

# North Yorkshire

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## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Stokesley area

Please see attached document

## Attached Documents:

- rpc-submission-on-lgbce-draft-proposals.pdf

North Yorkshire Council Boundary Review  
by the Local Government Boundary  
Commission England (LGBCE)

Response by Rudby Parish Council to the  
LGBCE Draft Proposals Consultation

# About Rudby Parish Council (RPC)

## RPC's area of responsibility

Rudby Parish Council is a civil parish covering four electoral districts:

- **RNDB: Hutton Rudby**
- **RNDC: Middleton on Leven**
- **RNDD: Rudby**
- **RNDF: Skutterskelfe**

Outside of the RPC Parish Council area, our strongest community identity links are with:

- **RNDA: Crathorne**, which is in the Hutton Rudby primary school catchment area, and
- **RNDE: Sexhow**, which is in the Hutton Rudby primary school catchment area and is also part of the Rudby Parish Burial Board (which operates the burial ground located in Rudby/Hutton Rudby village).

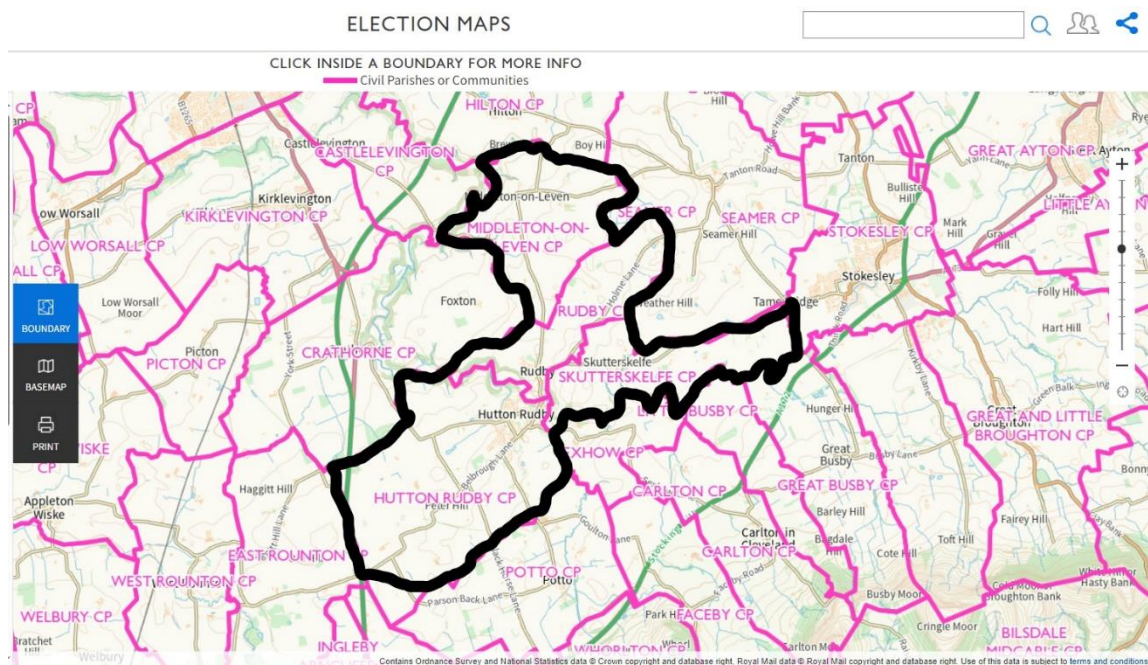


Figure 1: Rudby Parish Council Boundaries

## Why RPC is participating this consultation

As a parish council, RPC's primary concern is to ensure that the boundary review results in an outcome which satisfies the statutory criteria in a way which provides suitable arrangements for our parish.

Submissions made to the previous consultation stage by North Yorkshire Council (NYC) and by the North Yorkshire Liberal Democrats (NY Lib Dems) proposed arrangements for the Stokesley area which split our grouped parish across two divisions. Those were the only proposals covering the whole of North Yorkshire. All other submissions, including ours, covered sub-areas which were of particular interest to the organisation or individual concerned.

The review process and the proposed arrangements for divisions must address three statutory criteria which are of equal importance:

- Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.
- Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.
- Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government.

RPC considers that the whole of North Yorkshire proposals made by NYC and by the NY Lib Dems with regards to our parish area only satisfied the electoral equality criteria. Their proposals gave insufficient weight to the other two statutory criteria, resulting in an unsatisfactory arrangement for our parish area.

Consequently, RPC made its own submission to the earlier consultation stage proposing alternative arrangements for three divisions in the Stokesley area which would, in our opinion, achieve a good balance between the statutory criteria for all three divisions. Our proposal was supported by the Richmond and Northallerton Green Party.

RPC is pleased to note that the LGBCE draft recommendations adhere to the key principle we set out for the community identity and convenient local government criteria, which was that all the Rudby Parish Council area should be in the same division.

The draft recommendations also place the two adjacent communities with which Rudby Parish Group has the strongest links (Crathorne and Sexhow) in the same division as the Rudby Parish Group. As set out in our previous submission, this is in line with our preferred arrangement.

***RPC's objective for this submission is to set out our assessment in terms of the statutory criteria of the LGBCE draft recommendations for the Stokesley area.***

## RPC's REview of the Draft Recommendations

The external boundaries of the Stokesley sub-area are defined by: the local authority boundary of North Yorkshire; the physical geography; the legacy of historic local government arrangements; and the pattern of established community identities. Evidence justifying our definition for the footprint of the sub-area was set out in detail in our earlier submission.

RPC notes that the only difference between the external boundaries of our proposal and those of the LGBCE draft recommendations is the treatment of Bilsdale Midcable Parish. We provide evidence related to Bilsdale Midcable links with the Stokesley area for the LGBCE to consider in the light of their draft recommendation to transfer Bilsdale Midcable to their proposed Helmsley and Ampleforth division.

### Hutton Rudby and Appleton Wiske Division

The draft recommendation resolves the main issue of concern to RPC which was to secure an arrangement where all of the Rudby Parish Council area would be within the same division. With regards to the statutory criteria:

- At 4% above average, the proposal satisfies the electoral equality criteria.
- On community identity, the arrangement avoids splitting up Rudby Parish or any of the other grouped parishes. At the eastern end the divisional arrangement is consistent with

primary school catchment boundaries. At the western end, the small villages are a natural fit with the rural character of Hutton Rudby and Appleton Wiske division.

- The division (unavoidably) covers a large area due to the low population density but there are reasonable connections by roads between all parts of the division. This makes it practical for the division councillor to maintain relationships with the large number of parish councils in the area and all the communities they serve. The proposed division is entirely within the footprint of North Yorkshire Council's Richmond Area Committee. The Area Committees are operationally important administrative sub-units of North Yorkshire Council.

RPC's opinion is that the proposal satisfies all three statutory criteria and achieves a satisfactory balance between them. RPC supports the LGBCE draft recommendation for their proposed Hutton Rudby and Appleton Wiske division.

## Stokesley Division

With a forecast electorate of 4430 by 2030, Stokesley town is not large enough to form a division on its own, so the division must include some of the adjacent parishes. The available choices for which parishes to include in Stokesley division is constrained by the need to leave sufficient electors to the east of Stokesley to form a division with Great Ayton as its major component.

Seamer, Newby and all the other nearby parishes have a relationship with Stokesley as their local market town. However, Seamer and Newby are the only adjacent parishes which fall within the Stokesley Primary School catchment. This is evidence they have a stronger community identity relationship with Stokesley than any other parishes.

With regards to the statutory criteria:

- At 3% below average, the proposal meets the electoral equality criteria.
- The arrangement includes the two adjacent communities which in RPC's opinion are likely to have the strongest community identity connections with Stokesley. All the other parishes included have a clear but slightly weaker connection.
- The division is compact in comparison with the more rural divisions and is well connected by roads (despite the unusual hourglass shape). The divisional councillor will only need to maintain relationships with a small number of parish and town councils. It should be an effective arrangement for local government.

RPC's opinion is that the proposal satisfies all three statutory criteria and achieves a satisfactory balance between them. RPC supports the LGBCE draft recommendation for the proposed Stokesley division.

## Great Ayton Division

The existing Great Ayton division is undersized, but Great Ayton itself is sufficiently large to make up the nucleus of a division in a similar way to Stokesley. RPC presented evidence in our earlier submission setting out the reasons why the combination of physical geography and low population density to the south and east means that the practically available options involve adding electors from communities in the area around Stokesley to the Great Ayton division.

Submissions made by residents of Great and Little Broughton which are noted by LGBCE reflect the fact that some communities have stronger relationships with the market town of Stokesley than they have with the large village of Great Ayton.

Including Great and Little Broughton within the Great Ayton division rather than within the Stokesley division (with which they have historically been linked) may be sub-optimal on the community identity criteria for those particular communities, however, the available choices for alternative arrangements are constrained by the electoral equality criteria, the geography, and the strong links other communities have with Stokesley.

## Bilsdale Midcable

It is noted that the LGBCE draft proposal places Bilsdale Midcable in their proposed Helmsley and Ampleforth in the interests of achieving marginally better electoral equality for Helmsley and Ampleforth. Bilsdale Midcable is located in the former Hambleton district and part of the existing Great Ayton division.

With regards to the community identity criteria, the parish primary school at Chop Gate is in a federation arrangement with Carlton and Faceby school (located in the proposed Stokesley division). The parish also falls within the catchment of Stokesley secondary school rather than in the catchment of Helmsley.

<https://bilsdalecarltonschoools.co.uk/our-schools/about-our-schools/carlton-faceby-ce-school/>

With regards to effective local government criteria, in being part of the former Hambleton district, Bilsdale Midcable is subject to legacy issues such as licencing policy which are different to those applicable in the rest of the proposed Helmsley and Ampleforth division which has legacy issues from the former Ryedale district.

RPC makes no recommendation with regards to which division is most appropriate for Bilsdale Midcable, as this is primarily a matter for residents of that parish. However, we provide the evidence above so that the LGBCE can consider whether the proposed arrangement for Bilsdale Midcable achieves a suitable balance between the statutory criteria.

## Conclusion

In RPC's opinion, when viewed as a whole, the three proposed Stokesley area divisions achieve an acceptable balance between the statutory criteria.

Rudby Parish Council supports the LGBCE draft proposal for the Hutton Rudby and Appleton Wiske division.

