

Westmorland and Furness

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Ulverston Ward and Town Council Wards

There are various issues raised in the responses to the initial consultation a lot of which are beyond the terms of reference of the review. I am responding to the draft proposals concerning Ulverston.

I am not particularly happy about the decision to attach the Pennington parish to a South ward for Ulverston but Ulverston is currently under represented in the current authority and equity would give the existing area 3.5 councillors so the only way to rectify under representation would be to expand the area.

I am concerned about the proposed boundary between the two Ulverston Wards

“55 The Council proposed a boundary between the two Ulverston wards broadly following the boundaries of existing parish wards. It stated that these reflected communities but did not offer specific evidence as to how this was the case. We have based our draft recommendations on the Council's proposals. However, we propose that the ward boundary follow Dragley Beck stream throughout the built-up area of Ulverston, rather than following Well Lane, the railway line and Springfield Road, as proposed by the Council. This still allows Ulverston to be covered by two two-member wards with good electoral equality, but we consider that the boundary is likely to be clearer and more recognisable than the one proposed by the Council. “

Clearer to who?

Not to me nor to the Town councillors who only live in Ulverston there whereas the people compiling the reports are basing their conclusions on looking at a map from a distance a bit like placing Barrow in the same authority as Penrith. Rectifying the authorities lies beyond the scope of the review but the ward boundaries are part of the review. I would add that the Town Councillors are also more familiar with the area than officials based in Kendal.

I also note that proposed arrangement doesn't seem to provide equity within the Town Council Wards.

2024 Electorates for Ulverston Wards in particular the balance between the Town Ward and what under the 2024 arrangements was the inappropriately named Central Ward from which around 272 electors under the 2024 arrangements would be transferred to Town Ward making it the largest electorate in Ulverston. On the 2024 statistics there only 40 more electors in Town Ward. There is also the possibility of an increase in the electorate of the former Central Ward with proposed developments although this is contentious and may not necessarily take in place by 2030.

Electorate 2024 With Proposed Changes

Ulverston Central 1466 1194

Ulverston East 1789

Ulverston North 1598

Ulverston South 1545

Ulverston Town 1506 1778

Ulverston West 1533

Regarding the proposed new South West parish ward composed of part of South and West I am not sure I see the logic it seems more designed to fit in with the Dragley Beck Boundary.

I would prefer 6 three member wards rather than 7 which includes a single member ward and a two member ward. Three member wards with the electorate the size of the current parish wards are unlikely to be cumbersome they also provide the option of an element of proportionality in representation within a first past the post system. Whilst the draft report points at the political balance of councillors cannot be taken into account an element of proportionality provides for better representation of the opinions of the electorate. In the 2023 elections in the Ulverston Westmorland and Furness ward resulted in an equitable representation of the votes cast for the three successful parties as expressed by the electorate each obtaining slightly under a third of the total votes.

I therefore would endorse the view expressed by Ulverston Town Council regarding the current boundary rather than a Dragley Beck boundary which would fit in with 6 3 member town wards.

Attached Documents:

None attached