

Sefton

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

Comment text:

Related subject: formby and Little Altcar parishes

please see document enclosed

Attached Documents:

- LAPC Boundary Commission Review 2023.docx



LITTLE ALT CAR PARISH COUNCIL

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18 September 2023

Boundary Commission Review

Dear Sir

As part of the initial public consultation on communities, Little Altcar Parish Council would like to inform the review of our desire to merge with Formby Parish Council, for the following reasons:

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.



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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



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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
Little Altcar Parish Clerk

Enclosed The Business Case submitted to Sefton Council for a grouping order as approved at:

Annual Parish Meeting for Little Altcar 3 May 2022

Annual Parish Meeting for Formby 3 May 2022



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Business Case for a Grouping Order to amalgamate Formby and Little Altcar Parish Councils

1. Summary

1.1 Sefton Borough Council are asked to consider making a Grouping Order for the purpose of forming a grouped parish council with Formby Parish Council and Little Altcar Parish Council to be known as Formby and Little Altcar Parish Council.

1.2 The Local Government Boundary Commission for England recommend that it is good practice for a principal council to consider conducting a review every 10 to 15 years and that this includes re-drawing boundaries that have become anomalous. The last review was concluded in March 2003. The Parish Councils recognise that a governance review is a costly exercise, however a grouping order can be achieved without that expense.

2. Background

2.1 Formby and Little Altcar Parish Councils propose to make one local council for the whole of Formby.

2.2 Formby Parish Council was established in 2004

2.3 Little Altcar Parish Council was established in 1974, but its origins go back to 1894.

2.4 When Formby Parish Council applied for designated status to do a Neighbourhood Plan, the consultation undertaken by Sefton Council concluded that this process could not exclude Little Altcar as this parish having no schools, shops, doctors, dentists or parks is an integral part of the Formby community.

2.5 The Neighbourhood Plan process has demonstrated that Formby is a single cohesive community with a shared vision for the future challenges that are faced in terms of the housing allocation and employment allocation identified in the Sefton Local Plan.

2.6 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 coast line. The boundary to the east of Formby is with West Lancashire. It is a distinct settlement and the existing boundaries between the 2 parishes are hard to define by walking around the area.

2.7 The two parishes form one community who have a shared sense of place and the where the geography of the area contributes to its local identity.



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- 2.8 The two parishes form one community where residents benefit from the same locally provided public sector facilities and private sector services
- 2.9 At present Formby Parish Council has 15 members and Little Altcar has 7 members who are all unpaid volunteers. Of the 7 members for Little Altcar, 5 of them are also Formby Parish Councillors.
- 2.10 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. In the new arrangement there would not be duplication of Parish Council meetings, which would be a saving on Clerk and administrative support.
- 2.11 In December 2018 both parishes held Parish Meetings, and both voted in favour of a 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 submit the business case for a grouping order to Sefton Council.

3. The Legal Situation

- 3.1 A Grouping Order is a means of grouping together parish councils to form one local council for an area.
- 3.2 Provision for this exists in the 1972 Local Government Act
- 3.3 A way of pooling resources whilst preserving the identity of each of the individual parishes or settlements within it.
- 3.4 The order must name the group and must provide for the representation on the council of each parish on the council.
- 3.5 The reorganisation of localities by means of grouping orders means the units (parishes) concerned retain their identity and their electors meeting and such orders can be made by the principal council without the formalities of a governance review. LGA 1972 ss 11(1)-(3) and 29(1)-(3)

4. Assets, Reserves and Employees



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4.1 Formby Parish Council:

Assets

Year-end asset register 2021/22 appendix 1

Reserves

Year-end governance and accountability statement 2021/22 appendix 2

Employees

Parish Clerk p/t

Administrative Assistant p/t

4.2 Little Altcar Parish Council:

Assets

Year-end asset register 2021/22 appendix 3

Reserves

Year-end annual governance and accountability statement 2021/22 appendix 4

Employees -None

5. The Desired Outcome

5.1 Sefton Council have the legal authority to make a Grouping Order and both Parish Councils are in favour of this

5.2 A Grouping Order does not have the financial cost of a governance review, so provided this is achieved in a timely manner prior to the parish council elections in May 2023, there is no financial burden on Sefton Council

5.3 The Grouping Order must name the group and a suggestion is "Formby and Little Altcar Parish Council"

5.4 The Formby and Little Altcar Parish Council would meet each month (except August) in addition to the annual Parish Meetings (the electors meeting) to be held between 1 March and 1 June.

5.5 Formby has an electorate (those residents registered to vote) of 18,465 and has 2 wards Ravenmeols and Harington

5.6 Little Altcar has an electorate of 811 and would form part of the Ravenmeols ward within the grouped council, which aligns with the Ward Cllrs for Ravenmeols who already serve both Formby and Little Altcar residents



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5.7 To provide greater flexibility financially across the two parishes

5.8 The existing employees would continue to provide Clerk and administrative services to the newly formed combined Parish Council

5.9 The Parish Council would comprise 15 members (or as Sefton Council determine) split between Ravenmeols and Harington Wards based on the electorate numbers.

Claire Jenkins

Parish Clerk to Formby Parish Council

And Parish Clerk to Little Altcar Parish Council