

# North West Leicestershire

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Mr Michael Ball

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:** NWLDC (District or county councillor)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** I currently represent Oakthorpe/Donisthorpe/Acresford ward

I supported the creation of a 3-member ward in the SW of the District , covering 10 distinct communities from Appleby to Albert Village , not because I'm in favour of a 3-member ward ( with attendant "who does what" difficulties for members and constituents alike ) , but because it was the least worst option the NWLDC Review came up with , as it prevented the large village of Donisthorpe being split ( which would have been the case with all other options being considered ) . Large rural communities should be kept intact as a key principal of this Review . The approach taken by the NWLDC Review meant that the impact of significant amounts of housebuilding around urban areas , rightly necessitating boundary changes there , then had a knock-on ripple effect to rural areas , where existing boundaries could still deliver the right electors/ward with fairly minimal tweaking . Indeed the current boundaries of my own ward is projected to be within 3% of the new target electorate .

My suggestion to the Commission for a return to 100% single-member wards would be to proceed as follows :

Moira + Albert Village + Woodville = c2550 \*

Oakthorpe + Donisthorpe + Acresford = c2300 \*

Appleby ( inc Chilcote + Stretton ) ward to remain as now , resolve Packington/Heather issue by means other than "stealing" villages like Snarestone and Newton Burgoland , that have a long standing connection , from the existing ward

Combine Norris Hill with Blackfordby - Blackfordby is a village with its own strong identity , absorbing it into the Ashby urban area feels wrong geographically and emotionally , and goes against one of the core principals of the Review ; Blackfordby is much closer physically to Norris Hill than it is to Ashby .

I hope the Boundary Commission will relook at this SW corner of NWL with a fresh pair of eyes , as I feel there is the potential to preserve and build on the existing ward structure and keep communities together , without prejudicing the boundary changes needed elsewhere in the District . Had the District Council Review started in the tricky SW corner , rather than finishing there , I cannot help feeling that the proposed ward map would look very different .

\* Although clearly connected to and a part of Donisthorpe village , there are c140 dwellings that currently sit within Ashby Woulds/Moira ward/parish . Correcting this anomaly now would "even up" the number of electors in the 2 wards I propose above . The streets in question that are actually part of Donisthorpe but "in" Moira are :

Donisthorpe Lane

Park Road

Poplar Avenue

Shortheath Road

Measham Road

School Street

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*