

[REDACTED]

From: Ben Berry [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 January 2016 09:59
To: reviews
Subject: South Lakeland District Council review 2015/16
Attachments: Ben Berry letter regarding SLDC review 2016.doc; Ben Berry letter regarding LD proposals for SLDC.doc

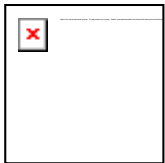
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Dear LGBCE,

Please find attached two submissions for you to consider.

- My submission on warding arrangements for Windermere
- My response to the Councils submission for warding arrangements for the whole District.

Many thanks and kind regards,
Ben Berry



Councillor Ben Berry



Councillor Ben Berry

8th January 2016

Dear Local Government Boundary Commission for England,

In addition to my submission regarding future warding arrangements for South Lakeland District Council I am now writing to you regarding the SLDC / Liberal Democrats Group submission.

Having read their submission you will agree with me that most of the suggestions fall short in many of your guidelines. Namely:

- Proposals need to reflect the electoral cycle, IE three member wards.
- Represent the same number of voters.
- And promote effective and convenient local Government

Moreover the vote to approve these proposals was met with significant opposition leading to only 23 Councillors out of a possible total of 51 supporting the proposals, with not even all the Liberal Democrats supporting it.

I would like to point out flaws in several of their suggested wards:

B. Ulverston North and East. Putting these three District Wards together not only results in an electoral variance of -7% but this does not match the existing County Council boundary.

C. Ulverston South and West. Putting these three District Wards together not only results in an electoral variance of 5% but does not match the existing County Council boundary.

To promote effective and convenient local Government and in an effort for wards to represent the same number of voters please discount these two suggestions and see the Conservative Group proposal.

I. Sedbergh. Creating a two member ward goes against reflecting the electoral cycle of the Council. In addition this proposed ward has a variance of -11% and comes from splitting an existing three member ward. Moreover, adding parts of Burton and Holme ward now means that this ward would be represented by two County Councillors, rather than one at present and in the Conservative proposals.

J. Kirkby Lonsdale. Creating a two member ward goes against reflecting the electoral cycle of the Council. In addition this proposed ward has a variance of -12% and comes from splitting an existing three member ward. Moreover, adding parts of Whinfell ward now means that this ward would be represented by two County Councillors, rather than one at present and in the Conservative proposals.

K. Burton, Holme and Beetham. Creating a two member ward goes against reflecting the electoral cycle of the Council. In addition adding parts of Arnside and Beetham means that this ward would be represented by two County Councillors rather than attempting to follow County Council lines to promote effecting and convenient local Government.

M. Levens and Crooklands. Creating a two member ward goes against reflecting the electoral cycle of the Council.

N. Grange and Lyth Valley. This ward has a variance of 13% and residents of Crosthwaite are far more familiar with Bowness on Windermere than Grange over Sands.

P. Windermere North and Staveley. Creating a two member ward goes against reflecting the electoral cycle of the Council. In addition this proposed ward has a variance of -7%. Moreover, not only would this ward be represented, in parts, by three separate County Councillors but the assertion that this ward would represent communities along the A591 does not consider how the A591 travels from Staveley in Westmorland, through Burneside ward, and then into Underbarrow PD (with no junction from the A591 to go into the Polling District!!).

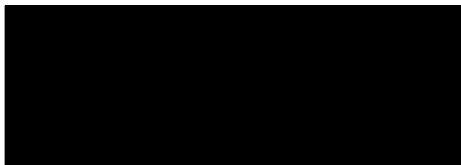
Q. Windermere. This proposed ward has a variance of -7% and would be represented by two County Councillors. Please see the Conservative proposals for how Windermere can be represented with effective and convenient local Government.

S. High Furness. Creating a two member ward goes against reflecting the electoral cycle of the Council.

T. Whinfell. I am not surprised that the Leader of the Council has the only one member ward proposed by the Liberal Democrats and the Council. However, as shown in the Conservative proposals this ward could be added to Burneside and Staveley in Westmorland so that it sits entirely within its present County Council Boundaries, promoting convenient local Government, but in addition would then be a three member ward reflecting the election cycle of the Council.

Please note that it should not be assumed that I support the proposed wards in the Liberal Democrats Group/SLDC submission that I have not brought to your attention here.

Thank you and kind regards,



Ben Berry



8th January 2016

Dear Local Government Boundary Commission for England,

I am writing to you regarding the potential boundary changes to South Lakeland District Council (SLDC). I fully support the Conservative Group submission and find the Council response objectionable on many fronts. I would like to point out from the beginning that I would prefer single member wards and all out elections, I am disappointed that the ruling Liberal Democrats decided to have elections by thirds and therefore three member wards, but this is not your concern.

I have represented the ward of Windermere, Applethwaite and Troutbeck since May 2011 and I have been the youngest Councillor on SLDC since that time. This ward is one of the larger wards in the District. It has the large rural area of the Windermere Common, the village of Troutbeck and a part of the town of Windermere. I have also ran for the County Council in the Division of Windermere which, in addition to Windermere and Applethwaite, has Windermere Town and Bowness North district wards. In addition to my work as a Councillor I am blessed to work for my family business which is based only a few miles from my home in Troutbeck, on the shores of Windermere. Since birth I have always had residence in Bowness, Windermere or Troutbeck.

My local knowledge of living here, working here and representing this area has lead me to propose to you that a three member ward of "Windermere and Troutbeck" should be created from the entirety of Bowness North, Windermere Town and Windermere Applethwaite and Troutbeck.

This ward has excellent local connections and with the 2021 electorate forecast comes to within 5% of the optimum electorate numbers.

Whilst Troutbeck is part of another Parish it was added to Windermere Applethwaite District Ward in 2007 as part of another Further Electoral Review. As part of this a survey was carried out by the Council and at that time 58% of Troutbeck residents stated Windermere as their choice for affinity/community identity vs 36% for Ambleside (despite Ambleside being listed first question and Windermere the second). Removal of Troutbeck from my proposal would also push the ward below the 5% threshold for electorate numbers.

Please consider merging Bowness North, Windermere Town and Windermere Applethwaite and Troutbeck as part of this Further Electoral Review.

Kind regards,



Ben Berry

District Councillor for Windermere Applethwaite and Troutbeck