

North East Lincolnshire

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Please see attached

Attached Documents:

- north-east-lincolnshire-boundary-submission-on-behalf-of-north-east-lincolnshire-labour-group_0.docx
- nelcmatt1.pdf
- rizw0xzcwnnctk7jcxryhrk5k49j4clx1731092505.docx

North East Lincolnshire Boundary Submission on behalf of North East Lincolnshire
Labour Group.

The following is a proposal with an enclosed map to suggest a balanced option for ward boundaries in North East Lincolnshire.

The proposal has been made with both vital suggestions for balance of community representation and cohesion with the need to have a fair in scope number of electors per Councillor Per Ward. As well as some options for boundaries that could be altered to better balance electoral numbers, but are not vital to that end, simply preferred options if required.

The following proposals have been made with several key principles.

- Existing community areas should be preserved where possible, as there is little appetite across the Brorugh for sweeping changes.
- All proposals are built around need based on population changes over the last twenty years.
- Where possible, it will be an opportunity to strengthen existing communities.
- There should be a mix of Two and Three member wards, as all attempts to work within a strict three member model have met resistance and objectively failed a community cohesion test.
- Villages that are not divided should remain so
- Distinction between Town Centre areas, residential estate areas, as well as Suburban and Rural areas.
- All numbers are calculated to be in scope for the 2030 population targets as well as the 10% either way thresholds.

Summary of submission.

Having considered option, the NEL Labour group decided to reject the Three members to a Ward approach as this created a scenario in which essentially a ward was to be in effect deleted and redistributed, namely as if NEL was to remain with forty two members divided by three members to a ward, it creates an inevitable reduction of one ward, in effect having to be deleted and then redistributed to its neighbours, regardless of community cohesion, and then leading to a 'domino effect' in surrounding wards in terms of electoral population, forcing a number of undesirable consequences. To that end, this

submission retains the current balance of twelve wards with three members, and three wards with two members, but where appropriate, rearranged to meet the challenges of population changes, most notably in the Southern Suburban parts of the Borough that have and will continue to see large amounts of housing development, and the radical fall in electoral numbers for the East Marsh area.

Prevalent Community identities within North East Lincolnshire.

Demographically, North East Lincolnshire is not particularly diverse, historically it has a low BAME population and in only recently it has seen a growth of diversity, namely Iraqi Kurds, East Europeans, and more recently West Africans, and although they do tend to be more prevalent in the middle and lower income housing area, it is not felt that boundaries can currently be drawn to offer any better representation for these groups, and that the proposal would capture these communities within the wider narrative.

One of if not the biggest distinction in North East Lincolnshire is that of Grimsby and Cleethorpes. These areas make up most of the population, and almost the entirety of the urban town population. Within that distinction, many residents within these towns have a distinct identity between each other in spite of proximity, thus this proposal is built within the principle that Areas that currently reside outside of Grimsby and Cleethorpes Wards should remain to do so, and the boundary dividing the Grimsby and Cleethorpes towns should be a 'hard boundary' moving forwards.

The boundary can be seen clearly along Park Street, Carr Lane to Hamont Road, then along the Carr Lane allotment Boundary, following Clee Road just past Beacon Court, turning up Humberston road, before finishing at the junction with Davenport drive, or put in Ward time, the Boundaries with East Marsh and Heneage on one side and Sidney Sussex on the other.

Although the boundary no longer exists in parliamentary terms, it is not felt that locally this has impacted on sense of distinction and identity in this regard.

Parish Council areas

North East Lincolnshire has a number of Parish and Town Council areas, and it is felt that these should be respected in that identity, for those that are not already linked with other areas or find themselves divided historically across ward boundaries, we feel it is not wise or necessary to split any of the currently Parished parts of the Borough, and like the current Wolds and Waltham Wards, these should be grouped together from a community affinity perspective to allow consistent representation.

Croft Baker

In effect the central ward of Cleethorpes Town, CB is a good mix of generally higher end and moderate-income housing as well as ex council and social housing. It is generally regarded as a well-shaped and balanced ward area with some good local community groups.

There is little appetite for change within this ward, however, it is worth considering minor changes of the nature of balancing electors because of changes to its neighbour to the south in Haverstoe Ward, by extending the Southern Boundary of Oxford Street on the East Side of the road to Cromwell road before and to reduce its number of electors in the North before Proceeding East along Queen's Parade placing the North side of the road in the road and all road areas between into the CB boundary, Including sections of Bradford Avenue, Lindum Road, Sighnhill ave and all of Seacroft road, expanding the CB population by a few hundred. It is thought that this wouldn't meet much resistance from the local community as this area regards itself as central Cleethorpes regardless of ward boundaries.

To the North, there is the option to also reduce CB slightly, suggested by moving the boundary at the junction of St Peter's Avenue to place the border working South along the middle of St Peter's avenue, heading East Along Albert Road all the way up and out along to Central Prom, Switching streets such as Mill Place, Dolphin Street and Cosgrove Street.

It should be noted, however, that these are not changes we favour, and strongly want to see the CB boundaries maintained as they are unless there is felt to be a need to further 'balance' the number of electors across wards.

East Marsh.

An Urban town centre area, the traditional East Marsh area was originally built around dock worker housing, traditionally located within the railway line, Park Street and Durban Road, but also includes the housing area to the South that borders the Old Clee

area. This area forms a natural ward with a sense of self, spanning from Grant Thorlad Park to Freeman Street and Cleethorpe Road, but needs amendment as the number of electors has drastically declined because of demolished social housing and empty properties. For that reason and others, it is proposed that this becomes a two-member ward to better reflect the changing demographic nature. The number of electors has naturally reduced to very close to that threshold, and so it is recommended that part of EM be moved south to Heneage ward to reflect that change, with the boundary moving to the middle of Fairmont Road or furthermore to balance the numbers. It is felt that expansion of the Ward would compromise it's neighbouring traditional communities of West Marsh, Sidney Sussex/Cleethorpes North and Heneage/Old Clee area. Which would breakup those communities that identify differently and thus not compatible

Freshney

Freshney is somewhat a confederate ward, comprising of four suburban areas, namely the Willows estate, the Wybers Estate, Aylesbury Park estate, and Great Coates. This is largely Suburban area with a strategic gap away from the town centre, meaning that moves to put it in whole or in part with a town centre area would be at best flawed. It would be fair to say that the composite areas have become in effect 'sister estates' by proximity and familiarity, and are a natural fit. It is noted that the electoral numbers are low, and our recommendation would be if needed, the current 'YA2' are would be the best fit, containing the new Freshney Green estate and the Yarrow Road area, up to and including the North side of Great Coates road as they share a common identity around Park land located close to Yarrow Road.

Haverstoe.

Haverstoe is and area of Southern Cleethorpes and North Humberston of largely higher income housing, a highly suburbanised area for the most part. This has a coherent natural Ward affinity, and would be a good opportunity to take some of the higher electoral numbers from Humberston and New Waltham, it's neighbour to the south, Namely in the form of the HE1 area, putting more of Humberston together as a community. To help balance numbers, there is a proposal for part of HE2 to be relocated into Croft Baker listed in the Croft Baker entry.

Heneage

Heneage represents essentially two areas that blend well where they meet. To the North and North West is the Hainton-Heneage area that sat under the old Borough Council, built around the Parallel roads of Wilingham Street, Hainton Avenue and Heneage Road.

To the South and East, the Weelsby and Old Clee areas made from the old farming villages that have urbanised. Heneage Ward is Locked between Cleethorpes to the East, Peaks ParkWay/Park Ward to the West, the Weelsby Woods Park and strategic gap to the South, making it a ward that builds itself from shared history and natural boundaries. In the northern Old Clee Area/Carr Lane area, there is a border with EM1 which we would recommend is pushed North to accommodate all of Columbia Road and most our all or Fairmont Road, areas with their own identity as part of the Carr Lane area to reduce the East Marsh number slightly to make it a two member Ward and Heneage more sustainable.

Humberston and Newl Waltham.

Humberston and NewWaltham is a highly Suburban area and a logic ward from a coherent community perspective, however, it finds itself highly overpopulated and in need of losing electors, we suggest as set out above that HU1 be located into the North of Humberston as part of Haverstoe that would give the required numbers, and would also bring about the bonus of not having to divide New Waltham into two separate wards and trigger a judicial review for the parish council, it is felt this would allow both the New Waltham and Waltham areas to maintain community cohesion and representative identity within the NEL areas.

Immingham

Immingham Ward is made of Immingham town, Haborough and Stallingborough, essentially two smaller villages and the Town itself

This is largely an obvious Ward, and it is land locked by it's docks and borough boundaries, Immigham town should remain unified, with Haborough to its West by geography, giving it the mass it needs to form a ward. The are has and continues to see high levels of house building and to that end, we suggest that Stallingborough be removed to allow expansion as the village has no direct affinity to it's Western neighbours, allowing for expansion for both areas, placing Stallingborough in the Wolds Ward.

Park

Park Ward has a strong sense of self, especially in the areas around People's Park. To the East it has a natural boundary of the 'Peaks ParkWay' non pedestrian main road, as well as the Strategic southern gap in effect pushing it to grow to the north and west in terms of natural areas. It contain the more Southern parts of the town centre and

Wintringham Road areas that in turn fit with the Park areas. The only amendment we propose is to amend the PA1 area to accommodate the expansion of Yarborough Ward for the numbers it needs by Moving the Marshall Avenue border South to the Middle of Littefield Lane, putting the North Side of Cromwell Road into West Marsh, the South Side into Yarbough, Making Park only on the South Side of Little Field Lane meeting it's existing boundary with what is currently South Ward but Proposed to by moved into Yarborough.

Scartho Ward

A Suburban area built around a traditional village, has a very strong sense of self and community, would only need minor amendments, please see other attached file.

Waltham

Currently a self-contained village community with the neighbouring areas of Ashby and Brigsley, this area as it stands is a very strong stand alone Ward and community that has the numbers to continue as a two member Ward, we propose it remains the same for continuity and avoids proposals that might see other areas or part wards attached purely for electoral numbers.

West Marsh

The principle town centre ward of Grimsby with exceptionally strong heritage and community roots, no part of the borough has a stronger sense of self. Land locked in various directions, it is felt that to make up the numbers it needs to be a two member Ward, the boundary can be relocated South, from the new access road on Sidings Road, all the Way down to Deansgate Bridge at the end of Dudley Street, Meaning that the North side of all of Cromwell road from the Sidings to and including the left side of the Bridge would form a boundary, the rest to continue with the current railway boundary. Attempts to consider expansion into other areas and create a two member ward were felt to attempt to blend incompatible communities, such as suburban and urban areas.

Wolds Ward

A confederate war of multiple Parish areas, it currently sits as a two member ward, and it is felt that the addition of Stallingborough will allow it to become a three member ward

and continue as a rural ward blending both it's expansion over recent years in the Laceby/Healing areas, whilst allowing the Immingham ward space to expand.

Yarborough

A mixed area Ward to the West of Grimsby, it largely marries the areas of Laceby acres, Toot Hill, the Market Hotel area and others between. As this is quite a diverse mix of areas, it is felt there is a level of flexibility to consider the YA2 area to be moved into Freshney to make up the numbers if needed, as this is largely an area that shares a common park Space with the Willows neat the River Freshney. The numbers can further be made up by expanding into the PA1 are listed in Park Ward which is highly similar to the YA1 and 3 areas.

Grimsby Area

Nunsthorpe (SO1, SO2, SO3, SO4)

The 1950s and 1960s saw significant construction of prefabricated homes and council estates to accommodate the influx of people. These developments were a response to the housing shortages following the war, and many of the area's original houses were designed to provide affordable homes for workers employed in the docks, fishing, and associated industries. Despite this, the area retained its strong community identity, with local organizations and social networks helping to sustain the population through difficult periods with area such as the community centre centre4 servicing as a vital service for the area and Local primary schools and economic centre that are self contained within the Nunsthorpe.

The Grange (SO5, SO6, parts S07 and Ya4)

The Grange is a residential area in Grimsby developed primarily in the post-war period. It emerged in the 1950s and 1960s as part of Grimsby's suburban expansion, when the town was growing to accommodate a rising population linked to the fishing, food processing, and industrial sectors. Like many post-war housing developments, The Grange was designed to offer affordable, family-oriented housing with modern amenities to meet the needs of working families.

Originally, The Grange included a mixture of council housing and privately-owned homes, with an emphasis on creating a self-contained community. Schools, local shops, and parks were built within or close to the neighbourhood, helping foster a strong community identity. Over the years, the area saw further development, with improvements in local amenities and green spaces.

Today, The Grange remains a residential area with a mix of homes, schools, and shops, along with nearby parks and recreation areas. It is known for its community-focused atmosphere with focus around the Grange community centre.

West Marsh (Current ward Parts of PA1, YA1)

The West Marsh area in Grimsby, located in North East Lincolnshire, is primarily a residential and industrial region. Historically, Grimsby was a major fishing port, and the West Marsh was one of the areas impacted by this industry, with warehouses, docks, and related businesses being prominent in the area.

By the early 1900s, Grimsby was a thriving port with massive fish markets and a huge fishing fleet. The West Marsh, with its close proximity to the docks, became home to many of the workers. The area was full of busy fish factories and cold storage warehouses, and it attracted thousands of people looking for work. Much of the housing built here was terraced homes for working-class families who lived close to their jobs.

the people of the West Marsh have always had a strong sense of community. It's an area made up mostly of long-time residents, with many families who've lived there for generations. Even in tough times, there's a real sense of pride and solidarity among the people.

Local groups such as and churches such as The Haven and St hughs as well as primary schools such as Macaulay Primary Academy and South Parade play a big role in the life of the area. Residents often come together to look after their neighbourhoods, from organizing local events to pushing for improvements via their local community centres (West Marsh and St Hughs) and the area has always had a strong working-class identity with a strong historically links to the docks and nearby industrial areas.

East Marsh (Current Ward of East Marsh)

The East Marsh area of Grimsby, located in the northeast of England, has a rich industrial and social history. Originally, much of the land was marshland, but it became more developed in the 19th century due to the growth of the fishing industry in Grimsby, one of the UK's major ports. The East Marsh was primarily a working-class area, with many of its residents employed in the fishing, shipping, and related industries.

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, Grimsby's fishing trade expanded significantly, and with it came rapid urbanization in the East Marsh. The area saw the construction of terraced housing to accommodate the influx of workers. Over the decades, however, as

the fishing industry began to decline in the latter half of the 20th century, East Marsh faced economic challenges, with rising unemployment and social deprivation. Economic centre including the Freshney place and the market play a large role in the community of the area as well as it ties to the local docks

Efforts to regenerate the East Marsh have been ongoing in recent years, focusing on improving housing, infrastructure, and local amenities. Despite these efforts, the area still retains much of its historic working-class identity and is characterized by a mix of residential, industrial, and commercial spaces. This combined with a strong identity of its own away from the neighbouring community lead it to have a strong independent identity and Strong community link around community scheme such as East Marsh United. Economic centre including the Freeman street and Freeman street market play a large role in the community of the area as well as it ties to the local docks

Great Coates, Wybers wood and The willows (Current ward of Freshney)

Great Coates is a historic village located west of Grimsby. Over the centuries, Great Coates maintained its rural character but gradually grew as Grimsby expanded. In the 20th century, it became more suburban in nature as Grimsby's urban area spread outward. Despite this, Great Coates has preserved much of its village charm, and its church, St. Nicholas', is a notable historical landmark dating back to the 13th century. Following the mid to late 20 century grew with other urban expansion of the Grimsby area to include two more estates that of the Willows and Wybers Wood.

The Willows is another residential area near Grimsby, developed around the same time as Wybers Wood. Built mainly in the post-war period, The Willows provided affordable housing as Grimsby expanded. It was designed as a residential community with family homes, local shops, and schools, aimed at creating a pleasant suburban environment for working families.

Wybers Wood is a more modern residential area west of Grimsby, largely developed in the 1960s and 1970s to accommodate a growing population. It was built as part of Grimsby's suburban expansion and provided new housing for families moving to the area. It is now a popular residential suburb with local schools, parks, and amenities, making it a quiet but family-friendly part of Grimsby.

These three areas have a history and community links due to their shared history and many of their residents move between these three areas overtime. Sharing a common Secondary School, John Whitgift, and also economic centres.

Little Coates (YA2 and YA3)

Little Coates remained a modest rural settlement with farmland, a small population, and notable landmarks like St. Michael's Church, which dates back to the medieval period.

As Grimsby's expansion led to more demand for housing and services in nearby areas. However, the real transformation came in the 20th century when Little Coates saw significant suburban development as part of Grimsby's urban spread. Farmland was converted into housing estates, schools, and other public services, turning Little Coates from a rural village into a suburban neighbourhood. known for its mix of residential areas, local schools, and community amenities, while still retaining glimpses of its rural past,

Weelsby (Heneage HE6 HE7)

Weelsby was a small rural community located to the southeast of Grimsby. Over time, as Grimsby grew, Weelsby gradually became integrated into the town's expanding urban area. By the 19th and 20th centuries, Weelsby's farmland and open spaces started giving way to residential development and public amenities. One of the most notable areas associated with Weelsby is *Weelsby Woods, a large public park with wooded areas, open grassland, and recreational facilities. Weelsby Woods was gifted to the town by local benefactors.

Today, Weelsby is not considered a distinct village but rather a residential area within Grimsby, known for its proximity to Weelsby Woods and its quiet, suburban character with it designed differences from neighbouring areas and community such as Hainton

Hainton (HE4 and HE5)

Hainton in Grimsby, is a residential area located within the town. It was developed primarily in the 19th and 20th centuries as Grimsby expanded, following the growth of its fishing, shipping, and industrial sectors.

The name Hainton Avenue, a main thoroughfare in this area, reflects its role as part of Grimsby's urban development, connecting neighbourhoods and offering residential housing close to the town centre. The area grew with the demand for housing for workers and families drawn to Grimsby's booming industries.

Today, Hainton is known for its residential character and proximity to Grimsby's amenities, offering easy access to schools (Welholme Academy). It represents Grimsby's history as an industrial town, with much of its housing built during the Victorian and Edwardian eras, displaying classic architecture from that period but also combined with its mid 20 century terraced property building during the post ward area.

Old Clee (HE 1 and HE2)

Old Clee was a small, independent village situated a short distance from Grimsby, primarily focused on agriculture and centred around its ancient parish church.

Old Clee retained its village character for centuries but began to merge with Grimsby as the town expanded in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, particularly as the fishing industry fuelled local growth. Residential development increased around Old Clee, gradually transforming it from a rural village into a suburban neighbourhood. Despite this expansion, Old Clee has retained a distinct character, with parts of the original village layout, historical buildings, and a sense of community continuity.

Today, Old Clee is a area within Grimsby, valued for its rich heritage and quiet residential character. The church remains a focal point of the community, and the area offers a blend of historical charm and suburban convenience, making it a popular choice for those interested in Grimsby's history and culture. While it shares much in common with the neighbouring Weelsby community the Community of Old Clee has a strength through its history and groups such as Old Clee residents association, meeting at two local Old Clee pub the Spiders Webb and The Empire.

Welholme and Peoples park (Parts PA1, PA2 and PA3, All of PA4 and PA5)

Welholme originated as a residential neighbourhood in the 19th century, during a time when Grimsby was rapidly expanding due to its thriving fishing and shipping industries. As demand for housing grew, Welholme developed as a desirable area for workers and middle-class families, with a mix of Victorian and Edwardian housing.

People's Park was established in 1883 as a public green space to provide Grimsby's residents with an area for recreation and relaxation. The park was designed in the Victorian style, complete with landscaped gardens, walking paths, a lake, and open spaces for public gatherings. People's Park was created with the philanthropic goal of improving the quality of life for Grimsby's growing population, particularly for those living in nearby working-class neighbourhoods.

The park quickly became a focal point for the community, hosting events, fairs, and gatherings. It was also part of the Victorian movement to promote public health and well-being by providing green spaces within industrial towns. Over the years, People's Park has remained a beloved feature of Grimsby, with additions like a children's play area and a café, while preserving its historic charm.

Today, Welholme and the People's Park area remain popular, both for their historical significance and as a residential and recreational hub within Grimsby. The park, in particular, continues to be a cherished space, maintaining its role as a central gathering place and a reminder of Grimsby's community-focused past.

Cleethorpes

Thrunscoe estate (HA3,HA4 and parts of CB6)

The Thrunscoe estate in Cleethorpes is historically significant as part of the broader development of the area. Cleethorpes itself has a rich history that transitioned from a fishing village to a popular seaside resort, largely driven by the expansion of the railway in the mid-19th century. This development linked Cleethorpes to major industrial towns, encouraging tourism to its sandy beaches and health benefits of sea air.

Thrunscoe, which was once a small part of the larger Cleethorpes area, played a role in this transformation. In the late 19th century, Cleethorpes with Thrunscoe became part of the Local Board of Health District, and the area was officially recognized as a popular destination by the 1870s, as Cleethorpes expanded as a town. This period saw the establishment of local infrastructure such as a railway station, post office, and new amenities to cater to growing numbers of visitors

The local community around the estate would have evolved with these changes, as Cleethorpes gradually integrated more residents, including those working in tourism, hospitality, and leisure industries. The town's seaside appeal continued throughout the 20th century, with Cleethorpes hosting various entertainment venues and community

The estate itself, like other parts of Cleethorpes, likely grew with the town's expansion, fostering a mix of residential areas and local institutions that contributed to the area's social fabric.

Beacon Hill (CB2, CB6,CB7)

Situated near the coast, the Beacon Hill Estate benefits from its close proximity to essential amenities within Cleethorpes, including reputable schools, local shopping facilities, and recreational areas with its own economic centres.

Beacon Hill Estate built post war service as a large centre of the area social housing needs and has a sense of strong community in these area because of this. Social housing ranges from single property to blocks of flat service as a central anchor for the community. This combined with the local schools such as Beacon academy shows a strong sense of community in the area.

Cleethorpes central community (CB1, CB3, CB4, CB5)

The Cleethorpes seafront holds a rich history intertwined with the town's development as a seaside destination. In the early 19th century, Cleethorpes was a small fishing village, but it began to transform as the popularity of seaside holidays grew. By the mid-19th century, Cleethorpes was flourishing as a resort town, aided by the arrival of the railway in 1863, which made it more accessible to visitors from across the region, particularly from nearby industrial cities like Sheffield and Leeds.

The seafront soon became the centrepiece of Cleethorpes, with the construction of piers, promenades, and grand hotels designed to accommodate the increasing number of holidaymakers. The iconic Cleethorpes Pier, first opened in 1873, became a prominent attraction, later complemented by gardens, entertainment venues, and cafes that attracted visitors throughout the Victorian and Edwardian eras. Many of these buildings remain, giving the seafront a sense of continuity and historical charm.

The local community developed around the thriving tourism industry, with generations of families working in hospitality, fishing, and entertainment. Even as tourism trends shifted, the community remained closely connected to the seafront. In recent decades, local efforts have focused on preserving Cleethorpes' heritage while updating facilities to meet modern needs. Restoration projects have revitalized historic sites along the seafront, blending the town's nostalgic character with contemporary amenities.

Today, the Cleethorpes seafront continues to be the heart of the community. Local residents enjoy the promenade, parks, and beaches year-round, while events like summer festivals, markets, and performances bring together both locals and visitors. The community maintains a strong connection to its heritage, preserving the town's identity as a cherished seaside destination. This blend of history, community pride, and coastal beauty makes the Cleethorpes seafront a vibrant and enduring part of the town's identity.

Country Park (HA5, HA6)

The Country Park residential area in Cleethorpes is a relatively recent development compared to other parts of the town, blending modern housing with natural surroundings. Located near Cleethorpes Country Park, this residential area was developed to offer a community environment close to both green spaces and Cleethorpes' main amenities.

Cleethorpes Country Park itself was established in the 1980s as a recreational and conservation area, covering around 150 acres and featuring a large lake, woodlands, and open grasslands. The park was created to provide a natural haven for both wildlife and local residents, with walking trails, bird-watching spots, and picnic areas that quickly became popular among the community. As Cleethorpes expanded and demand for housing grew, planners saw the potential for residential development near the park, catering to families, retirees, and professionals who sought a tranquil environment within reach of the town's amenities and coastline.

Construction of housing around the Country Park began in the late 20th century and continued into the 2000s, with designs focusing on blending suburban comfort with access to natural spaces. The development includes a mix of detached and semi-detached homes, featuring modern architecture that complements the park's natural aesthetics. The area was designed to provide residents with scenic views and easy access to the park's extensive grounds, enhancing the quality of life for those living there.

Today, the Country Park residential area is a desirable neighbourhood known for its family-friendly atmosphere and its sense of community. Residents enjoy the benefits of living close to the park's walking trails, the lake, and various recreational facilities, which foster a healthy outdoor lifestyle. Additionally, the community around the Country Park often organizes events and activities, strengthening local ties and providing a shared connection to the park and its natural beauty.

Grimsby & Cleethorpes divide

The Grimsby-Cleethorpes divide holds significance both geographically and culturally, shaping the identities and communities within this region of North East Lincolnshire. Though only a few miles apart, Grimsby and Cleethorpes have historically developed distinct identities, influenced by their economic foundations, urban planning, and cultural leanings. Understanding this divide helps explain the unique roles each town plays in the area and the sometimes light-hearted rivalries between the two communities.

Grimsby, an ancient fishing port with roots dating back to Viking times, has long been associated with its maritime and industrial history. By the 19th century, Grimsby had become one of the world's busiest fishing ports, and its economy centered on shipbuilding, fishing, and trade. This industrious identity fostered a working-class culture and urban environment characterized by docks, warehouses, and industrial

infrastructure. As the fishing industry declined in the late 20th century, Grimsby faced economic challenges, but its identity remained deeply connected to its maritime heritage.

Cleethorpes, on the other hand, evolved as a seaside resort, growing rapidly during the Victorian era when seaside tourism became popular. Known for its beaches, piers, and promenade, Cleethorpes developed as a leisure destination, catering to holidaymakers from nearby cities. Its identity was thus shaped by tourism and recreation, contrasting with Grimsby's industrial focus. Cleethorpes remains a popular destination, and its economy continues to benefit from tourism, with a focus on hospitality and entertainment.

The divide between Grimsby and Cleethorpes also influences community and lifestyle. Grimsby's residents often maintain close ties to the fishing and food processing industries, while Cleethorpes has a reputation for being more residential and leisure-oriented. The two towns have distinct cultural expressions, with Grimsby's history inspiring a more industrial and pragmatic outlook, and Cleethorpes leaning toward a relaxed, beach-centred lifestyle. While the towns have grown together physically over time, with overlapping services and transportation networks, their separate identities persist.

Despite these differences, the two towns share a cooperative relationship. Many residents commute between Grimsby and Cleethorpes, working in one and living or socializing in the other. Both communities benefit from the economic interdependence—Grimsby's industry and employment opportunities support the Cleethorpes housing market, while Cleethorpes' tourism and leisure industry draws visitors who also frequent Grimsby's services and shopping centres.

In recent years, the Grimsby-Cleethorpes divide has taken on new dimensions as the area seeks economic rejuvenation through investments in renewable energy and heritage tourism. With shared goals, the two towns are finding common ground while preserving their unique identities. This divide, while historical, continues to foster a sense of local pride, giving each town a clear sense of place within the broader North East Lincolnshire region however for the identity of the community and ideals of what areas the towns and their wards should represent it is key that this divide remains.

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