

North Yorkshire

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Organisation Name: Bewerley Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Related subject: Nidderdale

The views of Bewerley Parish Council are detailed in the letter attached to this submission. The letter has been redacted to remove information identifying me. The conclusion of the letter is: Bewerley Parish Council urges the Local Government Boundary Commission to reject the proposal to include the Upper Nidderdale, Bewerley, and Pateley Bridge parishes within a new Wharfedale Division, and to instead include them in a new Nidderdale Division.

Attached Documents:

- letter-to-lgbc-5dec24-redacted.pdf



Bewerley Parish Council

Website: www.bewerleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Parish Clerk: [REDACTED]

Tel: 07713 673 794 Email: clerk@bewerleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Date: 5th December 2024

Dear Commissioners,

RE: Local Government Boundary Commission, consultation on the electoral review of North Yorkshire

Bewerley Parish Council makes the following observations on future division boundaries proposed by North Yorkshire Council (NYC) in its submission to the LGBC.

- 1) NYC is proposing a new Wharfedale Division made by combining the present Wharfedale division with Pateley Bridge and Nidderdale Moors division. The latter being made up of three parish councils, including Bewerley.
- 2) The new division is made up of a large rural area formed of the two distinct and separate communities of Wharfedale and Nidderdale.
- 3) Bewerley councillors believe that the new division is an unacceptable creation because it tries to unite two distinct communities geographically isolated from each other by a large, remote upland area linked only the B6265 road.
- 4) Historically Nidderdale was part of Harrogate Borough while Wharfedale was within Craven District. Being remote from each other communities in both dales were linked to different centres of local government and services namely Harrogate (Nidderdale) and Skipton (Wharfedale).

- 5) Nidderdale has its own identity, and many organisations work throughout the dale helping to create a cohesive community including:

Nidderdale Plus Community Hub

Nidderdale High School

Nidderdale Group Practice (GP service)

Nidderdale National Landscape (the former Nidderdale AONB)

Nidderdale Community Orchestra

Nidderdale Agricultural Society

Nidderdale Agricultural Show

Nidderdale Angling Club

Nidderdale Museum

Churches in the Dale

Dacre and Summerbridge Silver Prize Band

Vale of Nidd Masonic Lodge

- 6) It will be difficult for a single councillor to effectively represent two distinct communities which are geographically so far apart. For example, the distance, by road, between Buckden parish in Upper Wharfedale and Middlesmoor in the Upper Nidderdale parishes is approximately 30 miles, and the journey time is around one hour.
- 7) The NYC proposal does create a new division called 'Nidderdale' made up of some parishes in lower Nidderdale and the Washburn Valley. This new division excludes the largest settlement in Nidderdale, namely Pateley Bridge with its satellite villages of Bewerley and Glasshouses. Pateley Bridge is at the heart of the community, being the location of most of the organisations listed above in paragraph 5. It makes no sense to exclude the largest settlement in Nidderdale from the Nidderdale Division.
- 8) Bewerley Parish Council recognises that the divisional boundary review seeks to equalize the electorate in each division and that Pateley Bridge & Nidderdale Moors division presently has a smaller electorate. However, where there is a distinct and well-established community identity, as there is in Nidderdale, the LGBC Review guidance makes clear this should be taken into account. This proposal does not do so. The council believes however that it would be wiser, and

is feasible, to create a larger division by incorporating parishes from lower Nidderdale. This would avoid dividing up a community with a distinct historical and present-day identity for the sake of numerical simplicity.

The three Councils affected by North Yorkshire's proposal were not consulted about its impact. Bewerley Parish Council urges the Local Government Boundary Commission to reject the proposal to include the Upper Nidderdale, Bewerley, and Pateley Bridge parishes within a new Wharfedale Division, and to instead include them in a new Nidderdale Division.

I am copying this letter to the Chief Executive of North Yorkshire Council and to the Chairs of Pateley Bridge Town Council and Upper Nidderdale Parish Council.

Yours sincerely



Clerk to Bewerley Parish Council