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Clerk and RFO  
Whalley Parish Council  
C/O 14 Black Lane Croft  
Clitheroe  
BB7 2EZ

Boundary Commission for England  
35 Great Smith Street  
London,  
SW1P 3BQ

26 July 2021.

Dear Commissioner,

**Parliamentary Boundary Commission Review – Response by Whalley Parish Council**

Whalley Parish Council is writing to respond to the Parliamentary Boundary Commission Review for England.

The Parish Council objects to proposals for following reasons:

The Framework being used to review Parliamentary Boundaries is restrictive (69,724-77,062) and for residents of Whalley creates a new artificial boundary that in no way represents the natural connectivity of the residents of Whalley to the Ribble Valley.

Whalley Abbey and Whalley East being reallocated into the new Hyndburn constituency but Lamb Roe and Whalley Nethertown remaining in the Ribble Valley constituency. The proposals see Whalley carved up.

Whalley is in the heart of the Ribble Valley and one the three principal settlements that make up Borough (Clitheroe, Longridge and Whalley).

The historic ties to the Ribble Valley have developed over hundreds of years. Whalley is steeped in this history and remains a distinct rural location. Amalgamating this community into the largely urban centres of Hyndburn (Church, Accrington, Oswaldtwistle, Great Harwood, Clayton Le Moors) creates an artificial boundary that people will not identify with.

As many western societies see rising numbers of people disengage from the political process, whether at a local, Borough, County or National level, creating an artificial boundary by dividing up Whalley will only serve to alienate more people.

In a nutshell, Whalley is a rural community that has grown exponentially over the past ten to fifteen years. It has grown as service centre and will continue to grow. The Parish Council believes this distinct semi-rural service centre has no affinity or identity with the predominantly urban area of Hyndburn.

In terms of a sense of belonging, patterns of shopping, education, and employment the population of Whalley does not naturally look towards or identify with the population of Hyndburn. Identity is towards the Ribble Valley in the first instance, and the wider areas of Preston and Manchester.

Whalley Parish Council would like the whole of Whalley to remain in the Ribble Valley.

Should you wish to clarify any points do not hesitate to contact me on [clerk@whalleyparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@whalleyparishcouncil.org.uk)

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Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer