Northumberland County Council

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Objection to proposed closure of bellingham middle school

1 message

Tanya Naylor <tanyara1981@hotmail.com> 7 June 2018 at 23:59
To: "John.riddle@northumberland.gov.uk" <John.riddle@northumberland.gov.uk>, "jacqui.pearson@northumberland.gov.uk" <jacqui.pearson@northumberland.gov.uk>, "educationconsultations@northumberland.gov.uk" <educationconsultations@northumberland.gov.uk>, "wayne.daley@northumberland.gov.uk" <wayne.daley@northumberland.gov.uk>

I am writing to whole heartedly object to the closure of bellingham middle school.

I currently have children in yr6 at bellingham middle / yr3 bellingham first / on due to start in reception 2019.

Although i have no doubt 2 tier systems work elsewhere i believe that the 3 tier model is the only one that can work in an area as rural as the North Tyne and Redesdale valleys. The first schools are tiny and the middle school years are a stepping stone to much larger high schools. My eldest has just done her ks2 SATs.. quite a stressful time (where i'll add bellingham middle staff were amazing).. i can not imagine the further stress that the prospect of gearing up to moving to a huge high school with a long commute would have added if that had been the case.
Keeping HBHS open to provide choice does not compute... how to children in the haydon bridge partnership chose Hexham High when the models dont match?

The distance the children will be forced to travel at the age of 11 to Haydon bridge high is unacceptable.. i did it from the age of 13 ... it was exhausting and that's just from Bellingham.. travelling to school in the dark, and home in the dark... maybe those making the decisions should try the journey from these far flung villages for themselves!!??
The needs of the children living in rural Northumberland have not be thought through, for some their daily commute will be nigh on 3 hours! In my opinion the change of first schools to primary does not make them suddenly viable.. i envisage they will face closure in the coming years after all.

Bellingham middle has a dedicated and largely local staff, the progress my once shy daughter has made in the last two years in beyond belief.. yes they may 'require improvement' according to OFSTED but with Helen Samuels as acting head they are certainly heading in the right direction, and i am more than happy with the education and support my daughter is getting there!

Kind Regards
Tanya Naylor