

Westmorland and Furness

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Comment text:

Related subject: Windermere & Bowness Town and Lakes Parish areas

I write to support the LGBCE's proposals for warding in the Windermere/Bowness and Lakes Parish areas.

The constraints of both numbers and the geography of the area puts considerable restrictions upon the possible warding option. Given this, the LGBCE's proposal means a continuation of the existing warding pattern, which has generally worked well for the last few years.

The proposed Windermere, Ambleside & Grasmere ward covers all of Lakes Parish and much of Windermere & Bowness parish with a three member ward. The two principle towns of Windermere & Ambleside share many similarities - and the issues and challenges that they face are largely common (particularly from the pressures of tourism and the shortage of affordable housing). With only two parish councils, of similar sizes, both areas get good attention from the Westmorland & Furness Councillors (including the outlying rural areas)..

The Bowness & Lyth ward includes Bowness village (part of Windermere & Bownes Town Council) and the very rural areas to the south. This ward has a good balance of urban and rural, and it appears that the current single councillor has been able to balance work across the wider area and serve the diverse communities.

Although this arrangement means that Windermere & Bowness parish is split between two wards, it does mean that there are Unitary Councillors representing the two different communities with somewhat different identities. To date, the councillors have worked well together on parish wide issues.

Finally, residents have faced many years of actual or threatened electoral change - in parliamentary and district boundaries, and from Local Government Reorganisation. It is welcome if we can keep with the existing boundaries in this area and avoid further unnecessary further change.

In conclusion, I support the LBGCE's proposals for the Windermere, Ambleside & Grasmere ward, and the Bowness & Lyth ward.

Attached Documents:

None attached