

Parish and Town Council submissions to the South Lakeland District Council electoral review

This PDF document contains submissions from Parish and Town Councils.

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AllithwaiteUpper
PC-SouthLakeland02016-01-06



Crosthwaite-and-
LythPC-SouthLakeland-2015-11-05



DentPC-SouthLakeland-2015-12-04



KendalTC-SouthLakeland-2016-01-08



LakesPC-SouthLakeland-2015-12-23



LevensPC-SouthLakeland-2016-01-11



LowerHolker-PC-SouthLakeland-2015-11-10



NatlandPC-SouthLakeland-2015-12-15



NewHuttonPC-SouthLakeland-2015-12-03



OldHuttonandHomescalesPC-SouthLakeland-2015-12-11



PrestonPatrickPC-SouthLakeland-2016-01-11



SkelsmerghAndScalithwaiteriggPC-SouthLakeland-2015-12-30



SkelwithPC-SouthLakeland-2016-01-11



UlverstonTC-SouthLakeland-2016-01-04



UlverstonTC-SouthLakeland-2016-01-10



WindermereTC-SouthLakeland-2016-01-13



WitherslackMeatshopUlphaPC-SouthLakeland-2016-01-06

South Lakeland District

Personal Details:

Name: DEBRA Cowperthwaite
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: Allithwaite Upper Parish Council

Comment text:

On behalf of Allithwaite Upper PC in South Lakeland, members have considered the proposals in the review and we strongly request that arrangements remain the same and that councils are not burdens with increased frequency of elections, the costs incurred and the lack of continuity it would mean.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

[REDACTED]

From: Joanne Taylor [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 November 2015 20:49
To: reviews
Subject: Proposed Boundary Changes

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To whom it may concern,

The proposed boundary changes out for consultation were discussed in our Parish Council meeting this week.

The Parish Council would like to express their views that they strongly disagree with these proposed changes.

We believe the costs and complexity of the scheme are not favourable. We are led to believe the costs for SLDC will be an extra 45,000 a year and the PC believe there will be no benefit with a lot of extra cost to our rural Parish.

Our parish likes having a familiar named councillor and does not want further costs to our residents.

Many thanks Joanne.

Joanne Taylor
Clerk to Crosthwaite & Lyth Parish Council

South Lakeland District

Personal Details:

Name: Andy Stephenson

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Dent Parish Council

Comment text:

At the meeting of Dent Parish Council on Monday 02 November 2015 it was agreed and recommended that no change to the current arrangements within the Parish of Dent in respect of the two Wards and their boundaries together with the number of Parish Councillors representing each Ward. Dent Parish lies within the geographical area of Sedbergh and Kirkby Lonsdale highlighted on your community map. With kind regards, Andrew Stephenson Clerk to Dent Parish Council Email: [REDACTED]

Uploaded Documents:

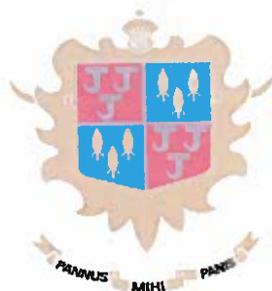
None Uploaded

KENDAL TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk
Elizabeth Richardson BSc (Hons)

Town Treasurer
John M. Hutchinson ACMA

Email:
clerk@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk



Town Hall
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 4DL

Phone: 01539 797597
Fax: 01539 735984

05 January 2016



Dear Mr Cooper

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SOUTH LAKELAND

Thank you for your letter dated 27 October 2015 regarding commencement of your review for electoral arrangements for South Lakeland. The following is the response by Kendal Town Council as agreed at their meeting on 4 January 2016. This response is made on behalf of the electorate of Kendal by their democratically elected Councillors. The Council being the third tier of Local Government considers that it is closest to the electorate of Kendal.

The Council would like to submit the following views:

1. Changes appear to be being made to the electoral boundaries on a frequent basis and this has the potential to lead to confusion amongst the electorate.
2. The names of wards and boundaries should be co-terminus across the three tiers of Local Government in Cumbria.
3. Ward names should be consistent and logical reflecting ward identity.
4. Each county division should be split into 3 District wards with 2 Town Council members per ward.
5. We would prefer Kendal Town Council elections to be held on the same day as a District election(s) in Kendal to reduce our costs as much as possible.
6. That the major issue of the impact of new housing developments is recognised and taken into account when defining ward boundaries.

The Council thank the Local Government Boundary Commission for consideration of our views.

Yours sincerely



Liz Richardson
Town Clerk

Cc The Mayor of Kendal, Councillor C Hogg
Councillor S Emmott, Chair of Management Committee
Electoral Services Manager, South Lakeland District Council


Review Officer (South Lakeland)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor Millbank Tower
Millbank
London. SW1P 4QP

[REDACTED]

From: Michael Johnson [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 December 2015 12:01
To: reviews
Subject: South Lakeland Review

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Sir. Lakes Parish Council resolved to request that the whole of Troutbeck Ward be returned to the original Lakes Parish boundaries Yours sincerely Michael Johnson Clerk to the Council

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

[REDACTED]

From: Roger Atfield [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 January 2016 16:49
To: reviews
Subject: Electoral Review of South Lakeland

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

On behalf of Levens Parish Council District I write to express the views of the said Council on the above subject:

In this current time of austerity we feel it a complete waste of time and money in changing a system which currently does its job in a perfectly satisfactory manner.

The proposed merger of 3 wards into 1 whilst keeping 3 District Councillors seems pointless. It surely goes right against the "localism" aspirations currently being promoted. In our area this could mean our 'local' councillor living 10miles away – hardly local. In the recent floods, the fact that our District Councillor lived in the parish was of crucial importance to many of our residents.

We also understand that almost every year one of the district councilors would be up for election/re-election. This would involve us as a Parish Council having to pay for an election almost every year as opposed to the current one every four years as a rule. Again, hardly a good use of money in these ongoing constrained times.

All in all we are of the opinion that nothing needs to change and therefore "...if it ain't broke don't fix it"!

Roger Atfield – Chairman Levens Parish Council.

South Lakeland District

Personal Details:

Name: Lyn Prescott
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: Lower Holker Parish Council

Comment text:

Lower Holker Parish Council have considered the information regarding the current South Lakeland District Councillor Wards. The Parish is part of the Holker Ward, comprising Upper Holker Ward (part of Lower Allithwaite Parish) and Lower Holker Parish, and has 1605 electors and 1 District Councillor. The number of Electors represented is average for South Lakeland District Council. The Parish Council supports the retention of this arrangement as the 1 Councillor representation enables close and continuing links to be maintained with the electors and Parish Council for the duration of the District Councillor's term which enables the District Councillor to provide the best representation for the electors. We would not support any changes which would involve multiple Councillors representing a Ward.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

South Lakeland District

Personal Details:

Name: Kevin Price
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: Natland Parish Council

Comment text:

Please find attached the submission from Natland Parish Council, as agreed at the Council meeting held on 30th November 2015.

Uploaded Documents:

[Download](#)

Electoral Review of South Lakeland District Council – consultation stage 1

Submission from Natland Parish Council

Introduction

Natland civil parish is a rural community with an electorate of 710, centred on the village of Natland and in close proximity to the large urban settlement of Kendal and its outlying suburb of Oxenholme.

Historically Natland has sought to maintain its distinct character and separation from Kendal. This aspiration has been expressed through a number of local plan consultations and two Parish Plans (published in 2004 and 2014).

The Council's submission in a nutshell

In response to the current Electoral Review consultation the minutes of Natland Parish Council's meeting on 30 November 2015 record that the Council resolved: "that the Council reiterates its previous view, namely that single-member wards should continue and that there should be clearer separation of rural from urban wards".

Single-member wards

Natland Parish Council is strongly in favour of single-member wards. It is important that electors know clearly and unambiguously who their district councillor is and that responsibility and accountability are not split between councillors who may be from different political parties. Such potential confusion and uncertainty would fail to meet the need to secure effective and convenient local government.

If SLDC were to continue to be elected by thirds, the need to secure effective and convenient governance should override any presumption that the number of councillors per ward should be divisible by three. The Council appreciates that Section 56 and Schedule 2 of the LDED&C Act 2009 obliges LGBCE to "have regard to.. [inter alia] the desirability of securing that each electoral area in the district returns an appropriate number of members to the council", and that number is "appropriate...in the case of a scheme for elections by thirds, if it is divisible by 3". But that is not an absolute requirement and should be weighed against the other statutory objectives.

The requirement in a three-member ward that electors be given the opportunity to vote for their district councillor in three years out of every four is burdensome, expensive and confusing, thereby undermining effective and convenient local government. "Desirable" it is not.

Hybrid rural/urban wards

Natland Parish Council is firmly of the view that wards comprising a mix of urban and rural communities, such as the present “Kendal Oxenholme & Natland” ward, do not adequately meet the need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities.

At a previous review in 2005-07 Natland Parish Council felt that creating a new ward combining Natland with Oxenholme and part of SE Kendal was not in Natland’s interest and that an entirely rural ward, combining Natland with adjacent rural parishes such as Sedgwick, Stainton etc would be preferable. This view was confirmed by the 2006 Review of the 2004 Natland Parish Plan (out of 106 (30%) household questionnaire responses, 84 (79%) said Yes, 12 (11%) No, and 10 (10%) Don’t Know). This view did not prevail and the present ward emerged, combining Natland (electorate 710 in 2015, estimated 1011 in 2021) with Kendal-Oxenholme (1072 and 1328 respectively). So the rural element of the ward can be outnumbered by the urban element, with its potentially different needs and aspirations.

Summary

Whilst not making any particular boundary proposals at this early consultation stage of the Review, Natland Parish Council wishes its community to be part of a single-member and entirely rural ward, for the reasons presented above.

*Kevin M Price. Parish Clerk.
15th December 2015.*

From: Arthur Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 December 2015 10:20
To: reviews
Subject: Review of wards in South Lakeland District Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Sir,

At its meeting on 02-12-2015 New Hutton Parish Council agreed that it is happy with the current arrangement whereby the parish is part of Whinfell ward. However, if the ward is to be extended it would much prefer the added areas to be rural in nature like New Hutton. Such additional areas could include Preston Patrick parish which New Hutton Parish Council is currently working with to extend a hyperfast broadband network to all homes in the parishes. The parish council would prefer additional areas to be rural rather than ones with large commuter villages and suburban areas as they have different priorities and needs from New Hutton.

Yours sincerely

Arthur Robinson
Clerk to New Hutton Parish Council

[REDACTED]

From: Arthur Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 December 2015 11:05
To: reviews
Subject: Review of South Lakeland District Council, Cumbria

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear Sir,

At its meeting on 10-12-2015, Old Hutton and Holmescales Parish Council decided that it supports the retention of Whinfell ward unchanged and is concerned that expansion of it would make its very large area even bigger. If it were to be expanded, the Parish Council favours the inclusion of another rural parish such as Preston Patrick rather than a suburban area such as Burneside which has different priorities.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur Robinson
Clerk to Old Hutton and Holmescales Parish Council

[REDACTED]

From: Preston Patrick PC Clerk [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 January 2016 09:39
To: reviews
Subject: south lakeland consultation - from Preston Patrick Parish Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please find the following response to the consultation on ward boundaries for South Lakeland District Council

Preston Patrick Parish Council wishes to re-state its view that, for the reasons set out in former electoral review consultations in 2005 *and* 2007, that it makes perfect sense for the Parish to remain in the Crooklands Ward, and that it has no shared interests with Burton and Holme. Additionally, the Parish Council would like to add the following:

- Virtually all of Preston Patrick is situated to the north and east of the A65(T). Most of the roads within the Parish run east-west towards the A65 at Crooklands and Endmoor.
- Holme is situated 3Km to the south of the A65(T) with Burton a further 3 Km beyond.
- In addition to the facilities listed in the Council's earlier letter, the local bakery, Doctor's Surgery, public hall and tennis courts used by Preston Patrick residents are in Preston Richard.
- Previously in 1975, discussions took place with a view to the grouping of Preston Patrick and Preston Richard Parish Councils. In correspondence at the time the District Council acknowledged that both parishes look towards Endmoor for parochial and social activities. This clearly reinforces the Parish Council's earlier comments. Whilst the grouping did not proceed, the opportunity to do so still exists and could well make sense as the Government seeks to delegate more powers to Parish Councils. In such circumstances it would be a nonsense for different parts of the same parish to be represented by different councillors.

Regards

[REDACTED]

Anne-Marie Cade
Clerk to Preston Patrick Parish Council
[REDACTED]

South Lakeland District

Personal Details:

Name: Karen Little

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council

Comment text:

Response from Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council - Councillors unanimously agreed that the Parish should be included in Whinfell ward; their comments are given below. Councillor John Chapman: The question is: which ward do we feel natural affinity with: Burneside or Whinfell? Though our previous councillor, Chris Holland was assiduous in attending and representing us I have a feeling that our low population will never command the attention of a councillor with a quasi-urban electorate such as Burneside. Equally, our concerns are likely to be rural and to share little in common with Burneside. Personally, I'm for Whinfell. Councillor Mary Chapman: The political boundaries on a map are always arbitrary and artificial. I don't think that this is an important issue even. We are a suburban parish, accessing all the facilities of Kendal, should we be linked with Kendal? Unlike our neighbouring parishes to the north we are neither really rural, nor sparsely populated. What is important is that we have an effective and industrious councillor representing us and who is interested in our Parish. Our church is part of the beacon group which links Selside, Longsleddale and Selside. People in Oakbank send their children to Burneside school, Mealbankers send children to Kendal and Selside. The A6 links us with Selside, Fawcett Forest and Longsleddale. Scalthwaiterigg has links to Grayrigg and Whinfell. On a personal level I identify with the communities of Selside and Longsleddale, because I have friends who live there, but I play tennis in Burneside, we have used the shop and the bakery there and use the Burneside station. Burneside is changing, it has "vision to become a world class community." On the whole I would favour being part of the Whinfell ward. Councillor Tim Maggs: Whinfell very definitely. Councillor Hermann Moisl: Boundary changes - I feel that we would be better off with Whinfell because the Councillor is active and more likely to get things done. Councillor Phil Rigby: My opinion is to go with Whinfell as their needs are more aligned, I suspect, with ours.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

South Lakeland District

Personal Details:

Name: suzanne pender

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: skelwith parish council

Comment text:

Skelwith Parish Council - if there is a ward review we would prefer to be with Ambleside Thank you Suzanne Pender parish Clerk

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

From: utc <townhall@ulverstoncouncil.org.uk>
Sent: 04 January 2016 16:00
To: reviews
Subject: Response from Ulverston Town Council
Attachments: Boundaries Paper Dec 2015 (2)(3).docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

I am attaching a response from Ulverston Town Council to the request from the Local Government Boundary Commission

Thank you

Jayne Kendall.

Town Clerk
Ulverston Town Council
Town Hall
Queen St
Ulverston
Cumbria, LA12 7AR
01229 585778
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ULVERSTON TOWN COUNCIL.

Response to the Local Government Boundary Commission.

Ulverston Town Council recognises and respects the Boundary Commission's three criteria for consideration:

- (i) To deliver electoral equality where each district councillor represents roughly the same number of electors:**
- (ii) That the pattern of divisions should, as far as possible reflect the interests and identities of local communities**
- (iii) That the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.**

- 1. The objections and proposals we make below are fully cognisant of those three criteria, with which we, of course, agree.**

We note that none of them posits a uniformity of structure for a District, (which in the case of SLDC would be irrational). An area as diverse in population densities as South Lakeland must inevitably encompass a variety of structures, whilst complying with criterion (i).

- 2. We note with dismay that proposals going forward to SLDC councillors include two three-councillor wards for Ulverston and election/re-election by thirds.**

We strongly remind officers and councillors that Ulverston Town and District Councillors have been elected all-out every 4 years for the past 40 years. We also point out that Ulverston has had single member District Wards for most of the same period, with a couple of examples of two-member wards.

This structure has been well-received and well-respected by the electorate and the various political groupings, and has been productive of good democratic representation. Our proposal is that it should be retained for the reasons that follow and that no sensible argument has been adduced as to why it should change.

- 4.1. "Electoral equality". To create two 3-member wards along the lines by SLDC, would create an electoral imbalance of 667, between the proposed new East & West wards, and therefore inevitably an imbalance with other wards in the District. This in itself would demand a further review.**

4.2 SLDC figures for the Ulverston Wards are as follows:

	Present.	2020
Central:	1540	1867
East:	1606	1835
North:	1561	1613
South:	1508	1781
Town:	1480	1529
West:	1524	1996
Average:	1536	1770

The current average for South Lakeland as a whole, is 1,632, rising to 1,746 by 2020. So by the elections in 2020, Ulverston's 6 wards, on their current boundaries, will be very close to the District average.

While the disparity at present between the Ulverston Wards with the highest (East) and the lowest (Town) is 126 by 2020, the disparity between the highest (West) and the lowest (Town) will be 467. That will of course have to be addressed by minor boundary change. The disparity between the proposed new 3 member West and East wards in 2020 would be 340.

The reason for the increase in, particularly, West and South Wards is the projected number of new homes to be built on the rural fringes of the Town. The figures show a need for a change to the boundaries of the six Ulverston Wards by the 2020 elections, depending on refinement of the projections in the light of actual builds. They do not show the need for a change into 2 three- member wards now, or indeed, at all.

It is hard to detect in the proposals before SLDC, any recognition of the impact of the new homes.

4.3. The present ward structure in Ulverston means that one District Councillor directly represents, on average, over 1536 electors. Such a ratio is enough to allow a councillor to get to know a large proportion of his or her electors and certainly all his or her ward's needs problems and strengths, at the micro level required of District Councillors. A new Ulverston Ward of some 5000 electors makes that level and quality of representation unlikely. Individual councillors in that context could well end up representing no-one, but leaving it to ward colleagues. One member, one ward is, in Ulverston

anyway at District Level, is the cleanest, simplest, most efficient and most democratic way of representing the electorate.

4.4. It is important to bear in mind that Ulverston is not a rural parish. It is a small urban market centre, second in size only to Kendal in the South Lakeland District, with an electorate of over 9000 and a population of about 12,000. This population lives in a town no more than one and a half miles from edge to edge. It is not surprising that it is not represented at District or parish level by “independents” but by vigorously active political parties. If the proposed 2 three-member wards were to come about, “the interests and identities of local communities” could be seriously compromised.

The proposed new West Ward is most likely to be permanently represented by Conservatives. The proposed new East ward is most likely to be permanently represented by Labour, (other parties and Independents hardly figure in Ulverston). At present, the single member ward enables an outstanding, popular or hard-working candidate to win against the political tide. In three member wards in Ulverston, that seems most improbable. With the two three-member wards proposed, it is likely that the Town would be unpleasantly divided in half.

In addition, the new West Ward would be overwhelmingly residential, while the new East Ward would have almost all the Town Centre, and the vast majority of the Town’s Commerce, Industrial and entertainment life.

4.5 Elections Frequency, is a separate matter. Since 1974, Ulverston has had all-out elections every 4 years for both District and Town Council elections, on the same day. This has been found to be totally satisfactory. There have been periodic changes in political control, which is healthy in a local democracy.

Each successive Town Council and District councillor has had that period of time to develop policies and campaigns without annual distraction of elections, the required money raising and the point scoring and short termism that annual elections unavoidably mean.

Moreover annual elections involve both the Councils concerned and the political groups and individuals much more expense simply dealing with the mechanics.

CONCLUSION.

While recognising that there will be a need for boundary adjustments within Ulverston to meet the LGBCE’s first criterion, we can see no reason whatever

why the single member District Wards and the all-out four yearly elections need to be changed.

Ulverston Town Council. 2.1.2016

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 January 2016 16:58
To: reviews
Subject: Fw: Proposed changes to boundaries: South Lakeland
Attachments: Boundaries Paper Dec.2015 (2)(3)(4) + letter.docx

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
To: "reviews@lgbce.or.uk" <reviews@lgbce.or.uk>
Sent: Sunday, 10 January 2016, 16:28
Subject: Proposed changes to boundaries: South Lakeland

From Ulverston Town Council, Cumbria (constituent part of South Lakeland District Council.

Please find attached our strong objections to the proposals put forward by South Lakeland District Council.

sent by Cllr. Colin Pickthall, [REDACTED]

Agreed unanimously by the Town Council at its meeting on 21 December 2015.

PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARY CHANGES; ULVERSTON; (SOUTH LAKELAND DISTRICT COUNCIL)

**Boundary Commission,
Dear Sirs**

Appended to this letter is a copy of the report from Ulverston Town Council, which was agreed unanimously by the Town Council at its January Meeting. Since then, the District Council has debated its own response to the Commission with which we profoundly disagree.

The main points of concern with the SLDC proposals are:

- 1. We do believe that three-member wards are wrong in principle, tend to weaken democracy & efficiency, create distance between councillor and elector and are particularly unsuited to Ulverston.**
- 2. We do not believe that there is any necessary causal link between members being elected in thirds and the creation of three member wards. If election by thirds were decided upon, it is quite straight-forward to keep single-members wards, linking contiguous wards to decide the order in which councillors are up for re-election. Where there is disparity in numbers of electors, it is a simple matter to use percentage of electorate or percentage of total votes cast.**
- 3. However, we believe that yearly elections lead to voter "fatigue" and more importantly to short-termism amongst councillors, who will be in permanent election mode, seeking headlines, raising campaign funds etc. It is inimical to proper planning & strategy, particularly over the most serious matters – like flooding - and inimical to cross-Party collaboration, which is not uncommon in local government matters.**

The Agenda paper presented to the District Councillors repeated the statement that "regarding the impact on Parishes, the Group was advised that currently, their elections were by thirds". This is simply not true, and what's more the Council was informed of the error several weeks before the agenda paper was written. It exemplifies the mistaken assumptions on which some of the SLDC's decisions were made. Ulverston has had elections every four years for most of the past forty years, interrupted by shorter and isolated examples of two member wards, which were not always popular. Although the changes do not, on the surface, affect Town/Parish councils, the coterminous nature of elections in Ulverston is well-understood, has a positive history, and need not be removed. No imperative in the Boundary Commission's brief demands that.

It is important that the main priority in changes – the equalisation as far as possible of the size of electorates – is pretty-well achieved by the projected increase in the electorates of Ulverston wards by 2020. Those figures are clear in the Commission's website. The transfer of segments of the community between wards would be needed to create balance between wards in Ulverston. That presents no mathematical difficulties, and

would be needed in any case between the two three-member wards, should they be decided upon.

Colin Pickthall,
Town Councillor,
Ulverston North Ward.
7.1.2016.

ULVERSTON TOWN COUNCIL.

**Draft response to SLDC's draft proposals to the LGBCE review of S.Lakes:
(6.1.2016)**

- **and proposed submission by UTC to the LGBCE (11th Jan 2016)**

- 1. Ulverston Town Council recognises and respects the Boundary Commission's three criteria for consideration:**
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4.3. The present ward structure in Ulverston means that one District Councillor directly represents, on average, over 1536 electors. Such a ratio is enough to allow a councillor to get to know a large proportion of his or her electors and certainly all his or her ward's needs problems and strengths, at the micro level required of District Councillors. A new Ulverston Ward of some 5000 electors makes that level and quality of representation unlikely. Individual councillors in that context could well end up representing no-one, but leaving it to ward colleagues. One member, one ward is, in Ulverston anyway at District Level, is the cleanest, simplest, most efficient and most democratic way of representing the electorate.

4.4. It is important to bear in mind that Ulverston is not a rural parish. It is a small urban market centre, second in size only to Kendal in the South Lakeland District, with an electorate of over 9000 and a population of about 12,000. This population lives in a town no more than one and a half miles from edge to edge. It is not surprising that it is not represented at District or parish level by "independents" but by vigorously active political parties. If the proposed 2 three-member wards were to come about, "the interests and identities of local communities" could be seriously compromised.

The proposed new West Ward is most likely to be permanently represented by Conservatives. The proposed new East ward is most likely to be permanently represented by Labour, (other parties and Independents hardly figure in Ulverston). At present, the single member ward enables an outstanding, popular or hard-working candidate to win against the political tide. In three member wards in Ulverston, that seems most improbable. With the two three-member wards proposed, it is likely that the Town would be unpleasantly divided in half.

In addition, the new West Ward would be overwhelmingly residential, while the new East Ward would have almost all the Town Centre, and the vast majority of the Town's Commerce, Industrial and entertainment life.

4.5 Elections Frequency, is a separate matter. Since 1974, Ulverston has had all-out elections every 4 years for both District and Town Council elections, on the same day. This has been found to be totally satisfactory. There have been periodic changes in political control, which is healthy in a local democracy.

Each successive Town Council and District councillor has had that period of time to develop policies and campaigns without annual distraction of

elections, the required money raising and the point scoring and short termism that annual elections unavoidably mean.

Moreover annual elections involve both the Councils concerned and the political groups and individuals much more expense simply dealing with the mechanics.

CONCLUSION.

While recognising that there will be a need for boundary adjustments within Ulverston to meet the LGBCE's first criterion, we can see no reason whatever why the single member District Wards and the all-out four yearly elections need to be changed.

Ulverston Town Council

2.1.2016

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 January 2016 14:36
To: reviews
Subject: Electoral Review of South Lakeland

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Electoral Commission

I understand that the consultation on the above review ceased on 11th January. Due to the flooding locally and illness, our contribution is a few days late. The minuted item is set out below.
I hope you will be able to take these views into account in your review.

best wishes

228.	Boundary Commission Review of SLDC: Councillors discussed the request for their views on the division on wards in South Lakeland. It was agreed to pass the following comments to the Boundary Commission The Town Council is content with 3 councillor wards, which it believes work very well in our local area. They have no comments on the division of the wards, but there do not appear to be any substantial anomalies in the local area.
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Julie Wright
Clerk to Windermere Town Council

[REDACTED]

From: Lucy Rogers [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 January 2016 09:04
To: reviews
Subject: Electoral review of South Lakeland

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Hello

I am writing on behalf of Witherslack, Meathop and Ulpha Parish Council, which discussed the review at its most recent meeting on Monday.

Their view is that they would like things to remain as they are.

Thanks

Lucy

--

Lucy Rogers
Parish clerk to Witherslack, Meathop and Ulpha

[REDACTED]