

Lancaster City Council

Personal Details:

Name:

E-mail:

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Organisation Name: North Lancashire Green Party

Comment text:

Please see uploaded document with NLGP's comments on the proposed boundary changes for South Lancaster.

Uploaded Documents:

[Download \(https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1647295088_NLGP+boundary+submission+Mar2022.docx\)](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1647295088_NLGP+boundary+submission+Mar2022.docx)

**North Lancashire Green Party's (NLGP) response to the LGBCE Draft
Recommendations for Lancaster City Council
14th March 2022**

Thank you for providing a further opportunity to comment on the draft recommendations made in February 2022 for Ward Boundary proposals for Lancaster District. We broadly agree with the proposals but we would like to make a case for some further amendments to the boundaries between Castle, John O' Gaunt, Scotforth West and Scotforth East wards.

The comments below follow from discussion with local residents, NLGP Executive and the City Councillors of Castle and Scotforth West wards, Cllr Dave Brookes, Cllr Paul Stubbins, Cllr Tim Dant, Cllr Abi Mills and Cllr Joanna Young.

Bowerham

We welcome the proposed new Bowerham Ward, it makes sense on community interests and identities and also geographically. It is felt that the residents of Bowerham will identify far more with the ward name Bowerham, rather than John O Gaunt or Scotforth West.

Castle Ward/ Scotforth West/John O' Gaunt

The changes made to Castle Ward are all welcome, including the inclusion of Aldcliffe Yard.

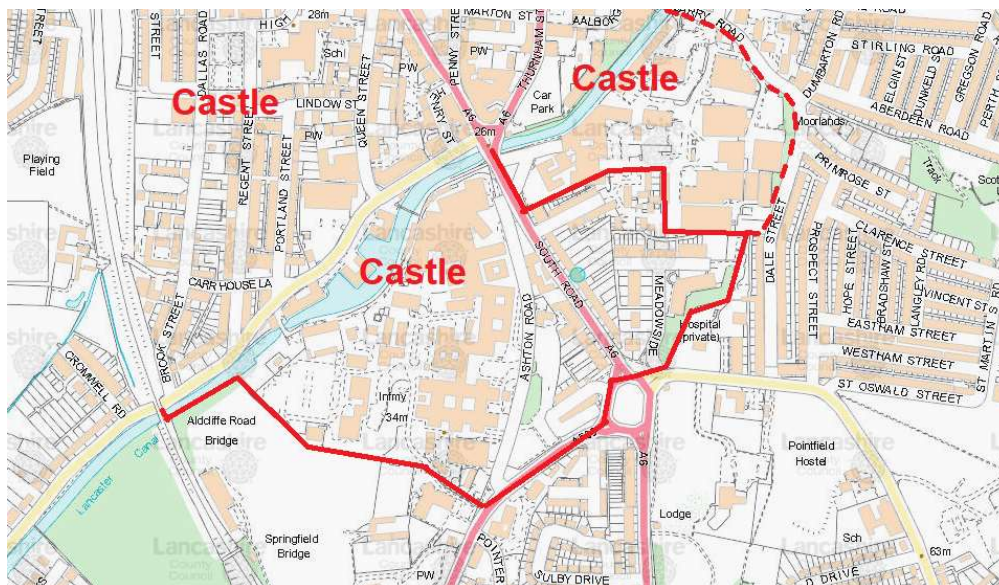
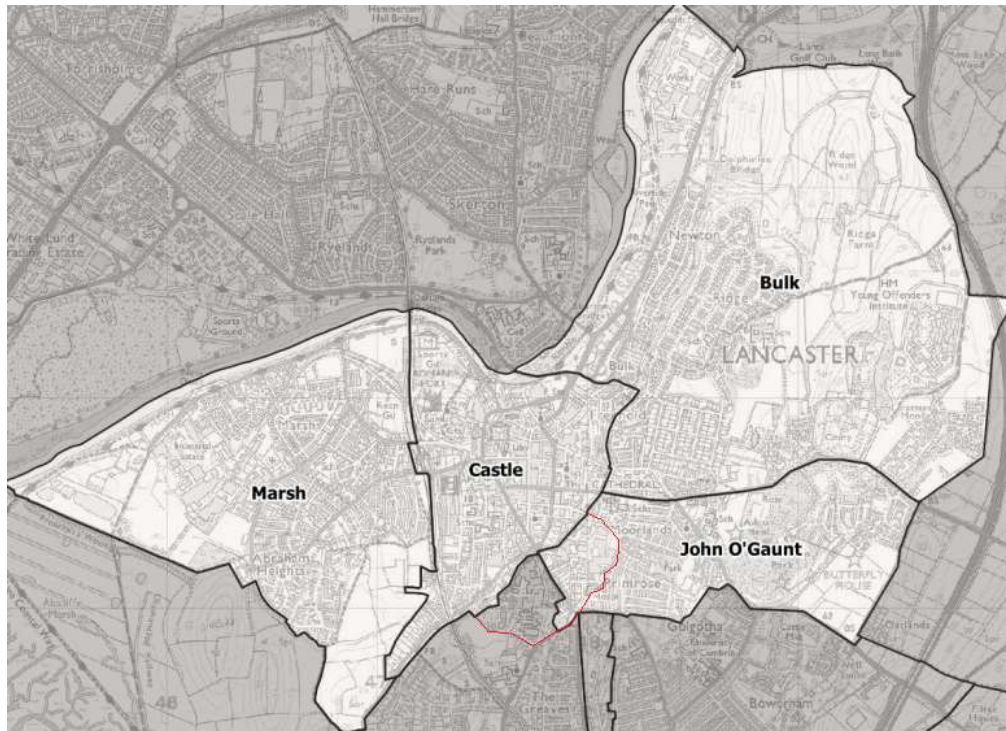
We welcome the new amended John O' Gaunt ward, with Quernmore Road as its Northern boundary providing for a clear cohesive community.

We also very much welcome the proposal to unite electors in Railway Street, Boundary Road, Meadowside and Springfield within the same ward, again reflecting evidence of local communities in the area. **However, we would like to propose an amendment to the boundary of Scotforth West with the new John O' Gaunt, to place the electors in Railway Street, Boundary Road, Meadowside and Springfield within Castle Ward, and to place Lancaster Infirmary in Castle Ward also.**

Lancaster Infirmary was historically a part of the city centre Queen's Ward, now subsumed within Castle and Marsh, and has no identity within Scotforth to the South of Lancaster. Including the Infirmary in Castle Ward would naturally include Aldcliffe Yard and would best be extended East to include South Road, Railway Street, Boundary Road, Meadowside and Springfield Street. South Road properties are accessed only from the front onto the street and with Springfield Street are very strongly socially connected to the city centre for all facilities, besides Meadowside Medical Practice. This is also the case for Railway Street and Boundary Road, and with this united cluster of residents including Meadowside, this provides for a more cohesive Castle Ward community, with the additional benefit that it improves variance in both Castle and John O Gaunt by moving electors from South Road, Railway Street, Boundary Road, Meadowside and Springfield Street into Castle. It also places the two hospitals (the Infirmary and Meadowside) within the common city centre ward.

It would be most logical to additionally include White Cross business estate in Castle without this affecting numbers of electors, whilst maintaining Dale Street being as united in John O'Gaunt ward.

This would change the Central Area map as shown below. White Cross is shown as included in Castle Ward in the Central Area map, with the two options of including White Cross or not shown in more detail in the additional map below, with White Cross being the dotted line.



Scotforth West

We feel strongly that the proposed new Scotforth West ward needs to be amended to ensure that the ward best reflects the community interests and identities. What we propose will keep the number of voters very similar, ensuring equality of representation.

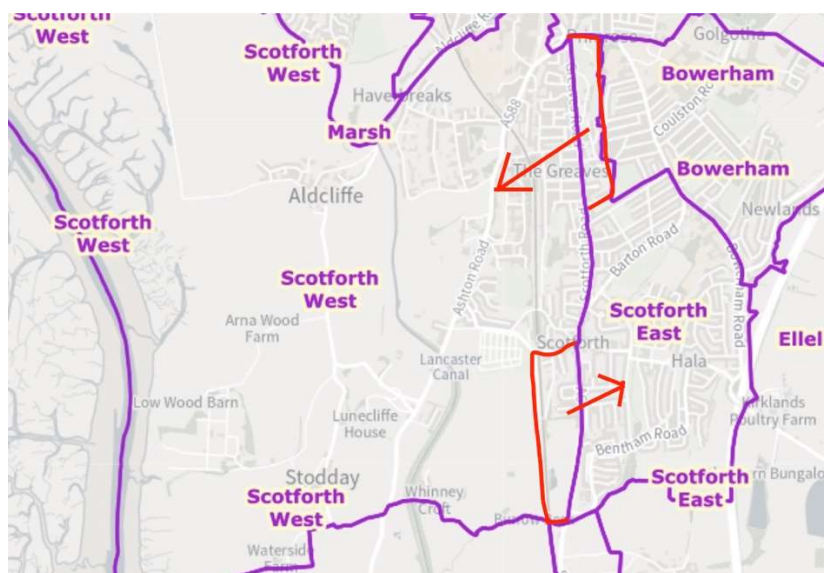
Our proposal is that the east side of A6 from the Pointer Roundabout to just north of Palatine Rd (which includes Belle Vue Terrace and Drive, Sharpes Ave, A6, Fern Bank and Lily Grove) area should be moved back to Scotforth West, and the west side of A6 from Booths junction to Burrow Beck (includes Rays Drive, Toll Bar, Uggle Lane, Ashford Close, Ashford Rd south side, Lawsons Close) should be moved to Scotforth East.

The reasons for this are as follows:

The Northern Area - The east side of the A6 has much more in common with Scotforth West than Scotforth East. Residents from this area use facilities in Greaves, such as shops, services and Lancaster Methodist Church (which is developing itself as a community hub). Residents from the west of the A6, opposite this area, use Greaves Park and in addition many families from the west side of the A6 use the route through the park to walk to and from their local school. Therefore, both sides of the A6 in this area of Scotforth West, known as Greaves, feel connected. There are no obvious connections with this area with Scotforth East.

The Southern Area - The southern area, despite being on the west side of the A6, has more links with Scotforth East. Residents from this area are much more likely to use shops and facilities in Scotforth East than in Greaves.

Below shows a map illustrating this proposal.



Ellel

We have concerns about the future-proofing of Ellel ward. There are plans for 1200+ new houses to be built here by 2031, and Ellel is already quite large for a 2-cllr ward (+10%).

Halton-with-Aughton and Kellet

We support the revised proposal to create a smaller rural ward for Halton-with-Aughton and Kellet (excluding Lower Lune Valley).

As a general principle, we believe that predominantly rural wards should be represented by one or two councillors, because otherwise they cover too large an area making it difficult for any councillor or candidate to communicate effectively with their electors and to attend the numerous Parish Council meetings and events within their ward.