

North Yorkshire

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Comment text:

Related subject: Harrogate and Knaresborough

Please see file attached.

Attached Documents:

- clp-responses-to-lgbce-april-proposals.docx

Harrogate and Knaresborough Constituency Labour Party Response to Local Government Boundary Commission for England Review for North Yorkshire April 2025.

Introduction

The Constituency Party has communicated with members through meetings and emails and this response is based on feedback from them.

The LGBCE has also recognised the importance of using clear and obvious boundaries such as major roads to separate Divisions. We totally agree with this approach suggested by the LGBCE in its proposals (Paragraph 78, Page 17) but this approach has not been followed in the actual proposals. (See Central and Duchy & Valley Gardens Divisions proposal.)

In addition, residents have raised concern that the Divisions, which they have been placed in, are in a mixture of Parliamentary Constituencies. For example, Harrogate and Knaresborough members are living in a proposed Division which also contains sections of Wetherby and Easingwold. We draw this to your attention but can see no immediate solution.

Our detailed comments regarding proposed Harrogate and Knaresborough Divisions are below.

Proposed North Yorkshire Council Divisions.

| Proposed Division Name | Comments on current proposals and suggested modifications |
|--------------------------|---|
| Bilton and Nidd Gorge | Agreed. |
| Bilton Grange | See comments below under Harrogate Central Division on the southern boundary. The proposal is that the southern boundary is made Coppice Drive and Kings Road , not the current division of the Coppice area, with Coppice Avenue and Coppice Valley School being separated from Coppice Drive and the majority of the nearby (Coppice) park. |
| Birstwith and Pannal | Agreed |
| Duchy and Valley Gardens | Agreed that there should be a combined Duchy and Valley Gardens Division. For precise boundaries, please see comments on Harrogate Central below. |
| Granby | Agreed |
| Harlow | Agreed |
| Harrogate Central | <p>On Page 17 of the April 2025 Draft recommendations for the New Electoral Arrangements regarding this ward you have stated under paragraph 78 that you were “recommending a Harrogate Central Division defined by distinct and identifiable boundaries, following the A61, A59 and A6040 roads.” We would agree with this, except you suddenly deviate from the A61 down minor roads, Montpelier Hill and onto Royal Parade followed by Crescent Road. Instead of continuing along this latter road directly back onto the A61, the boundary then deviates further to follow an even more inexplicable route into the locally perceived Duchy area via the Swan Hotel.</p> <p>The boundary between Bilton Grange Division and Harrogate Central is very obscure and difficult to follow as it deviates along several minor residential roads. Indeed the current proposal splits the</p> |

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|----------------------|---|
| | <p>Coppice area very unnaturally with one minor road even being split into two Divisions.</p> <p>Harrogate and Knaresborough Constituency Labour Party would suggest:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The A61 is kept as the west Boundary throughout this Division as specified in paragraph 78. Should you disagree and still want to deviate into the Montpelier area, we recommend that the boundary is created directly along Crescent Road to the A61 from Royal Parade. 2) The boundary between Bilton Grange and Central is very obscure and difficult to follow. Therefore we suggest that the Division Boundary between these two Divisions, at this point, is placed with the northern boundary of Central Division being from the A61 along Coppice Drive and Kings Road to the A59. (This should also increase the number of electors in the current Bilton Grange Division to closer to the recommended number.) |
| Jennyfield | Agreed |
| Knaresborough East | Agreed |
| Knaresborough West | <p>In this Division, the B6165, up to Red Hill Lane, should be the dividing line between Knaresborough West and the Lower Nidderdale Division - not as indicated in the LGBCE proposal.</p> <p>This ensures that roads such as those on the Appleby “estates”, Netheridge roads, Lands Lane etc which are essentially part of urban Knaresborough remain in a Knaresborough Division – where they are now.</p> |
| Lower Nidderdale | <p>There have been concerns raised by people living in this proposed Division that rurality is the only common factor. Indeed, the electors have indicated that they have more in common with their local towns than each other.</p> |
| Oatlands and Rossett | Agreed |
| Starbeck | Agreed |
| Stray and Woodlands | Agreed |
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Proposed Parish and Town Councils.

Harrogate Town Council. This is a very recent body and opinion is divided on this subject amongst the populace. One view is that using the NYC Divisions will be easy to organise electorally and not confusing to the public. The other is that some of the Divisions will be too large for elected Town Councillors as the wards often represent diverse interests which would be much better represented by the smaller current wards and less burdened councillors.

Knaresborough Town Council and other local Parish Councils. No comments received.

Document created by M Smith, Chair of Harrogate and Knaresborough Constituency Working Group on the LGBCE April 6 2025 proposals. June 5 2025.