and community aspects very well, without significant changes. The changes in their proposal that would take place are as follows: Colt Park Place and Carlcroft from Cramlington South East to Cramlington East ward - part of this was originally part of Cramlington East ward previously. Cramlington Village loses Station Road/Osborne Terrace, and Sunnyside to the new North West ward and moves the boundary to Manor Walks shopping centre. There is already confusion with new development surrounding part of the existing houses, this will now create a natural boundary with this move. Cramlington Village will gain Arcot Grange from Cramlington West - this small group of housing is quite distant from the rest of Cramlington West ward but a few metres from the existing Village ward so would make sense to join. There are already existing strong community ties across the town as it stands with social media groups and 'friends of...' groups which focus on their own area for community activities e.g Cramlington Village has its own private Facebook group covering all of the existing ward. The 'Village' ward has been in its current form for many years. While the numbers of these created wards may not be within the 10% variance that the county council has focussed on for some, it retains the strong community aspects that residents respect and need. The volumes for each ward in the town add up to the total projection agreed for Cramlington as a town. The Northumberland County Council submission has focussed solely on numbers for Cramlington and the 10% variance. It has disregarded any community aspect for this area, though has been happy to disregard the 10% aspect for many other areas across the rest of Northumberland and as such, as a county councillor, I cannot support their submission and did not support at the recent council vote. In addition the volumes for each ward in the town added together in the county submission exceeds the agreed projected total for Cramlington. The previous projections at the last reorganisation by the commission were high and exceeded current figures for each ward within the town, besides themselves being above 10%. There are no possibilities for further increase across the town due to planning restrictions in place with an approved Local Plan and also a Neighbourhood Plan in place showing that development has already exceeded required need for the town and there is now no available land to build. The attached image outlines the town council 7 ward option and locations of boundaries for each, which may also be found here: <https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?mid=1mIsB9qxAFmwLH3MmRZrE5KLWqFrVUE8&ll=55.09412499880628%2C-1.6008887260128124&z=13>

Uploaded Documents:

https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1675019457_town+7+submission.jpg

