

Annual Assembly of Kentmere Parish Meeting – 22nd April 2013

SLDC Community Governance Review 2013

South Lakeland District Council has commenced a Community Governance Review of all parishes within South Lakeland, in accordance with the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and Local Government (Parish & Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008.

The Council is now undertaking Stage One of the Review; its purpose is to enable the Council to consider what changes, if any, are required to existing parish arrangements within the District, to ensure that they reflect the identities and interests of the communities in the area and that they provide effective and convenient governance at the local level. The review began on 4th February and any depositions should be with SLDC by 7th May 2013

The Terms of Reference for the Review have been published and can be viewed at the Council Offices, South Lakeland House, Lowther Street, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4UQ, and are available on the Council's website at <www.southlakeland.gov.uk/cgr> along with other documents and information about the Review. Alternatively, contact the Council's Electoral Services Team for a copy of the Terms of Reference.

Stage Two of the Review will look at the comments made in Stage One and propose options for any changes suggested as Draft Recommendations which will be published in July.

Stage Three will provide a further period of consultation and final recommendations will be published in December before a Re-organisation Order in January 2014

Regarding Kentmere Parish Meeting:

This would be an opportunity to iron out some anomalies in our parish boundary. Crofthead and Ullthwaite Fold are presently in Hugill Parish - over the hills with no direct access from the rest of that parish and yet are within the Kentmere Valley and have to use the valley road to access their properties which are only a matter of 100 metres or so from the Kentmere "border". Similarly Boundary Beck and Millriggs are both in Staveley parish but are at least a couple of miles from the next nearest house in Staveley and yet only yards from the Kentmere "border". The residents in these properties all seem to have more identity with Kentmere than with the other parishes.

I have followed this through with Claire Marsh at SLDC who is responsible for this review and her advice is, "to formally set these required changes down in writing from the parish meeting. If at all possible, a letter from the residents of the affected properties requesting that they be included in the parish of Kentmere would really be helpful too."

To make this possible the Parish Meeting will need to agree to a proposal to the effect that we ask for these four properties to be included in the Kentmere Parish.

Iain Johnston
Chairman: Kentmere Parish Meeting