

South Lakeland District

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Westmorland and Lonsdale CLP, Lakes and Furness branch

Comment text:

Comment on the proposed ward - Windermere The present map effectively cuts out a sizeable part of Windermere and puts it in the Ambleside/Grasmere ward. Westmorland and Lonsdale CLP recommends that the new ward should include Bowness North, Windermere Town and Applethwaite with Troutbeck. This would give a 3 councillor ward with 5,130 voters. Ambleside and Grasmere 2 member ward, 3236 voters; Bowness South and Lyth valley 2 member ward, 3886 voters;; Staveley, Burneside and Whinfell 3 member; Crake valley Coniston and Hawkshead 3 member; Staveley in Cartmel and Holker 2 member The three areas we propose have good transport links, with frequent and easy buses. The railway station is at present in Windermere but your proposals put it in Ambleside Our proposed ward has a number of community groups e.g WI, Community centre for the 50+ age group, the Town Council, the local Oral History Group. These groups are well established both historically and geographically. The proposed area on the map would mean one of the 2 doctor surgeries would no longer be in Windermere and the main Cof E church would no longer be in Windermere. Parts of Windermere served by the Town Council would find themselves in Lakes parish Council with little community cohesion and many issues not relevant to their needs and aspirations. The area has quite obvious local geographical boundaries: the lake to the west, hills to the north and east. Windermere, Bowness and Troutbeck are a close knit, local community with a firm cultural identity. The Lake District has many such communities often quite separate from each other with mountains, rivers and lakes making transport difficult between villages. Local councillors are well aware of this and are well known in their wards, which often experience quite different issues. To cut Windermere Town in to two wards would seem quite bizarre to residents and serve to divide a community which has close historic ties.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded