

Sefton

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Organisation Name: Formby Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Related subject: formby and Little Altcar parishes

please see document enclosed

Attached Documents:

- boundary commission review submission 2023.doc



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30 August 2023

Boundary Commission Review

Dear Sir

As part of the initial public consultation on communities, Formby Parish Council would like to inform the review of our wholehearted support of Little Altcar Parish Council and the desire to merge the two councils.

We confirm what has been said by Little Altcar Parish Council, in their submission to yourselves:

In 2013 Sefton Council undertook a public consultation on the proposed designation area for Formby PC as a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) area. The outcome of the consultation concluded that this process could not exclude Little Altcar, as this parish has no shops, schools, doctors, dentists, leisure centre or parks within the parish boundary and is therefore an integral part of the Formby community.

The Neighbourhood Plan process demonstrated that Formby is a “single cohesive community” with a shared vision for the future challenges that are faced in terms of the housing and employment allocation identified in the Sefton Local Plan. The plan is called the “Formby and Little Altcar Neighbourhood Development Plan” and it is desirable to both parishes to retain the name of Little Altcar in the proposed merged parish i.e., Formby and Little Altcar Parish Council.

The community of Formby has recognisable barriers to the north and south with the Woodvale aerodrome and the Altcar rifle range and a natural barrier to the west with the shared coastline. The boundary to the east of Formby is with West Lancashire. It is a distinct settlement and the existing boundaries between the 2 parishes is difficult to define by walking around the area.

The two parishes form one community that has a shared sense of place and history, and where the geography of the area contributes to its local identity. Within this community, all



residents benefit from the same locally provided public sector and private sector facilities and services.

At present Formby Parish Council has 15 members and Little Altcar has 7 members.

At the 2019 elections of the 7 members for Little Altcar, 5 of them were also Formby Parish Councillors. The 5 dual Cllrs had stood for both councils to ensure Little Altcar remains functional pending the desired merger.

At the elections in May 2023 only 1 candidate was elected to Little Altcar, and a further election was held in July to which a further 4 Cllrs were elected, comprising current and former Formby Parish Cllrs. The further 2 vacancies are being advertised and a further Formby Parish Cllr has agreed to apply for co-option, together with another former Formby Parish Cllr.

Since mid-2017 Little Altcar has been supported by Formby Parish Council, who entered into an agreement to provide Clerk and administrative services to Little Altcar. Should the 2 parish councils be merged, there would be no duplication of Parish Council meetings, and provide savings for Clerk and administrative support.

In 2018, Sefton Council were approached to ask if there could be a governance review to consider the merger of the parishes. At the time we were advised that this was a costly exercise and would not be done unless we submitted a petition with the appropriate number of resident signatures. The parishes decided that this would be a huge undertaking and looked at the alternative of a grouping order.

In December 2018 both parishes held Parish Meetings, and both voted in favour of the proposal to group the parishes. Unfortunately, Sefton Council advised that this was too late to bring about before the parish council elections in May 2019 and so it was decided to keep the status quo until the next parish council elections.

At the May 2022 Annual Parish Meetings of electors for both Formby and Little Altcar it was agreed to re-submit the business case for a grouping order to Sefton Council. However, on this occasion, the Parishes were informed that this could not happen at the present time due to the forthcoming Boundary Commission Review.

Currently, the Ravenmeols Ward, comprises of 3 Ward Cllrs who serve both the Ravenmeols Ward in Formby and Little Altcar. There are no distinctions at Ward level between the two parishes. The next parish council elections are in 2027 and it would be desirable to merge the two parishes and have Parish Councillors representing both Formby and Little Altcar within the Ravenmeols Ward. A total of 15 or 16 Cllrs to serve on



the combined parish with the existing 8 on Harington and 7 or possibly 8 on Ravenmeols. (Ravenmeols Ward also includes the small hamlet of Ince Blundell.)

The table below shows the electorate numbers (present and projected) for both wards:

			2023	2029
Formby	Ravenmeols Ward	Ravenmeols	2380	2404
Formby	Ravenmeols Ward	Ravenmeols	1575	1588
Formby	Ravenmeols Ward	Ravenmeols	2369	2383
Formby	Ravenmeols Ward	Ravenmeols	2128	2159
Little Altcar		Ravenmeols	807	1234
Ince Blundell		Ravenmeols	400	404
			9659	10172
Formby	Harington Ward	Harington	1241	1493
Formby	Harington Ward	Harington	1354	1363
Formby	Harington Ward	Harington	2297	2325
Formby	Harington Ward	Harington	1438	1445
Formby	Harington Ward	Harington	1235	1235
Formby	Harington Ward	Harington	2384	2397
			9949	10258

We would be grateful if the proposed merger and the number of Parish Councillors could be addressed and considered as part of this review.

Yours sincerely

Claire Jenkins
Parish Clerk