

Westmorland and Furness

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: NA (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: NA

Sent on behalf of an Ulverston resident. He is 76 years old and cannot get your form to work.

Below are his views

THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION WOULD LOVE TO KNOW WHAT WE THINK ABOUT WESTMORLAND AND FURNESS COUNCIL
There's only one problem. I can't get their website to work. When I fill the form in and press SEND MESSAGE, a little clock goes round then an error message in red appears at the top of the page saying "Oops, something went wrong. Check your browser's developer console for more details." There's no email acknowledgment of receiving anything
I'm 76 years old, technologically obsolete and probably doing something very stupid, if someone else would like to try it
<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/westmorland-and-furness>

The message I wanted to send in 'Have Your Say' was ...

A geographically and socially defined section of the population of the recently-formed Westmorland and Furness local authority feel that they have been gerrymandered into the new arrangement, and have been effectively disenfranchised and discriminated against.

The industrial and post-industrial wards of Furness are socially, historically and politically different from the rural and tourist-based wards of Westmorland.

There is a very clear political divide. Westmorland is overwhelmingly Liberal Democrat. Furness is a mixture, but does not return any Liberal Democrat councillors. However, Westmorland is politically dominant and controls the W&F cabinet.

There was considerable ill-feeling when W&F modernised and refurbished Kendal library (Westmorland – LibDem), while shortly afterwards closing Ulverston Library (Furness – Labour, Green, Conservative).

The situation came to a head recently when the W&F cabinet completely ignored the recommendations from a call-in meeting to review the library. The scrutiny committee concluded that the council's consultation regarding Ulverston Library was not fair and transparent, and needed to be reviewed. A few days later the council announced that the closure was permanent.

This political imbalance is a geographical and structural problem that is probably unfixable. I would therefore suggest that all wards west of Grange-over-Sands should be transferred out of W&F and amalgamated with Cumberland Council. These wards are Dalton North, Dalton South, Hawcoat and Newbarns, Old Barrow and Hindpool, Ormsgill and Parkside, Risedale and Roosecote, Walney Island, Low Furness, High Furness (Broughton) and Ulverston.

Attached Documents:

None attached