

Starkie, Emily

From: reviews
Sent: 09 August 2016 12:30
To: Starkie, Emily
Subject: FW: FOA Review Officer, Harrogate

From: Ivor Fox [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 August 2016 12:25
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>
Subject: FOA Review Officer, Harrogate

Good Morning

I refer to your recommendations for Harrogate Borough Council dated June 2016 in relation to the Knaresborough Wards

Knaresborough Wards

It is my understand that a HBC Working Group submitted their new Ward recommendations to you having been agreed by Council. However, I note the significant boundary changes which you are now proposing in respect of two of the four Knaresborough Wards.

The initial submissions which HBC unanimously supported also gained the support from Knaresborough Town Council and Scriven Parish Council.

It is accepted that HBC's recommendations could result in an electoral variance of 15% in one Ward re the number of electors each Councillor represents. However, I note your 3 main considerations and believe if your revised and substantial boundary changes were implemented that 2 of the 3 main considerations would not be fulfilled.

It is noted that this change has been made as a result of your observations on a visit to the area and we wonder if a Knaresborough resident showed you the area? There has been concern that HBC's Working Group consisted of mainly Harrogate Councillors with one from Ripon and none from Knaresborough.

As a person who has lived in the Knaresborough Ward area for 16 years and served on Community Centre groups, a Parish Council and HBC I hope you will consider the local knowledge I wish to bring to this boundary decision.

The negatives on the revised Warding on 2 Knaresborough Wards being-

- Established community links including greater area involvement could be damaged - current objectives for the Community Centre.
- The community identity would not be effectively reflected - names are mentioned below.
- Not conducive to effective and convenient local government given the current local transport and air quality problems - AQMA's - a major local issue.

Ward Names

May I also suggest a return to the previously recommended new Ward names except for one small tweak -

- Knaresborough Castle Ward - this will be well received since Knaresborians are proud of the ancient castle.

- Knaresborough Scriven with Tentergate Ward - the small change being the 'and' to 'with' to encompass the ancient Ward name. The ancient Ward boundary stones with the markings **S w T** are still in position.

I note that Harrogate Borough Council on the 20th July 2016 again voted unanimously to return to the 4 previous Wards in Knaresborough - Castle Ward - Scriven & Tentergate - Eastfield - Aspin & Calcutt. I also understand that Knaresborough Town Council also voted to return to the 4 previous Wards. Both Councils accepting there would be an electoral variance of 15% in Scriven & Tentergate Ward. I presume that these Council recommendations have been forwarded to you.

It is fully accepted that the Boundaries Commission decision is final. However, I am sure you will take into full consideration the views of the local Councils and residents and I hope that the LGBC can accept that a voting deviance in one Ward out of 40 is acceptable especially given the previously stated reasons.

Thank you

Ivor and Barbara Fox

