

North Yorkshire

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Hunmanby and Sherburn (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Hunmanby, Sherburn and Filey

Please see attached file.

Attached Documents:

- lgbce-response.docx

Overview:

I note the reliance of the LGBCE on the submission of the Liberal Democrats in preparing its draft recommendations. Paragraph 2.15 of the LGBCE Electoral Reviews Technical Guidance, states that local political implications are not a factor considered when conducting reviews. I struggle to reconcile this statement with the proposed Divisions put forward by the LGBCE based primarily on one political party's submission. This is particularly concerning as the Liberal Democrats (and the person who drafted their submission) have no presence on the ground in the Hunmanby and Sherburn or Filey area.

Paragraph 2.15 also states that "our recommendations are based on evidence and that the representations of all those participating in a review are treated equally and without bias". Unfortunately, when I made enquiries with the LGBCE there was no underlying rationale for the proposed Hunmanby or neighbouring Divisions. These proposals seem to be a by-product of the Liberal Democrats focus on the B1257. My submission to the initial consultation identified that the existing Hunmanby and Sherburn Division links the A64 to A156. Therefore, I was surprised to discover that the case for communities along the B1257 was given priority over the main arterial routes connecting the Yorkshire Coast to the wider region. I am unclear as to why my submission was not "treated equally" despite having direct local knowledge which is important in conducting Electoral Reviews.

Proposed Division Name:

As Hunmanby is the largest village in the area, I support the inclusion of Hunmanby in the name of any Division in which it is located. The submission that relating to the name of the Division made by the Liberal Democrats on this matter, clearly demonstrates their lack of local knowledge.

Parish Areas:

In Paragraph 216, states that LGBCE consider that, where possible, keeping parishes together in the same division can help support effective and convenient local government". Therefore, I support having both West and East Heslerton in the same Division.

The proposals for Filey Division in paragraph 212, which split the Filey Town Council area by moving Primrose Valley and Hunmanby Gap into a neighbouring Division contradict that principle. The Primrose Valley area is dominated by tourism and while less densely populated, it is historically aligned with Filey.

On 31 October 2017, in the draft proposals for Filey ward on Scarborough Borough Council, the LGBCE stated in paragraph 44 "We received four submissions relating to Filey. The Council proposed that the existing Filey ward be enlarged to include Hunmanby Gap, Primrose Valley and Muston Grange. This was supported by the evidence of Filey Town Council and a local resident who both mentioned that the abovementioned areas have close community links with Filey."

That review saw Filey Ward at +8% variance with the average electors per Division. The addition of the 359 electors into the proposed Filey Division would take Filey to +6% over the 5818 average electors per Division in the current review. Given that Pickering Division is proposed to have a +12% variance, keeping the Filey Town Council area together is justified and would provide some latitude in electoral arrangements in neighbouring Divisions.

Proposed Hunmanby Division:

Community Identity - The draft recommendation splits Sherburn from Staxton, Ganton and Potter Brompton and which are located on the A64. As per Paragraph 4.14 identifies major roads as a source of community identity. The communities on the A64 from Sherburn through to Staxton are best described Scarborough facing communities on the A64.

Paragraph 4.43 states that reviews should consider “the nature of the local ties or interactions between communities as well as within them”. This is particularly relevant Sherburn, where Kingspan provides employment for residents in local villages such as Hunmanby.

There are local interactions through community groups, sporting events and local schools in Sherburn, Staxton and Hunmanby.

These links do not exist between Hunmanby and surrounding villages with Weaverthorpe and Foxholes which are rural villages that have long established links to other villages in the Wolds.

Effective and Convenient Local Government - Paragraph 4.46 identifies the Council’s way of working as a consideration in how effectively a Division can be represented. There are no mechanisms such as area forums in the proposed or existing Divisions. All the communities with the exception of Ganton and Potter Brompton have Parish Councils. It is expected that local Councillors will regularly engage with Parish Councillors as well as having a presence on the ground.

The proposed structure of the Hunmanby Division puts several very small rural disconnected areas in with Hunmanby which is a large urban working village. The proposed Division dilutes the ability of the local Councillor to represent the area effectively.

In contrast the current Hunmanby and Sherburn Division has Hunmanby in with Sherburn and Staxton which experience issues relating to planning, housing, anti-social behaviour, local schools that more akin to an urban setting. This provides a more consistent representation across the local area as the 75% of the population live in these communities.

Hunmanby	Sherburn
Doctor’s Surgery	Doctor’s Surgery
Primary School	Primary School
Industrial Estate	Kingspan Works
Playing Fields	Playing Fields
Social Housing Hungate Court, Owston Road, Simpson Avenue, Mitford Road	Social Housing West Garth, Church Walk, Vicarage Lane