

KEMNAY COMMUNITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
THURSDAY 13th AUGUST 1998

Present: Mr W Wainman, Mrs M Wainman, Mrs J Campbell, Dr J Piggins
Also attending: Cllr A Leitch

Apologies: Mr A Davies

Proposed Changes to Boundaries

After much discussion on the proposed changes to boundaries, the attached letter of opposition was sent to the Boundary Commission.

Naming of roads in new developments

We had received letter from Aberdeenshire Council asking for our comments on suggested names for new roads.

Kaimhill - suggested Kaimhill End - recommended Waggatie Wynd

Burnett Arms - suggested Crombie Court - recommended Beech Court or Corbie Court

Kemnay Community Council

Mrs J Campbell
Secretary
Greenlea
Parkhill
Kemnay
AB51 5PL

The Secretary
Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland
3 Drumsheugh Gardens
Edinburgh EH3 7QJ

24th August 1998

Dear Sir

THIRD STATUTORY REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS: ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

A special meeting of Kemnay Community Council was convened on 13th August to consider proposals of the Boundary Commission to increase the number of wards in Aberdeenshire from 47 to 68. The Community Council are unanimous in opposing these proposed changes for the following general reasons:

- Since 1974 there have already been several changes in boundaries - another change would cause confusion yet again (especially in view of the complex and new arrangements for the Scottish Parliament elections also due in May 1999).
- Areas have been rearranged into Wards of approximately 2,600 - what happens as population increases within those Wards - yet another change?
- People should be geographically close to their ward centre to promote sense of community spirit. This is more important than precise equalisation of numbers in wards.
- Under new proposals with arbitrarily drawn boundaries, neighbours could have different Councillors, and Councillors could have to deal with more than one MP.
- Unnecessary expense which could be better spent on improving facilities/services.
- No Parliamentary parties want it - cannot identify anyone who thinks it is a good idea
- No obvious improvement in democratic representation.
- More Councillors makes decision making even more lengthy and difficult.
- It is not the number of electors, but paperwork and reading, which is a burden for Councillors.
- Quality of Councillor rather than number of electors.
- Difficulty in finding more Councillors.

More specifically to Kemnay (EW 43):

- Area to north of Kemnay now linked with Echt (EW 44) - far more sensible to link with Kintore or Inverurie. Likewise Bogbeth Road area (as far as Leschangie Croft at NJ7390 1396) - in both cases electors there need to drive through Kemnay to reach Echt Ward.

We trust that our concerns will be taken into account, but official consultation during holidays making discussion difficult and a deadline just a few days before final decision is made raises doubts as to the genuine will of the Commission to heed comments.

Yours sincerely

J A Campbell
Secretary, Kemnay Community Council

cc Sir R Smith MP
Cllr A Leitch