

Westmorland and Furness Ward Boundary Review Consultation;

Upper Kent Ward

Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish was well described in the introduction to its first Parish Plan in 2009, a copy of which is enclosed with this submission. Little has changed in the intervening years and the council still comprises approximately 378 residents in 170 dwellings. Although it would be difficult to maintain under the Boundary Commission's criteria for representation, the council wishes to draw attention to the current deficiency whereby the Upper Kent Ward is represented by only a single councillor in contrast to the previous dispensation in which it enjoyed the attention of two district councillors and one county councillor. This deficiency has been felt most acutely in that the present incumbent has never attended a parish council meeting despite repeated entreaties and regular invitations (nor, for that matter have any invitations been acknowledged or apologies tendered.)

Effectively the council is denied representation – and the same in all probability must go for the adjacent parish meetings of Selside, Longsleddale and Fawcett Forest which, it is to be hoped will make their own cases.

The two communities of Burneside and Staveley with their concentrations of population and greater range of public and social concerns probably fare better but these are more of an urban nature than those of the rural hinterland. An additional ward councillor with a 'rural' outlook or, at least the opportunity to propose and elect such would strengthen the parish council and reassure residents that their interests were being recognised.

Yours sincerely,

John Chapman

Chair, Skelsmergh and Scalthwaiterigg Parish Council.