

Comments on the draft recommendations for Natland and Kendal made during stage three of the Community Governance Review

Andy Clifford, resident of Helsington Parish

First - access to this site, and finding information, then this submission was very easy - well done!

Helsington and Brigsteer PC have submitted a proposal for boundary change for the Parish. The A 591 is physical, geographic and communication barrier to successful governance and duty of care for the PC.

I fully support Helsington and Brigsteer PC with their proposal to change the boundary and wish to acknowledge the logic of this initiative.

The boundary change proposed for Helsington and Brigsteer Parish would create a more relevant and cohesive unit for this level of governance.

I recommend that the new boundary be adopted, as proposed by the PC. Please put the procedures in place to manage this relevant change.

Graham Wilson, resident of Helsington Parish

We received two comments from this respondent, which have been counted as one response for our summary

Response 1

We have recently been informed that Helsington Parish Council have wishes for our land and properties Larkrigg Farm and Larkrigg Stables to be taken out of the parish. This is the first we have heard of this with no communication at all from Helsington Parish Council. We believe the deadline is Friday and we do not want to leave the parish.

Larkrigg has been in the parish of Helsington for hundreds of years and was originally part of the Sizergh Castle Estate, since 1260 actually. It seems incredible that we have not been approached directly by Helsington Parish Council to discuss this matter but we have since been informed by them that they have no obligation to do this.

We note that Helsington Parish Council have stated in their submission that we have little or no connection to Helsington, this is unbelievably insulting as I was a Helsington Parish Councillor up until a couple of years ago and that Larkrigg has been in the Parish since its inception. I personally have lived in the parish for 56 years with my parents living in it from 1957.

Response 2

We understand that Helsington PC are suggesting that the boundaries be changed east of the A590. In the submission by Helsington PC they have said we have little or no connection to Helsington this is unbelievably insulting as I was a Helsington Parish councillor up until a couple of years ago and Larkrigg has been in the Parish since its inception. Larkrigg formed part of the Sizergh Castle Estate from 1260 actually, until my parents bought the Farm in 1957 from the National Trust. We believe we have a very strong connection to the Parish and would like to remain.

Jane Saunders, Clerk to Helsington Parish Council

Helsington Parish Council agrees that parish councils play an important role in community empowerment at a local level.

In order to ensure any future changes to our Parish Council bring about improvements to community engagement and cohesion plus efficiency in the delivery of local services we propose the following recommendations. These have been based on the expected outcomes in:

Guidance on Community Reviews (GCR) published by Local Government Boundary Commission March 2010

Background for Community Governance Review (CGR) published by South Lakeland District Council

RECOMMENDATION	GCR / CGR CRITERIA
1. Parish boundary to be wholly within the National Park Boundary	1. This would ensure effective and convenient implementation of planning regulations
2. Currently our parish straddles the A591. In order to remove this physical barrier in the parish we recommend the areas east of A591 should be relocated to councils such as Natland and Kendal	2. This would support closer alignment to local communities thereby improving community cohesion.
3. Properties on the Moss and Barrowfield, e.g. Barrowfield Farm, Quiggins Field and Low Plain, which are currently part of Underbarrow Parish, to be re-designated to Helsington Parish.	3. Would support greater integration and community cohesion.

This review gives us the opportunity to put in place strong boundaries that are closely aligned to geographical/natural locations and administrative organisations such as The National Park.

Given the review aims to ensure that the parishes reflect community identity and interest and are viable as administrative units, Helsington Parish Council believes that there would not be any gains in joining groups of parishes together. We firmly believe that with the proposals outlined above a new parish of 150 - 200 electors with 7 Parish Councillors that is centred on Brigsteer would be the most effective and appropriate model in meeting the aims and outcomes of the review at both a local and national level.

Excerpt from Natland Parish Council's stage three response, concerning Helsington

'...NPC notes SLDC's wish to hear views about Helsington Parish Council's proposals to transfer large areas to adjacent parishes.

NPC regards the River Kent as an appropriate and effective western boundary to the community of Natland. Residents further west, whether to the A6/A591 or to the new national park boundary, would have little or no connection with Natland and would not be well served by such a transfer.

The only residents of that part of Helsington parish lying east of the River Kent are the Wilson family of Larkrigg Hall Farm. Whenever the question of boundary change in that area has arisen, beginning with the implementation of the 1972 Local Government Act, NPC has sought their views. They have again recently confirmed that they regard themselves as part of the community of Helsington rather than of Natland, and NPC accepts that their views should be respected...

Therefore Natland Parish Council...has no wish to acquire that part of Helsington Parish lying east of the River Kent without the express consent of the affected residents; and has no wish to acquire any part of Helsington Parish lying west of the River Kent in any circumstances...'