

Cumberland

Personal Details:

Name: Mrs Emma Chapman

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Workington Town Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Related subject: Workington

Please see attached document.

Emma Chapman

Chief Officer

Workington Town Council

Attached Documents:

- wtc-cumberland-lgbce-revised-proposal-final.pdf

Workington Town Council

Town Hall, Oxford Street, Workington, CA14 2RS

Telephone: 01900 702986

Email: office@workingtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.workingtontowncouncil.gov.uk



Review of Ward Boundaries for Cumberland Council and Workington Town Council

Revised Commission Proposals December 2025

Submission by Workington Town Council

The Local Government Boundary Commission has made further draft recommendations for changes to ward boundaries which affect Workington. They are open to responses to be made to the Commission by 26 January 2026. They will publish final recommendations in May 2026 for parliamentary approval and if approved, they will be used for elections from May 2027.

Workington Town Council might not usually comment on proposals for another Council's warding arrangements. However, changes to Cumberland Council wards have direct consequences for warding arrangements for Workington Town Council, and on that basis, it is appropriate for the Town Council to take a view.

This paper uses the Commissions proposed names throughout, to avoid confusion. Alternative names are then suggested in the tables at the end of this submission below. References to polling districts (PD) are as geographic identifiers only, as they will change following boundary changes. Electoral numbers are taken from latest estimates by the Elections Officer.

Cumberland Council wards

We think the further draft recommendations for the two revised proposed wards in Workington are an improvement on the original recommendations. However, we propose that the "Workington Stainburn & St Josephs" ward should be called "Workington Stainburn & St Johns". "St Josephs" is not a geographical term which would be recognised by the electorate; that proposed ward, outside of Stainburn, is recognised by the electorate as "St Johns", and that was the name of the ward of which that area formed the majority for a century.

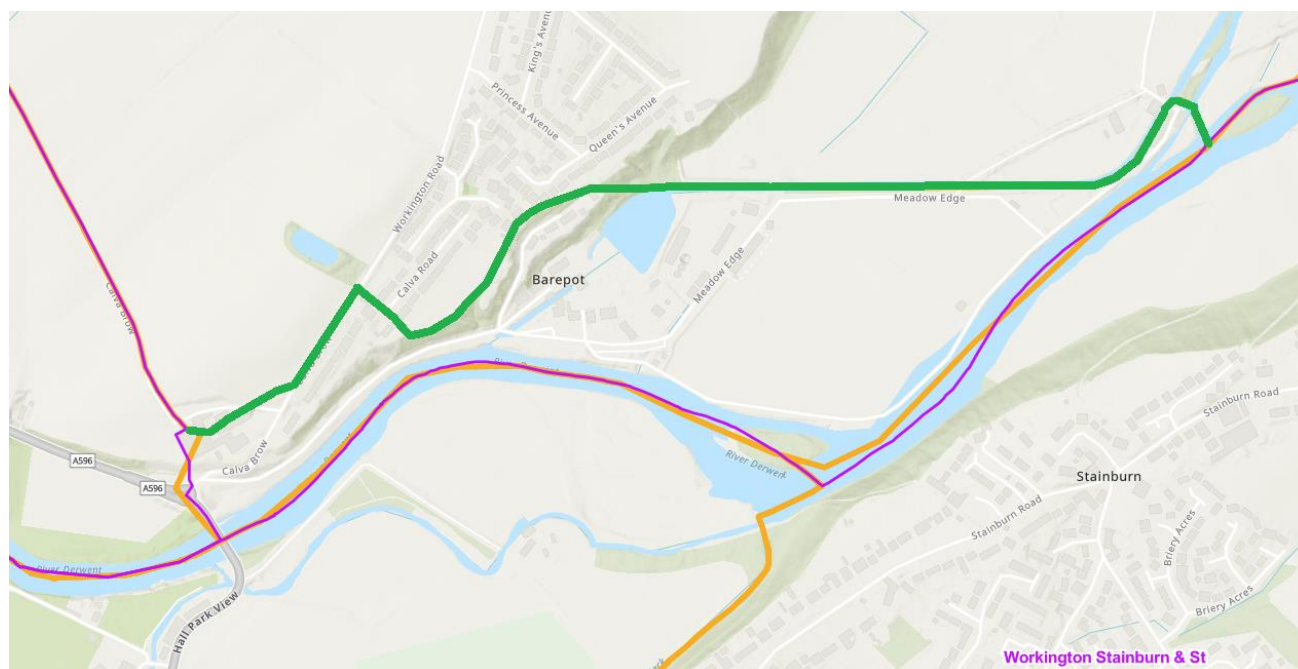
Seaton / Workington Port

We propose, again, an adjustment to the southern boundary of Seaton ward to exclude the area of Barepot (PD CX7) and include it in the Workington Port ward for Cumberland Council (and Northside parish ward as it is at present).

Reasoning:

- i) Including Barepot (currently PD CX7) in the proposed Seaton ward requires that it become an isolated “orphan ward” in the Town Council warding pattern (since parish wards cannot cross Cumberland ward boundaries) with an electorate of only 116 which is well below the notional quota for the Town Council of c768 electors per town councillor and is not, we suggest, a viable ward; this has the consequence that electoral equality suffers across the rest of Workington wards.
- ii) Barepot may appear on a flat street map to be adjacent to Yearl Rise, Calva Park and Princess Ave, but there is a difference of 30 meters in levels, made up of a steep and heavily wooded slope through which there is not so much as a footpath. This forms a natural boundary.
- iii) Barepot residents live in Workington town/parish area with which they identify for all local services and do not regard Seaton as their local service centre.

[amended ward boundary shown green below]



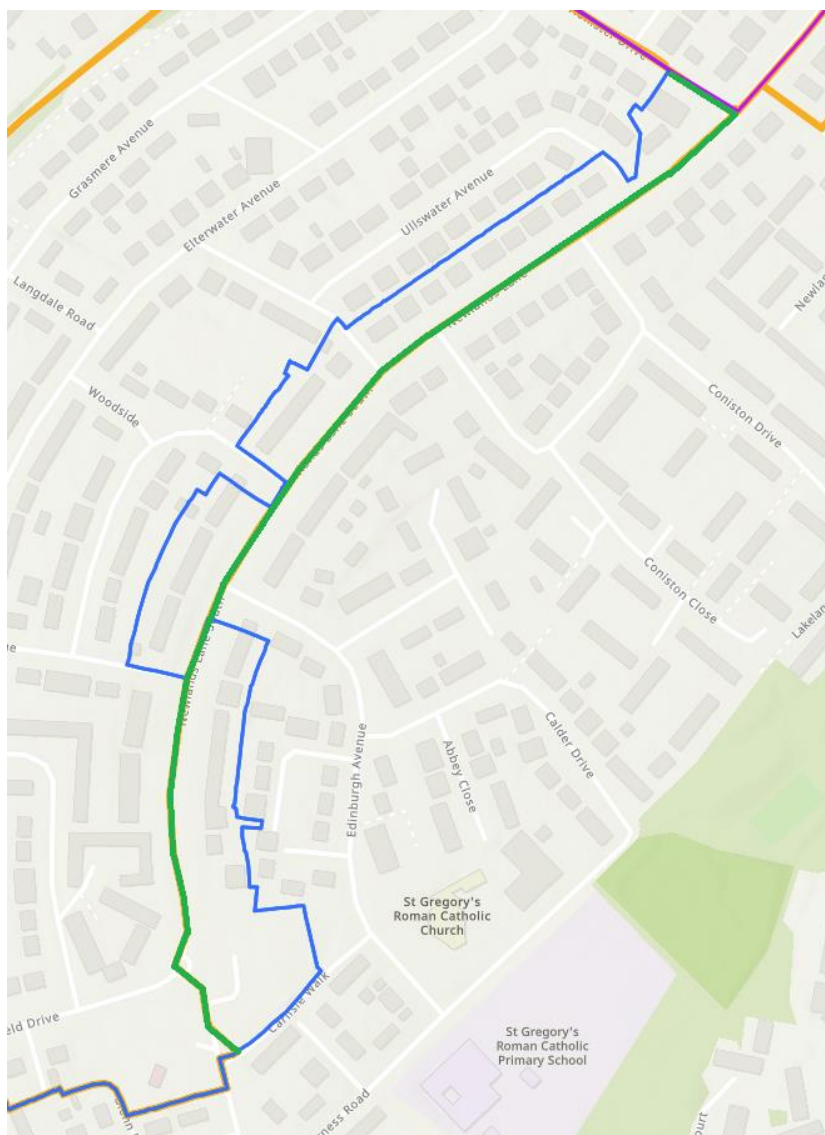
Westfield / Moorclose

The boundary between “Westfield” and “Moorclose” wards along Newlands Lane South (between Honister Drive and Westfield Drive) should follow the centre line of Newlands Lane.

Reasoning:

- i) The proposed Cumberland boundary wavers from one side of Newlands Lane South to the other without any apparent reason. This will cause confusion to electors and to those public services which are organised by ward. Newlands Lane South is a main thoroughfare; running the boundary along Newlands Lane South is clearer and comprehensible. Roughly equal numbers of electors will move wards in each direction as a consequence, so the effect on electoral equality will be minimal if any.
- ii) We note that the mapping of Town Council wards shows that boundary running along the centreline of Newlands Lane South as we suggest; having a different boundary there for the Cumberland wards is an anomaly and both boundaries should follow Newlands Lane South.

[amended ward boundary shown green below]



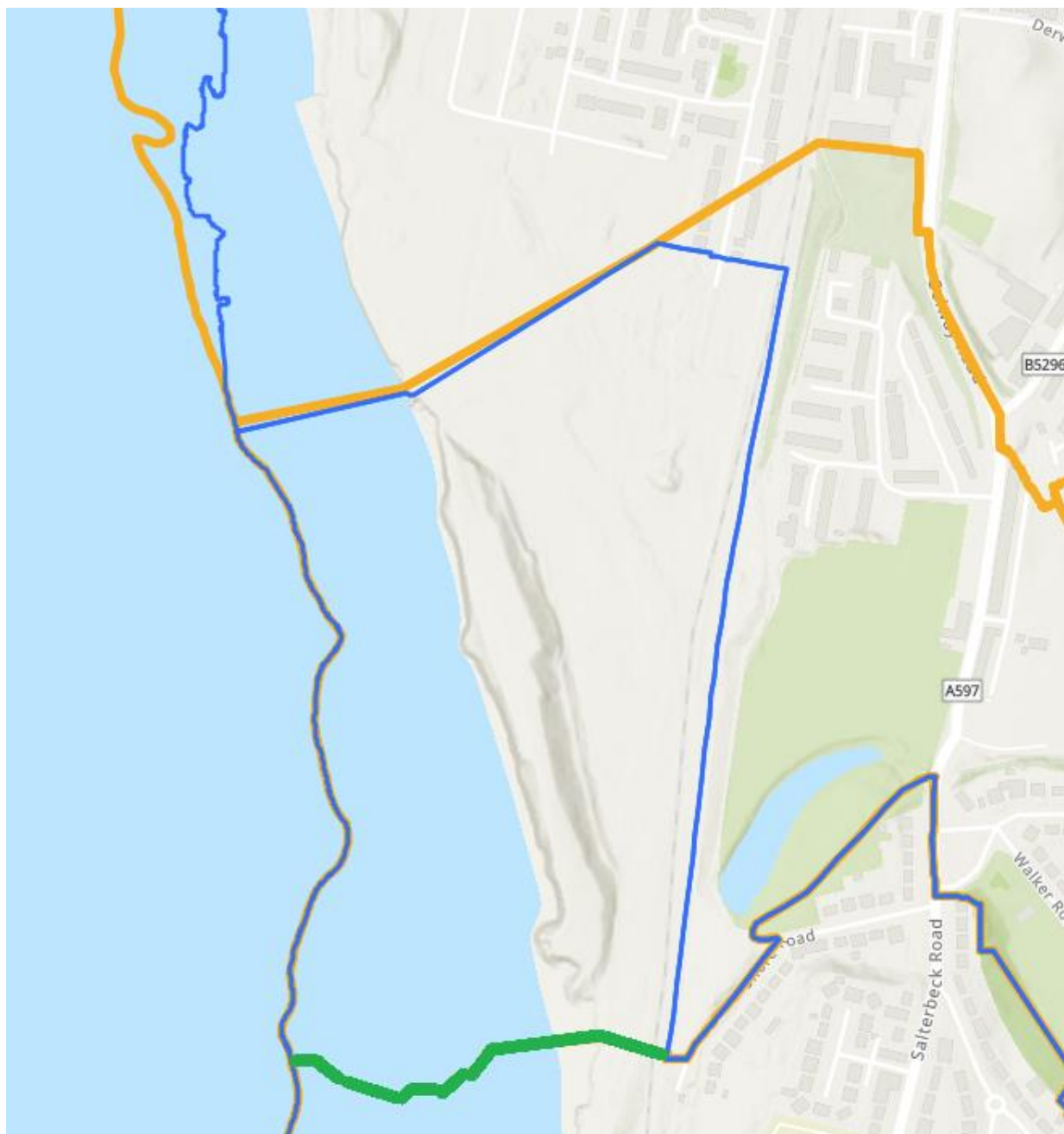
Grayling Way (Boundary issue)

The Commission mapping shows a Cumberland boundary splitting a Town Council ward in half which is an anomaly: the boundary should be the same for both Cumberland Council and Workington Town Council wards.

To correct this the boundary between the Westfield and Harrington Cumberland wards should run from Shore Road to the coast.

See also reference to Grayling Way in discussion of Workington parish ward boundary below.

[amended ward boundary shown green below]



Workington Town Council wards

The pattern of parish wards in place in Workington (2019 election) very closely reflects the real neighbourhoods of the town. They are not just wards: in most cases they are places of long standing and recognised as such by electors. We therefore welcome the revised map of Town Council wards which recognises those established neighbourhoods.

However, we do not agree with the proposal to have a separate ward for Barepot (called "Seaton" parish ward). With an electorate of only 116 (approx.) this is not a viable ward. We recognise that this is a consequence of putting Barepot into Seaton ward for Cumberland Council warding, but as we have suggested above, that ignores Barepot's identity as an integral part of Workington, not Seaton, and leaves Barepot ("Seaton") as an orphan ward. It should be part of Northside parish ward as it is at present.

There remain some minor adjustments to parish wards which we believe are necessary:

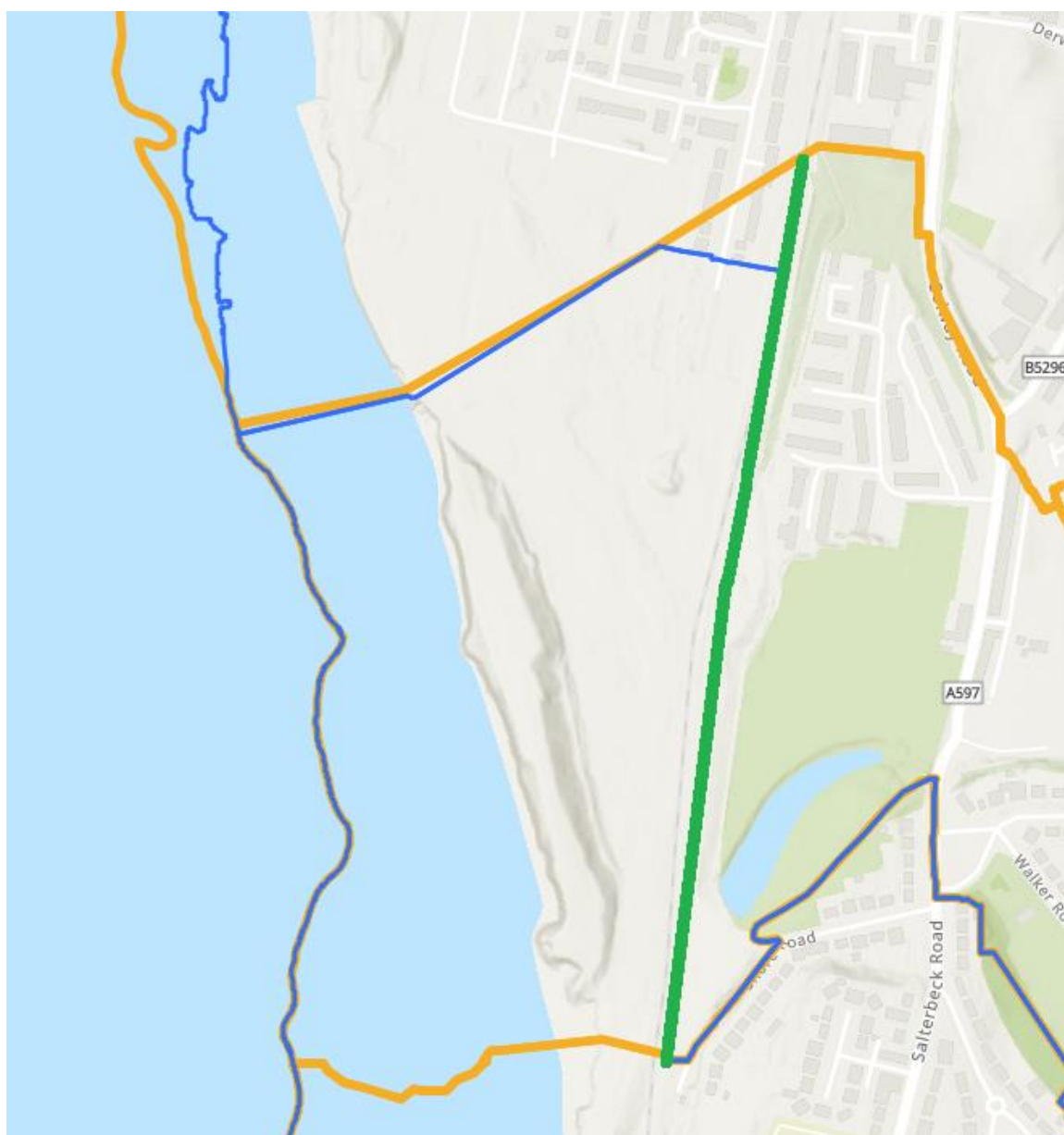
Grayling Way (Boundary issue)

The Commission mapping shows a Cumberland boundary splitting a Town Council ward in half which is an anomaly: the boundary should be the same for both Cumberland Council and Workington Town Council wards.

To correct this the boundary between the Westfield North and Low Salterbeck (counter proposed to be Salterbeck North, see below) parish wards should follow the path of the railway line from the south of Derwent Road to the proposed new boundary between Westfield and Harrington Cumberland wards at Shore Road.

See also reference to Grayling Way in discussion of Cumberland ward boundary above.

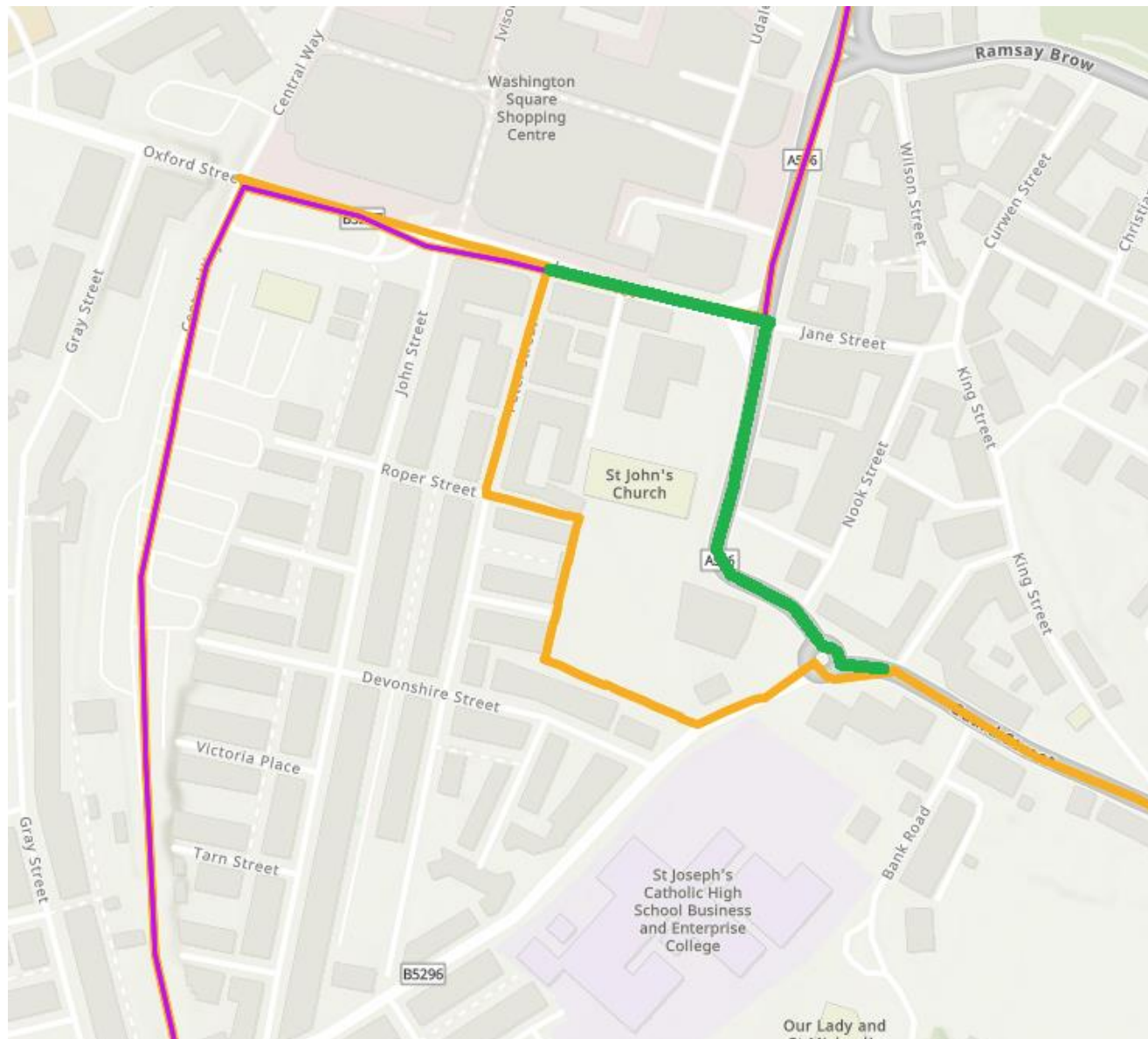
[amended ward boundary shown green below]



Old Town / St Josephs (but we propose St Johns as the name for that parish ward)

The separation of this small area from the rest of the ward covering Peter Street and John Street is shown on the Commission mapping of Town Council wards. This is anomalous: the boundary should follow Jane Street, Washington Street and Guard Street.

[amended ward boundary shown green below]



Cumberland Council ward names

Workington, in particular, is made up of a number of neighbourhoods with which people identify. Dissonance between names of wards and the real places of the same name can cause confusion disaffection and alienation, and we know that trust in government is at an all-time low. Messing with people's local identities doesn't help. Where wards don't map on to real places it may be better to use different names entirely, such as compass points. This is the case with Cumberland wards which are much bigger than our recognised neighbourhoods and were using the name of just one neighbourhood when the ward is much bigger than that alienates and confuses.

Apart from the two new wards in the revised proposal, the Commission is proposing to use the names of neighbourhoods for the other three wards in Workington Town Council area. Unfortunately, the boundaries do not fit the names the Commission is proposing, which will cause confusion. We therefore submit again that the names of the three wards which the Commission calls "Moorclose" "Westfield" and "Harrington", but do not correspond with those neighbourhoods as understood by local people, should be "East" "West" and "South" respectively.

Workington Town Council ward names

We welcome the Commission's proposals for Town Council ward names except:

- i) The area which the Commission proposes to call "St Josephs" - the Newlands Lane / Banklands / Harrington Road / John Street / Peter Street / Infirmary Road / Frostoms Road area – is recognised by most people as "St Johns" and that is the name which should be used. We recognise it does not quite include all of the former Town Council ward called St Johns but it does include the majority of it, including the historic core of that ancient ward.
- ii) The area which the Commission proposes to call "St Johns" – from Newlands Lane up to Ashfield Road and Moorfield Avenue – is a minority of the former ward of that name. That area is locally known as "Ashfield", which makes sense and that is what is on the road signs.
- iii) The ward which the Commission wants to call "New Town" is technically correct as a description of 19th century town planning, but that area is recognised by local people as "St Michaels".
- iv) The two Salterbeck wards would be more recognisable to local residents as Salterbeck North and Salterbeck South.

Table of names

Counterproposal for Cumberland Council ward names:

Commission Proposal	Counterproposal
Seaton	Seaton
Workington Stainburn & St Josephs	Workington Stainburn & St Johns
Workington Port	Workington Port
Moorclose	Workington East
Westfield	Workington West
Harrington	Workington South

Counter proposal for Workington Parish Ward Names:

Commission Proposal	Counterproposal
Seaton	[ward would not exist under proposed changes]
Northside	Northside
Harrington	Harrington
Westfield North	Westfield North
Moorclose West	Moorclose West
Moorclose East	Moorclose East
Westfield South	Westfield South
Low Salterbeck	Salterbeck North
High Salterbeck	Salterbeck South
St Johns	Ashfield
St Josephs	St Johns
Old Town	Old Town
Stainburn	Stainburn
New Town	St Michaels

NOTE: Whereas the information in the main part of the report is the majority response from WTC, there was also a proposal from a Councillor who would like you to consider the following:

My proposal is to make Moorclose one ward (Moorclose East and West don't make any sense).

The cut off point is Honister Drive mini roundabout and the Westfield Bridge that is Moorclose and always has been.

Westfield was always part of the Moss Bay ward and it worked, so I would like to revert to the original set up.

Salterbeck the same as Moorclose should be one ward and not Salterbeck North or South.

These boundaries and names have been like this since as long as I can remember and we should revert to the original boundaries and allocate elected members to each ward; we have 25 elected councillors in Workington.