

Views passed to Lancaster City Council from Town and Parish Councils:-

Warton Parish Council

Warton Parish Council wish to object to the proposal that the existing Warton Ward be combined with Carnforth Ward. Councillors feel that because of its rural nature the ward best fits as at present with the villages to the north of Carnforth rather than with Carnforth urban area with which it has little or no similarity.

Councillors were particularly worried and annoyed to hear that the changes have been proposed purely to even up the workloads of district councillors putting the convenience of those councillors before the electors. As our current district councillor serves our ward well and at no time has complained about her workload we see no reason to change. Particularly as the proposal would see the ward lose the services of a single dedicated councillor to be replaced by any one of three representing Carnforth ward.

Councillors hope that Lancaster City Council will oppose this particular proposal in any submission made to the Review Body.

Carnforth Town Council

Carnforth Town Council is very concerned by the Local Government Boundary Commission Proposals for warding arrangements in Lancaster, particularly as they relate to Carnforth, Bolton-le-Sands and Warton.

Carnforth Town Council had hoped that the LGBCE would have used this review to right the wrong they committed at the last review by cutting off part of Carnforth Town and lumping it in with Bolton-le-Sands, much to the annoyance of several hundred electors from Crag Bank.

To this end, CTC submitted detailed proposals and arguments to the LGBCE – and we were surprised that there were no representations from City Council on this subject.

When we read the draft proposals, the Council was deeply disappointed that their arguments had been brushed aside and then aghast that the LGBCE have gone further – not only taking *more* from Crag Bank, but putting the rump of Carnforth in with Warton!

Carnforth Town Council believes that this is a travesty of local democracy and calls on Lancaster City Council, its leaders and its political parties to respond to these proposals and oppose them in the strongest terms.

We have made a detailed submission to the consultation arguing that the process is flawed and should be started again on different principles.

The Council looks forward to hearing your response.

Please let me know if you would like any further information or would like to see our objections.

Morecambe Town Council's Boundary Review Working Group's recommendations to Council (Morecambe Town Council meets tonight, 14 March 2013):

(1) That this Council makes the following observations to the Local Government Boundary Commission:

(a) With regard to the proposals as they would affect the whole Lancaster City Council Area:

- The proposals claim to seek a balance in population levels; however they do not appear to have taken into account major residential planning permissions that have been granted and developments that may take place due to forthcoming road development and major government energy policy decisions. For this reason the Council believes the proposed boundary changes are flawed and may require significant revision in the near future.
- Morecambe and Heysham would be under represented as there would be fewer councillors per head of population in the Morecambe and Heysham urban area compared to the Lancaster urban area i.e. 24 councillors in Lancaster, 20 in Morecambe and 16 in rural areas. This is surely unfair towards the Council Tax payers of Morecambe and Heysham as they would be clearly under represented compared to Lancaster. This appears to have been caused by giving more representation to the students at Lancaster University who are in temporary accommodation and do not pay Council Tax.
- The extension of Skerton into Torrisholme and the Parish of Heaton with Oxcliffe will be seen by residents as wholly unacceptable, as these areas have regarded themselves as part of Morecambe for many decades. Skerton wards rate highly on national ward deprivation levels with commensurate lower property values and higher insurance premiums. The boundaries are also poorly defined and will lead to confusion over ward representation.

(b) With regard to the proposals as they would affect the Morecambe Town Council Area:

- Councillors have established relationships with Local communities over a number of years, and the proposals within the Morecambe Town Council part of the district would divide existing communities, which could result in loss of community identity and even loss of property value, and this Council believes that Communities should matter more than simply numbers.
- The alterations to the Bare and Torrisholme boundaries as proposed are both illogical and ill defined. The existing railway boundary is a clear and unambiguous divide which clearly represents existing communities. The proposals would clearly divide this existing community and lead to

confusion over ward boundary representation and resistance to the draft proposals from residents.

- The proposed changes to the Poulton and Torrisholme boundaries are a retrograde step, as they would remove from the ward a significant level of mixed good quality residential development. This would result in the new Poulton ward being regarded as a more disadvantaged area together with having reduced councillor representation, together with potential reputational decline resulting in similar problems that occur in the West End of Morecambe.
 - The proposals would result in the boundaries for City Council wards and some Town Council wards not being the same e.g. Poulton, Bare and Torrisholme. This will lead to confusion amongst residents, and this Council would urge the ward boundaries of the Town Council to mirror those of the City Council. For example some electors will be in the Bare South Ward for the Town Council and Poulton on the City Council.
 - The proposals for Morecambe are inconsistent and do not appear to equalise/enhance councillor:elector ratios. Indeed, there would be three wards on the Town Council where representation would be significantly less than 1:1000.
 - The Town Council believes that across the political spectrum there is agreement that the proposals are wholly inappropriate and even morally wrong, whereby significant changes have to be proposed primarily because of the effect of Lancaster University students which would create unfair representative issues for electors of Morecambe and Heysham.
- (2) That the public be encouraged to write to the Local Government Boundary Commission expressing their dissatisfaction with the proposals and that the Town Council actively encourages the public to write through a stand in the Arndale Centre and local shops/community buildings in the days leading up to the closing date for submissions of 18th March.