

Cumberland

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Comment text:

Related subject: Longtown Ward

I am writing to support the retention of the current Longtown Ward. Longtown is a distinctive ward, the most northerly part of North West England, comprising the entirety of the region's border with Scotland.

The ward consists of the town of Longtown itself, together with its large surrounding rural hinterland, spread across six rural parishes. All six rural parishes use Longtown as their local 'service centre'. Longtown has the only shop, the only petrol station, the only chemist, and is the centre of the local agricultural community with its large auction mart. Good bus services link communities along the A7 (western Kitrkandrews, Longtown, Westlinton and the Harker area of Rockcliffe). Two days a week a bus links Longtown with eastern Kirkandrews and Nicholforest.

The areas are linked together through community links. The parishes churches in Longtown, Kirkandrews and Nicholforest have formed a single 'Esk Parishes Benefice' for many decades, sharing the only local printed source of news, the Esk Parishes newsletter. Following reorganisation in the Church of England the churches in Rockcliffe and Blackford (Westlinton parish) are joining to form a single Benefice for the area. The parish councils across the area work together to deliver the community grants schemes of two major wind farm developments.

The area shares a common cultural history, being the English area covered by the 'border reivers'. There is significant cross border use of services with local facilities in Scotland. The rural eastern part of the ward in Nicholforest, Solport and Bewcastle share strong links to Newcastleton in Scottish Borders as a nearby service centre, with most people using health services in the village.

Attached Documents:

None attached