Northumberland County Council

**Education Consultations <educationconsultation@northumberland.gov.uk>**

# Fwd: Closure of Bellingham Middle School

1 message

**Sue Aviston** <sue.aviston@northumberland.gov.uk> 8 May 2018 at 12:25
To: Education Consultations <educationconsultation@northumberland.gov.uk>

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **John Riddle** <john.riddle@northumberland.gov.uk>
Date: 8 May 2018 at 11:50
Subject: Fwd: Closure of Bellingham Middle School
To: Sue Aviston <sue.aviston@northumberland.gov.uk>

---------- Forwarded message ----------
From: **philippa walker** <philippa.walker2@btinternet.com>
Date: 8 May 2018 at 01:25
Subject: Fwd: Closure of Bellingham Middle School
To: Wayne.Daley@northumberland.gov.uk, Nick.Oliver@northumberland.gov.uk, Richard.Wearmouth@northumberland.gov.uk, Glen.Sanderson@northumberland.gov.uk, John.Riddle@northumberland.gov.uk, Cath.Home@northumberland.gov.uk, Veronica.Jones@northumberland.gov.uk

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** philippa walker <philippa.walker2@btinternet.com>
**Date:** 8 May 2018 at 01:10:27 BST
**To:** Peter.Jackson@northumberland.gov.uk
**Cc:** guy.oppermanmp@parliament.uk
**Subject: Closure of Bellingham Middle School**

Dear Northumberland County Council Cabinet Member,

I wonder if you can help me?I wonder if you can explain the logic in your proposals for Education in the West of Northumberland, for I am truly at a loss to find any.
Why have you imposed a two tier system in the North Tyne and Redesdale with the proposed closure of Bellingham Middle School, and left the three tier system in the more urban Hexham Partnership of schools?
Why have you condemned the children of the North Tyne and Redesdale to travel for a large proportion of their school day at a far earlier age than necessary?I'm sure you agree that a journey time of almost two hours (each way)is tedious at best but almost tolerable as an inevitable fact of life when you are a thirteen year old.However, when you are aged eleven and some of the children on the bus are seven years older than you, and you have had to leave home almost two hours before you even open a book or pick up a pen this journey can become stressful and exhausting.Why have you disadvantaged these children so outrageously?
Why have you instructed all the small first schools which were under the threat of closure to become primary schools?If they weren't financially viable as first schools how can extending their age range and therefore their curriculum needs and therefore their teaching requirements make them more cost effective?One would almost think that Northumberland County Council are setting the new primary schools up to fail-giving them enough rope to hang themselves so to speak- they didn't want to be the bad guys closing down all the good and outstanding first schools so they are going to impose new rules and stand by and watch them fail -rather like they have done with Haydon Bridge High School for the past four years.How is it that all of a sudden lots of money has been found to pour into Haydon Bridge when only last year there were no funds available to keep the Ridley Hall boarding facility open-wouldn't that have been handy for all of these young children having to travel vast distances at a very tender age.
Looking forward to hearing from you with your insights on the logical, joined up thinking behind the closure of Bellingham Middle School.

Yours faithfully

Philippa Ingledew

Sent from my iPhone

--
County Councillor John Riddle
Bellingham Division
01434 220250

--

Sue Aviston

Head of School Organisation and Resources.

Wellbeing and Community Health Services Group.

Northumberland County Council,

County Hall,

Morpeth.

Northumberland.

NE61 2EF

Tele 01670622281

Mob 07770934182