**November 2024.**

**Summary Conclusion**

We have considered the Boundary Commission Criteria and have concluded that the local Parish Councils would be better served by the creation of a new Ward possibly called Mid Furness. The justification is shown below.

**Legal Criteria for Decisions**

1. Electoral Equality

* Make sure each Ward councillor represents a similar number of electors

1. Convenient and effective local Government

* Wards using clearly identifiable boundaries, have appropriate names, make it as easy as possible for the Ward Councillors to do their jobs

1. Community identity and interests

* Often shaped by the amenities and services people use; shops, places of worship, schools and other facilities – community organisations and local business forums

1. **Electoral Equality**

*Requirement*

*Make sure each councillor represents a similar number of electors*

The Boundary Commission would like the number of Wards to be 65 and the voters per Ward to total approximately 2,845. If we keep the current Ward of High Furness and the Parish Councils that are within it, we are slightly over the target figure of total voters.

If we look at Legal Criteria for Decisions 2 & 3, the current group of Parish Councils does not fulfil these requirements. Therefore, the proposal is to change the name of the Ward to Mid Furness, to include the Parishes of Colton and Lowick and remove the Parishes of Broughton-in-Furness and Seathwaite. The total number of voters for the proposed Ward is within the target set by the Boundary Commission.

It may be possible to include the Parishes of Broughton-in-Furness and Seathwaite to the Ward of Coniston and Hawkshead.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ward** | **Councillor** | **Voters 2023** |  | **Voters 2029** |  |
| High Furness | 1 | 3,064 | 13% | 3,205 | 13% |

**Current Ward of High Furness**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Parish Council** | **Voters** | **Total Voters 2023** | **Voters** | **Total Voters 2029** |
| Broughton-in-Furness | 21+736+41 | 798 | 21+765+41 | 827 |
| Kirkby Ireleth | 200+579+201 | 980 | 200+644+201 | 1045 |
| Seathwaite | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 |
| ENMO | 654+44+205 | 903 | 701+44+205 | 950 |
| Pennington | 328 | 328 | 328 | 328 |
| **Total Voters** |  | **3064** |  | **3205** |

**Proposed New Ward of Mid Furness**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Parish Council** | **Voters** | **Total Voters** | **Voters** | **Total Voters** |
| Colton | 174+174+246 | 594 | 174+174+246 | 594 |
| Kirkby Ireleth | 200+579+201 | 980 | 200+644+201 | 1045 |
| Lowick | 198 | 198 | 198 | 198 |
| ENMO | 654+44+205 | 903 | 701+44+205 | 950 |
| Pennington | 328 | 328 | 328 | 328 |
| **Total Voters** |  | **3003** |  | **3115** |

**Current Ward of** **Coniston and Hawkshead**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Parish Council** | **Voters** | **Total Voters 2023** | **Voters** | **Total Voters 2029** |
| Blawith & Subberthwaite | 139 | 139 | 139 | 139 |
| Claife | 143+76 | 219 | 143+76 | 219 |
| Colton | 174+174+246 | 594 | 174+174+246 | 594 |
| Coniston | 671 | 671 | 671 | 671 |
| Hawkshead | 122+277 | 399 | 122+282 | 404 |
| Lowick | 198 | 198 | 198 | 198 |
| Satterthwaite | 154 | 154 | 154 | 154 |
| Skelwith | 108 | 108 | 108 | 108 |
| Torver | 123 | 123 | 123 | 123 |
|  |  | **2605** |  | **2610** |

**Proposed Changes to Ward of Coniston and Hawkshead (with the addition of Broughton-in-Furness and Seathwaite and the removal of Colton and Lowick)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Parish Council** | **Voters** | **Total Voters 2023** | **Voters** | **Total Voters 2029** |
| Blawith & Subberthwaite | 139 | 139 | 139 | 139 |
| Claife | 143+76 | 219 | 143+76 | 219 |
| Coniston | 671 | 671 | 671 | 671 |
| Hawkshead | 122+277 | 399 | 122+282 | 404 |
| Satterthwaite | 154 | 154 | 154 | 154 |
| Skelwith | 108 | 108 | 108 | 108 |
| Torver | 123 | 123 | 123 | 123 |
| Broughton-in-Furness | 21+736+41 | 798 | 21+765+41 | 827 |
| Seathwaite | 55 | 55 | 55 | 55 |
|  |  | **2666** |  | **2700** |

1. **Convenient and Effective Local Government**

*Requirement*

*Wards using clearly identifiable boundaries, have appropriate names, make it as easy as possible for the councillors to do their jobs*

The geographical area of Furness starts at the River Leven in the east runs up the east side of Lake Windermere to Ambleside, turns west to the coast and then runs right around the coast back to the River Leven.

**The land divides naturally**;

* The area between Lake Windermere and Coniston Water. These two lakes form natural barriers. The land here is divided between Coniston, Hawkshead and Colton. However, it is easier for the people in Coniston and Hawkshead to travel to Ambleside and across to Kendal than down to the A590 to reach Ulverston and Barrow. The people in Colton can travel south to the A590 or go west and use three bridges across the River Crake that go between ENMO and Colton. Therefore, it is better for Colton to join the same Ward as ENMO.
* The land north of Gawthwaite tends to hold communities that travel to Coniston, Ambleside and across to Kendal.
* Kirkby Moor is an area of high land in the centre of the proposed Ward. It has a network of roads that run around and across it. Therefore, a Councillor for the proposed Ward could easily access the parishes.
  + A590 allows access to Colton, ENMO, and Pennington.

A5092 runs from Greenodd in ENMO to Grizebeck, which means Lowick and the north ends of ENMO and Colton plus Kirkby Ireleth can be reached.

A595 runs from Grizebeck to Kirkby -in-Furness, which means Kirkby Ireleth can be reached.

Stockbridge Lane runs from Ulverston to Kirkby-in-Furness which means Kirkby Ireleth and the west side of ENMO can be accessed.

B5281 runs from Ulverston to Gawthwaite which means the west side of ENMO and Kirkby Ireleth can be reached.

**Communication;**

The Ward Councillor for the proposed new Ward of Mid Furness would be able communicate W&F information to the parishes by holding regular meetings at a convenient building e.g. the Coronation Hall in Ulverston. This could also operate as a surgery in order get feedback on concerns etc. All the parishioners (Colton, Kirkby Ireleth, Lowick, ENMO, Pennington) would be able to travel easily to this venue and it would be a good use of W&F property.

There are local social media groups that combine these Parishes and so the Ward Councillor could use this technology to assist with communications.

The Furness U3a meets at Ulverston every month, so the Ward Councillor could attend these meetings, in order to meet the group 55+ years. They will cascade information to their friends and family.

**Locality Board**

There is a proposal for the current High Furness, Low Furness and Ulverston Wards to join the Furness Locality Board. If this happens, then the proposed new Mid Furness Ward would operate more effectively within the Furness Locality Board, because the Parishes have a need to be part of the management of this area of the Furness peninsular.

1. **Community Identity and Interests**

*Requirement*

*Often shaped by the amenities and services people use; shops, places of worship, schools and other facilities – community organisations and local business forums*

**Locality Board Changes**

ENMO Parish Councillors have voted to move to the Furness Locality Board. The reasoning for this decision and the considerations for the Boundary Ward proposal have very similar justifications.

W&F Draft Proposed Changes

The existing members of the Furness Locality Board are Barrow, Dalton with Newton, Askam and Ireleth, Lindal and Marton.

The proposal is the Wards of High and Low Furness, plus Ulverston move to Furness Locality Board – which means;

High Furness PCs

* Seathwaite
* Broughton-in-Furness
* Kirby Ireleth
* Pennington
* ENMO

Low Furness PCs

* Urswick
* Aldingham

Ulverston

Range of Responsibilities for all Locality Boards

* Undertake a community leadership role, bringing together different interest groups for the public, private and voluntary sectors to work in partnership
* Understand and influence the delivery of council services to ensure this reflects local need
* Allocation of funding and grants to support locality working projects and activities
* Support local delivery of the Council Highways Service

The Current Locality Plans for Furness and South Lakeland

Both are written in the style of top level operational / conceptual aims. They will probably have local people applying to carry out specific actions that fit with the broad aims.

The current key issues for our area could be;

* Climate change
* Flooding – Plumpton / South Ulverston
* Town Centres - Barrow and Ulverston
* Roads -A590, side roads, drains, grit, signs etc
* Bus services
* Local rail services
* Building sites and waste sites
* Supporting small businesses
* Using IT
* Poverty, unemployment and the consequences
* NHS - Furness General Hospital – GPs
* BAEs - the effect on the area
* Entertainment – maintaining the Coro, the Roxy
* Police – based in Barrow
* Education, Schools, FE Colleges, HE, Libraries
* Nuclear Fuel to and from Sellafield

**Grouping Parishes within a Ward**

The proposed group of Parishes share the common concerns listed above but specifically they share;

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Amenities and Services** | **Place** |
| Shopping | Ulverston. Barrow |
| Churches | Lowick. Penny Bridge. Ulverston. Barrow. Kirkby |
| Schools | Penny Bridge. Ulverston. Barrow. Kirkby |
| Entertainment | The Coro Ulverston. The Roxy Ulverston. Forum Barrow. Vue Barrow. Festivals Ulverston. |
| Community Groups | Furness U3A Ulverston and district. |
| Business | Banks and Building Societies Ulverston and Barrow |

**New Ward’s Ability to support the W&F Plan**

The W&F have a draft plan – shown below. The parishes proposed for the new ward would be in a better position to support this plan because they are physically located next to each other, they share common facilities and concerns and have an understanding of the needs of the area.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **No** | **Main Heading** | **Sub Headings** |
| 1 | People and Places | Our places and areas |
|  |  | Design |
| 2 | Climate and Nature | Climate Change |
|  |  | Nature |
|  |  | Flooding |
| 3 | Housing |  |
| 4 | Economy | What makes it |
|  |  | Town Centres |
| 5 | Travel and Infrastructure | Travel |
|  |  | Infrastructure |
| 6 | Health and Communities | Healthy Places and People |
|  |  | Population and Demographics |
|  |  | Communities and Community Power |

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