

North Knapdale Community Council

**C/O Andrew Wilson, Secretary,
Rowandeane,
Tayvallich
PA31 8PR**

Local Government Boundary
Commission for Scotland,
Thistle House,
91 Haymarket Terrace,
Edinburgh,
EH12 5HD

September 19th, 2015

Fifth Electoral Review – Argyll & Bute

Dear Sir or Madam,

The Boundary Commission proposals for Argyll and Bute were discussed at the NKCC meeting held on the 18th of August, 2015. We were unanimous in our sentiment that these proposals are a great mistake.

We accept that there is a requirement for fewer councillors in Argyll & Bute. This is needed due to a reduction in population. Locally, there is a will to try and reverse this trend by attracting in new inhabitants, and we would suggest that disturbing the social cohesion of Mid-Argyll will serve only to make this more difficult. Many of the clubs, associations and charities that form part of the social infrastructure of this area draw their members from Lochgilphead Ardrishaig and North Knapdale use Mid Argyll in their names to designate the community to which they belong.

Mid-Argyll, as a concept of place, is deeply ingrained, and anything that attempts to artificially alter that will have a detrimental impact.

The only way to reach Kintyre and the Islands from North Knapdale, other than over the hills on foot, is by road through Lochgilphead and Mid-Argyll. We have a connection with Kintyre as part of Argyll, but not in any sensible way as a Council ward. We all consider that we live in Mid-Argyll.

Ardrishaig and Lochgilphead are communities that need to work more closely together, and forcing them apart at the Council level will cause unnecessary problems. Lochgilphead and Dalmally, for example, have very little in common. The current Mid-Argyll structure is coherent and contiguous, and any changes equate to an exercise in number crunching, rather than a sensible and representative ward system.

We feel that we know who our Councillors are here, and this is surely a good thing for democracy.

Surely, the reduction in Councillors could more simply be achieved by reducing the current 4 Councillor wards to 3 Councillors? This would result in the required outcome, without harming social cohesion.

Yours faithfully,

Andrew Wilson
(Secretary, NKCC).