

**Local Government Commission for England and Wales**

**Electoral Review of Lancashire**

**Draft Recommendations**

**Response from Thornton Action Group**

3<sup>rd</sup> January 2016

Dear Sir,

Thornton Action Group (TAG) met last month (December 2016) to consider the draft recommendations of the LGBCE for electoral division boundaries of Lancashire.

We were disappointed that the LGBCE had not taken on board TAG's view that Thornton and Cleveleys should each be recognised as separate divisions, given that each has the requisite number of electors.

We would ask the LGBCE to look again at its draft recommendations in the following areas.

- 1 The combining of South Thornton (Stanah Ward and half of Marsh Mill Ward) with the Over Wyre parishes of Hambleton, Stalminewith Staynall and Out Rawcliffe. These Over Wyre parishes are rural in character and have very different needs regarding transport, education etc from the urban areas of Thornton South. Moreover, Over Wyre is separated from Thornton by the wide expanse of the Wyre Estuary and can only be accessed by going outside of Wyre Borough and through Fylde Borough.
- 2 The splitting of wards between divisions is not practical and confusing for electors and Councillors. It makes no sense to divide Marsh Mill Ward, and the inclusion of a small area of Jubilee Ward in the proposed Cleveleys East Division is very strange.
- 3 The nomenclature of some of the proposed Divisions should be reconsidered.
  - A Division 75 includes two Thornton Wards – Pheasant Wood and Bourne – and is better named Cleveleys East and Thornton North.
  - B Marsh Mill Ward being east of Amounderness Way is clearly part of Thornton and yet half of the Ward is included in Division 76 to be called Cleveleys South & Carleton.
  - C Division 80 is to be called Thornton and Hambleton and yet over half of Thornton lies outside this division. Thornton South and Hambleton would be more appropriate.

We do understand the political importance of creating divisions which have approximately the same number of electors in each division. However, we do urge the LGBCE to reconsider its draft proposals for Thornton in the light of what we have said above.

Yours faithfully,

Howard Phillips Vice-Chair Thornton Action Group

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