Dear Mr Jackson

I am writing to you on behalf of Haltwhistle Town Council to express their disappointment and frustration with the decisions that Northumberland County Council are recommending for Haltwhistle Middle School.

The members have always fully supported the three tier system and are perplexed that this system is being continued in Hexham and to be changed to a two tier system in Haltwhistle. They conclude that the reason must be to support Haydon Bridge and thus push pupils to that school at year 7 to make it a viable school.

At a meeting held in the Middle School this week the parents were furious to hear that Northumberland County Council will be strongly recommending, to whichever academy will take over, that the two tier should be implemented. It is clear that the RSC, in appointing a new Academy chain, will insist that this course of action is undertaken. Hence meetings will have been held behind closed doors and in secret. This totally precludes any involvement in the decision.
HALTWHISTLE TOWN COUNCIL

making by the local community and again we find that decisions are being made by institutions and people remote from Haltwhistle.

The members are also concerned that an academy has not yet been appointed and are worried there may be a repeat performance of when Bright Tribe were to take over and didn’t, in fact, manage to so before the start of the September term.

Members are concerned that the leadership team in place since before the Bright Tribe takeover may leave due to the uncertainty of their appointment and the continued poor leadership shown by the Bright Tribe Trust. Please would you respond to the Town Council or even come along to a meeting to discuss the Haltwhistle schools and reassure the members.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Susan Saunders

CC
Clr W Daley
Gup Opperman MP
Regional Schools Commissioner
Clr Ian Hutchinson
Mr Paul Sampson: Head of Haltwhistle Middle School
Mrs Susie Drake: Head of Haltwhistle First School