

Keal, Simon

From: Liam [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 January 2013 16:42
To: Reviews@
Subject: Lancaster Review

Sirs,

With regards to the Further Electoral Review of Lancaster, please find below my submissions. I hope these are helpful for your deliberations.

University, Ellel

As the Commission explains it's necessary to redraw the University ward because some of the student accommodation falls into the neighbouring Ellel ward. It's clearly sensible to ensure that the campus should be contained in the same ward and I agree with the Commission's decision to redraw the boundaries on the southern side on this basis.

Whilst accepting the Commission's decision to incorporate the detached part of Scotforth parish into the new ward as it would avoid artificial splitting, I note that the farmlands in this segment will become disconnected from the rural expanse of Ellel to which it is currently directly attached. In the pursuit of retaining the parish as a whole, the Commission has potentially caused a splitting of community interests.

As there seems to be not many electors in the detached part of Scotforth, I suggest that it might be better to override the need to keep Scotforth 'whole' for the sake of community cohesion.

Apart from that one minor boundary alteration to put this detached section into Ellel, I have no other problem with the proposal. The name "University and Scotforth Rural" represents both parts of the proposed ward clearly and concisely.

There appears to be no other possible ways to redraw University ward.

Castle, Duke

The Commission proposes to redraw central Lancaster so as to create a new Marsh ward and a Duke's ward which shifts north-westerly from its current position. "Castle" ward will form part of the new Marsh proposal due to the loss of Lancaster Castle to Duke's.

It's unfortunate that "Castle" has been lost from the electoral map, especially as the name was considered appropriate for the existing ward even though so much of the area covered was of such great distance from the Castle itself. "Duke's" is retained despite the shift in its centre of gravity, and after this would cover a far smaller area than either Castle currently does, or Marsh is proposed doing.

I suggest therefore that "Duke's" is renamed either "Castle", to reflect the redrawn, reshaped wards at either side of the railway line, or "Castle and Duke's", in an echo of the choice made with the University ward.

The decision to move Aldcliffe from Castle into Scoforth West seems very sensible indeed. I can't see any other credible option available to the Commission here.

Kellet, Upper Lune Valley

The Commission propose moving Gressingham into Kellet from Upper Lune Valley

This seems to make some sense as there is a direct connection to Arkholme to the north-east and to Over Kellet to the west. There seems to be no need for a change in the ward's name

Yours faithfully

Liam Pennington

