

# Westmorland and Furness

## Personal Details:

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**Organisation Name:** Urswick, Bardsea & Stainton PARish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** THE WHOLE PARISH

Following discussions, Urswick Bardsea & Stainton Parish Council wish to submit the following response. We have read the response by our Ward Councillor for Low Furness and we strongly agree with everything that he says.

Our residents agree that Low Furness should be kept (in some form) as a single-member, rural-facing Council ward, covering the villages and communities that sit in-between Barrow, Dalton, Ulverston, and the Coast. Single-member wards give a direct line of responsibility and accountability for residents and Parish Councils to engage with their local member, to ask questions of them, and to receive updates from Council. That accountability is too often lost or diluted in larger multi-member wards.

Urswick, Bardsea & Stainton Parish & the neighbouring Aldingham Parish have always been treated separately from the nearby towns of Barrow, Dalton, and Ulverston for good reason. Our villages and communities have deep links between and within them. Larger villages (such as Urswick and Bardsea) act as service hubs for other nearby villages, with pubs, a local school in Urswick, and numerous small businesses. It is quite clear from talking to local residents, that they see themselves as part of a rural community surrounded by farms, open countryside, and the coast, sharing similar issues and challenges, separate from the nearby towns.

We propose that Aldingham & Urswick parishes are kept in the same W&F Council ward as the links between them are indisputably strong. If it is necessary to be also joined with another Parish/area, we would suggest that we are potentially grouped with the neighbouring parishes of Lindal&Marton and/or Pennington Parish (excluding Swarthmoor due to the scale of development here) in order to maintain a rural-facing ward,

knitting together local villages and communities.

We feel that it is essential that our rural integrity is maintained.

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*