

Response to Copeland Boundary Change Proposals

The current proposal from the boundary commission for one large ward and two councillors for the rural parts of South Copeland (to be known as Black Combe and Scafell Ward) has a number of difficulties.

The very large area covered by this ward with difficult connections between the east, west and north portions mean that the areas do not have significant links for the councillors to support.

For Bootle Parish this would represent a dilution of councillor support and a potential conflict of which of the two councillors is representing our interests.

Other divisions of South and Mid Copeland could better focus on the links which communities have due to the natural terrain.

The following suggestions support the idea that parish boundaries should be used to form ward boundaries and avoid splitting parishes into different wards.

If Eskdale parish was put into the Gosforth ward since it links more with west than the south. Combining Seascale and Gosforth wards into one with the Eskdale Parish would still only justify a double councillor ward but would also solve the current issue of splitting Drigg parish across two wards and maintain the total number of councillors.

Millom Without and Ulpha have south facing links to Millom and Broughton while Bootle, Whicham and Waberthwaite and Muncaster have north south links because the Railway and A595 pass through all. This could yield 2 single member wards in place of 1 double member for south Copeland. Haverigg (under current proposals to be split from Millom) is another divided Parish which may see its connections as better served by one of the three councillors from Millom area than one potentially from Eskdale (35 miles away) under current proposals.

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