
From: Adrian Legge [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 July 2016 22:09
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>
Subject: Formal submission by Windermere & Bowness Civic Society

Windermere and Bowness Civic Society is aware that the Commission wishes to receive the opinion of both individuals and organisations on proposals to amend the boundaries of electoral wards in Windermere and Bowness. As Secretary of the Society, I submit the following comment on behalf of the Society.

The Society strongly objects to the proposal that the greater part of the town of Windermere would be represented by councillors whose wards are in the villages of Ambleside and Grasmere, both of which are geographically remote from Windermere. Redrawn boundaries would remove from Windermere most of the town's significant locations - an iconic viewpoint owned by Windermere Town Council, secondary schools, churches, GP surgeries, a popular beach, a children's playground and many other assets of the town. All of these would fall within the boundaries of Ambleside, a village lying 5 miles to the north. Grasmere is even more distant, at nine miles. Frankly, we find such a proposal quite ludicrous.

As far as Windermere lake is concerned, it is essential that the WHOLE of the lake remains in the Applethwaite Ward of Windermere, as it currently the case. The tripartite arrangement for management of the lake (South Lakeland District Council, Lakes Parish Council and Windermere Town Council) has its own Act of Parliament. Any new ward/parish assuming responsibility would require the authority of a new Act of Parliament.

We understand that the review is required in order to equalise the numbers of electors in each ward. With the exception of a merger of Bowness North and Bowness South, this cannot be achieved in any satisfactory manner in an area where relatively densely populated urban areas lie close to very sparsely populated rural areas. The number of electors in the Windermere wards is not significantly greater than those of Kendal, the largest town in South Lakeland.

There is scope for a small area of the southern part of Bowness South to be moved into a new ward. Other than such an amendment, this Society urges you to keep the existing Windermere wards intact.

Adrian Legge
Secretary