

North Yorkshire

Personal Details:

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

Comment text:

Related subject: The entire parish, situated in Nidderdale

Please see letter (pdf file) submitted with this response which describes the views of Bewerley Parish Council about the revised LGBC proposal for a new Upper Wharfedale and Upper Nidderdale division.

The parish council does not support the latest proposal.

Attached Documents:

- 25-10-12-response-to-lgbc-re-revised-proposal-for-new-divisional-boundaries-redacted.pdf



Bewerley Parish Council

Website: www.bewerleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Clerk: [REDACTED]

Tel: 07713 673 794 Email: clerk@bewerleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Date: 10th October 2025

Dear Commissioners

RE: Local Government Boundary Commission, consultation on electoral review of North Yorkshire.

Bewerley Parish Council has considered the Commission's revised proposals for North Yorkshire which were published in September.

In the earlier period of consultation, the council submitted concerns about North Yorkshire Council's proposal to include parishes in upper Nidderdale within a new Wharfedale Division. The parish council was pleased that the Commission recognised the concerns raised by Bewerley, and other parishes in Nidderdale, and proposed a Nidderdale Division which reflected the topography, community identities and local interests of Nidderdale.

Bewerley Parish Council is therefore disappointed that the Commission has published a revised proposal which reverts to a division combining Upper Nidderdale and Upper Wharfedale. The proposed new division also splits the Nidderdale community in two parts.

The Commission has reasoned that the transport links between the Wharfedale and Nidderdale elements of the proposed new division are adequate, the two areas share similar characteristics and that combining the two distinct areas is the most logical way to achieve electoral equality.

The parish council does not dispute the first point however it believes that the Commissioner's rationale does not deal adequately with the bulk of the parish council's original objections, summarised below:

- 1) Historically Nidderdale was part of Harrogate Borough while Wharfedale was within Craven District. Being remote from each other the communities in both dales are linked to different centres of local government and services namely Harrogate (Nidderdale) and Skipton (Wharfedale).
- 2) Nidderdale has its own identity, and many organisations work throughout the dale helping to create a cohesive community. The Commission's latest proposal will still have the effect of dividing up a community with a distinct historical and present-day identity
- 3) It will be difficult for a single councillor to effectively represent two distinct communities which are geographically so far apart. Notwithstanding the quality of the B6265, this road is a high-level route frequently affected by poor weather, especially in winter. The distance by road between Buckden parish in Upper Wharfedale and Middlesmoor in the Upper Nidderdale parishes is approximately 30 miles, and the journey time is in excess of one hour even with good visibility.

In addition to the above, the proposed new division does not achieve electoral equality. The table in appendix A shows that the electorate in the proposed Upper Wharfedale & Upper Nidderdale is 12% greater than the average and has 477 more registered electors than the next largest division (Sowerby). The single elected member for the proposed new division would not only have one of the geographically largest divisions but also the highest number of electors to represent.

Yours sincerely



Clerk to Bewerley Parish Council