

# North Yorkshire

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Mrs Georgiana Scully

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:** Rylstone Parish Meeting (Parish or town councillor)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Rylstone, Hetton and Cracoe electoral boundaries

Georgiana Scully  
Rylstone House  
Raikes Lane  
Rylstone  
BD23 6LJ  
8th June 2025

Dear Sir, Madam,

Response to Proposed Boundary Changes from Rylstone Parish Meeting

I am writing to you as Chair of the Rylstone Parish Meeting about the proposed electoral boundary changes which would place Hetton, Rylstone cum Bordley and Cracoe out of Upper Wharfedale and into Mid Craven. We discussed the proposed changes at our Parish Meeting on 22nd May 2025 and the residents voted unanimously for Rylstone to stay in Upper Wharfedale.

The Residents felt extremely strongly about the matter and bought up a wide range of reasons as follows:

They feel, Rylstone cum Bordley, Hetton and Cracoe parishes whilst independent as villages have many close links, they share an Anglican Church (St Peter's Rylstone), a chapel in Hetton, a Primary School (which is part of an Upper Wharfedale Federation), they share a village hall on the border of Cracoe & Rylstone. They also share a cricket club and the famous Rylstone Cracoe Women's Institute (the Calendar Girl's WI) members of whom members come from the parishes of Hetton, Rylstone, Cracoe, Grassington, Burnsall, Linton and Appletreewick . The

residents of Rylstone strongly feel that the parishes of Rylstone, Hetton and Cracoe should be kept together and not split up and that they should remain in Upper Wharfedale.

Rylstone looks towards Grassington for the majority of its public services, our children go to the Rylstone Cracoe school which is part of the Upper Wharfedale Federation. Our secondary school is Upper Wharfedale School in Grassington. Our doctor's practice is in Grassington as is our dentist practice. The bus service goes from Rylstone to Grassington and to Skipton. Our nearest post office is in Grassington. The main petrol station used by villagers is in Threshfield. The B6265 which runs through our village is the main thoroughfare to Grassington and is known as 'the Grassington Road'.

The residents of Rylstone feel that we should not be grouped with areas to the south and west of such as Gargrave, Hellifield and Long Preston but that we should remain grouped as currently, with places to the North of the B6265 most notably Grassington and Threshfield. There are no easy transport links between Gargrave, Hellifield and Long Preston, no direct bus service or B road. The A65 which is the main road between these villages, does not run through Rylstone. In comparison Rylstone is only 5 miles from Grassington.

Rylstone, Cracoe and Hetton are all within the Dales National Park and the villages of Gargrave, Hellifield and Long Preston are not. The vast majority of the Wharfedale ward lies within the Yorkshire Dales National Park (YDNP), which therefore serves as Rylstone's planning authority. This involves both building and land development issues, and also strategic planning on vital issues such as employment and economic development, transport, leisure and tourism and environmental protection. This would not be the case for the augmented Mid Craven, as the village areas of Gargrave, Hellifield and Long Preston are sited outside the YDNP boundaries. The Rylstone Parish Meeting therefore believe that the proposal does not meet the statutory criteria of 'Providing for effective and convenient local government.'

From a social point of view Rylstone is very much part of Upper Wharfedale – our cricket club plays in the Dales league. We look to Grassington for our football and our children play in the Wharfedale Rugby club. All our sports clubs from rounders to rugby are part of Upper Wharfedale or Dales leagues. Our church is part of Upper Wharfedale with Linton and Burnsall in our benefice. Our toddlers go to groups in Grassington, our residents are part of a wide range of clubs based in Wharfedale such as the Grassington Singers. Our young farmers are part of Wharfedale Young Farmers. Our Parish Magazine covers the villages of Rylstone, Cracoe, Hetton and Thorpe. Similary Upper Wharfedale Rural Watch - volunteer group set up reduce rural crime in the Upper Wharfedale area. Residents are volunteer members of this group. Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association - local residents are members of this volunteer rescue group ( based in Grassington) which rescues people and animals from caves, mineshafts, fells and crags of Wharfedale, Nidderdale, Littondale and Mid- Airedale.

As such moving our boundary into Mid Craven does not in anyway 'reflect community interests and identities'.

Upper Wharfedale Rural Watch - volunteer group set up reduce rural crime in the Upper Wharfedale area. Residents are volunteer members of this group.

We understand that the main aim of the Boundary Commission review is to better balance the number of residents / voters between wards. However, because our three parishes do not contain a lot of people this move doesn't really contribute to the aim of increasing voter numbers in wards that currently have a low population. As our current local councillor, Richard Foster, has observed 'they (i.e. our three parishes) don't contain a huge amount of people that would make either the Council's or the proposed boundaries figures over tolerance levels.'

As a Parish Meeting we contend that the proposed move of Rylstone, Hetton and Cracoe into mid Craven does not contribute to achieving the statutory aim of Equality of Representation.

Yours faithfully,

Georgiana Scully  
Chair Rylstone Parish Meeting

## **Attached Documents:**

- gh-2025---electoral-boundary-changes.docx

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**Chair Rylstone Parish Meeting**