



Colton Parish Council

Tel: 01229 861408
e-mail: coltonpc@btinternet.com
web: coltonparishcouncil.org.uk

Clerk: Ms Mandy Lane
Lilac Cottage
Oxen Park
Ulverston LA12 8HG

Review Officer (South Lakeland)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor
Millbank Tower
London
SW1P 4QP

4th July 2016

Dear Sir/Madam,

Electoral Review of South Lakeland: Response from Colton Parish Council, Hawkshead Ward

The Council does not support the changes proposed by the electoral review. It sees no benefit to the alteration of the present ward boundaries and arrangements. It feels strongly that the proposals will fulfil none of the criteria that the review seeks to improve, neither improving electoral equality, reflecting community identity, nor providing for effective and convenient government. Reasons are as follows:

1. The new proposals take no account of geography or community identity. We have made this point in previous consultations. The new 'Broughton and Coniston' ward proposal stretches over 4 distinct and different lake district valleys and from the very rural central Lake District in the north to the urban fringes in the south. It is hard to imagine how Councillors will fulfil their roles over such a large and demographically diverse area. It will certainly not 'provide for effective and convenient government': the travelling alone through this large, mainly rural area will be very time-consuming, and will inevitably result in even less contact with our District Councillors than hitherto.
2. We are concerned about the proposal for 3-Councillor wards. It is unclear, for example, how electors and parish councils will know who to contact about which issue and it may result in much duplication of effort. It is hard to understand how this proposal represents an improvement from the 3 original wards, each with their own Councillor.
3. We object strongly to the name 'Broughton and Coniston', which reflects only the west side of this large ward. Electors in Finsthwaite, Haverthwaite or Backbarrow, for example, will not identify in any way with this name.

Overall, we strongly disagree with your statement under para 26 of the report, that "our draft recommendations will provide for good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and interests". In fact we feel that the proposals will bring about a significant decline in representation of the needs and interests of the electorate.

Yours sincerely,

Colin Barr (Chairman, Colton Parish Council)