

## Seaton Valley Schools Consultation

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Dear Cath,

### Seaton Valley Schools Consultation

I hope you are well but no doubt very busy following the damage caused by Storm Arwen?

Regarding the consultation on schools in Seaton Valley, I am writing to confirm my opposition to the proposal from Seaton Valley Federation to close Seaton Sluice Middle School and to merge it with Whytrig on a site in Seaton Delaval with the high school.

Closing a school is a huge decision, and is not one that is deemed justifiable in this case by parents who live in Seaton Sluice, Hartley, Seghill and Blyth. The impact on Seaton Delaval has also not been considered with many residents concerned about the impact of more traffic on already busy roads that will get busier once the rail station opens and there is a 300-space car park operating.

Opposition from parents and residents was perhaps not unexpected but a consultation must take on board the views of the people that will be affected. I do not believe that a convincing case has been made and that is also reflected in the views of local elected representatives.

The response from cross -party Seaton Valley Council confirms that there is no political support at the parish level. Local County Councillors also oppose the merger and given the widespread unpopularity of the proposal I believe that the County Council has no option but to reject it and to promptly consider alternatives.

Whilst I do not support this proposal, I do back investment in schools in Seaton Valley and look forward to participating in a constructive discussion on those alternatives as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Ian

**Ian Levy**

**Member of Parliament for Blyth Valley**



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