

North Yorkshire

Personal Details:

Name: Belinda Roos

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Organisation Name: Ribble Banks Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Dear Review Officer (North Yorkshire),

Please find attached a letter with the objections from Ribble Banks Parish Council regarding the Boundary Commission's review of the North Yorkshire Council electoral divisions.

The Council will look forward to receiving your response.

On behalf of Ribble Banks Parish Council, Yours Faithfully,

Belinda Roos
Clerk & RFO to RBPC

Attached Documents:

- bounda~1.doc

Ribble Banks Parish Council

**C/o The Clerk
Ms B.M.W. Roos
21 East Cliff Road
Preston
PR1 3JH
Tel: 07767670025
Email: RBPC@mail.com**

The Review Officer (North Yorkshire)
LGBCE,
7th Floor,
3 Bunhill Row,
London,
EC1Y 8YZ

3rd June 2025

Dear Sir,

Boundary Commission's review of the North Yorkshire Council electoral divisions – Objections on behalf of Ribble Banks Parish Council

I write on behalf of Ribble Banks Parish Council which comprises the Parishes of Rathmell, Wigglesworth and Halton West with regard to the recommendations of the Boundary Commission following their review of the North Yorkshire Council electoral divisions.

The recommendation of this review is to effectively split up the three constituent Parishes of Ribble Banks Parish Council by moving the Parishes of Halton West and Wigglesworth into the Mid Craven division whilst leaving the Parish of Rathmell in the Settle division where the joint Parish Council of Ribble Banks Parish Council is currently positioned. The matter was considered at length at the Ribble Banks Parish Council annual meeting on Tuesday and the Parish Councillors were unanimous in their opposition to the recommendations and cannot see any good reason behind the proposals. We wish to strongly object to the proposals for the following reasons:-

1. The proposed division would not represent good value for the tax payer because it means that two Ward Councillors, one from Mid Craven and one from Settle, will need to be present at Parish Council Meetings which is a duplication of the cost as well as the time and input of the Councillors.

2. The proposal will cause confusion as to which Ward Councillor parishioners should be in contact with.

3. The Parish Councillors consider that the electorate within Ribble Banks Parish Council would prefer a single ward identity which is important from the point of view of social cohesion and the proposed division within a single Parish Council will cause unease and looks like meddling for meddling's sake.

4. It has long been recognised that Ribble Banks Parish Council works well as a combination of three small villages, all with a strong agricultural emphasis and long standing cultural and social associations particularly through farming. The parishes of Halton West and Wigglesworth feel no connection with the larger villages and parishes of Long Preston and Hellifield and exist on the other side of the natural boundary of the River Ribble from which Ribble Banks Parish Council takes its name.

5. There is no logical reason for the split to change something that has worked well for over 40 years and following these recommendations will only result in giving the impression to the electorate within Ribble Banks Parish Council that the views of local people do not count, their cultural associations are not important and that this can be hoisted on them from above with little understanding of local sensibilities on the ground.

For the above reasons, Ribble Banks Parish Council would urge you to reconsider the proposed movement of the parishes of Halton West and Wigglesworth out of Settle into the Mid Craven division and request that you preserve the integrity of the existing position with these two parishes together with Rathmell remaining in Settle for reasons we hope are now clear. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Belinda Roos

Clerk & RFO to Ribble Banks Parish Council