

**Grant A (Alistair)**

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**From:** steven lyall [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 September 2017 23:50  
**To:** Local Govt Boundary Comm Scot  
**Subject:** Boundary review at Cardowan, Stepps  
**Attachments:** Letter to LGBCS re Cardowan Stepps boundary review from Mr and Mrs Lyall - Public consultation ending 06\_09\_17.pdf; Letter to LGBCS re 5th review of wards from Mr & Mrs Lyall 16\_10\_15.pdf

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find enclosed correspondence in relation to the current period of public consultation.

Please note that we are happy to have our comments and names published in connection with the boundary review.

Best Regards,

Steven and Kirsten Lyall



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Comments on Glasgow City Council and North Lanarkshire responses to Local Government Boundary Commission For Scotland consultation letter of 15 November 2016

by: Mr and Mrs Lyall



06<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Dear Sir or Madam,

**NB:** In addition to this letter we have attached our previous letter submitted to LGBCS during the period of previous public consultation as we feel that some points are cross-referenced below and that other points in our previous letter are worth re-iteration.

References to North Lanarkshire and Glasgow City Council responses are in black italics and our comments in red below:

### **North Lanarkshire Council points**

*In relation to access to the development from the south there is a proposal currently underway, funded by the Glasgow City Region City Deal, for a road connection. This is, however, at a very early stage.*

A planned access road (Ref: City Plan 1 and, City Plan 2 - Proposal T005) linking Dewar Road, South to Lochend Road, which if constructed would seem to be the only sensible reason to keep the area under boundary review within the Glasgow City Council area, but with plans for this road on hold since 2009 it does not appear likely that this will be constructed in the near future. The LGBCS Paper 2289 quotes that "Recently the Glasgow City Council Development Department (GCCDD) stated that "the road proposal is not currently viable". Indeed in the letter from Glasgow City Council Chief Executive Anne Marie O'Donnell to LGBC on 27th May 2015 (reference AMOD/JC/ci/boundary commission), I believe there was an admission made by the Chief Executive of Glasgow City Council that there are no plans to construct the road and that it would only be kept under review.

Additionally, whilst there may be a corridor of land identified through the Seven Lochs Wetland park for such a link road, this surely would be at odds with the sensitive ecology and environment of the park and if constructed, would also sever the Western extents of the park at Hogganfield loch and Frankfield loch and parts of Gartloch areas from the Eastern Bishop and Johnstone loch areas.

Without such a link road, the nearest Glasgow City Council public roads which ultimately link to the two main North Lanarkshire Council public roads (Dewar Road and Jackson Drive) which provide the only road access to our properties, are located several miles East and Westwards of us.

*In relation to education and in particular the capacity of local schools this Council has serious reservations about a proposal to move the boundary which would involve approximately 120 houses being taken into the North Lanarkshire Council area.*

*The local primary schools—St.Joseph's and Stepps Primary Schools – currently have capacity issues. The Council's Education Service considers that a capacity of 80%-90% is "optimal utilisation" for a primary school and currently St.Joseph's is running at 89% and Stepps*

*Primary School at 98% occupancy rates. A number of placing requests have been refused for both these schools and it highly likely that both schools will be refusing placing requests for the coming years due to existing capacity pressures. There are other housing developments in the area which are likely impact on both schools and solutions are currently being considered. In relation to the development currently zoned to Glasgow City Council, the expected pupil yield is approximately 36 pupils, based on the pupil product ratio of 0.3. Therefore, neither school has sufficient capacity to accommodate these pupils at present or in the next few years.*

*This Council would also like to highlight that there is another development, within the North Lanarkshire Council boundary, which also sits naturally within the Cardowan area but is currently zoned to St. Barbara's Primary School and Chryston Primary School. A local Councillor has been approached by residents asking for that area to be rezoned to St. Joseph's Primary School and Stepps Primary School. It has been advised that whilst the area sits within the Cardowan area, there is no capacity within the local Cardowan schools to accommodate the additional pupils. Therefore, as there are pupils in other areas within North Lanarkshire who cannot be accommodated at this time, it is not considered appropriate to rezone pupils who currently reside within Glasgow City area into the North Lanarkshire area ahead of existing pupils.*

*In order to accommodate the pupils from the transfer of this development, additional space would need to be created within both of the primary schools. There is no capital funding currently identified would be requesting a developer contribution. However, as the development has already been completed, no such contribution would be received from a rezoning. Therefore, any additional infrastructure costs would have to be met by North Lanarkshire Council.*

*It should be noted that there is no mention in North Lanarkshire response letter with regards any capacity issues at either Chryston Primary or Secondary schools or St. Barbara's Primary school, both of which are easily accessible from our development and which still are both significantly closer and easier to travel to than the nearest Glasgow City Council catchment schools. We believe that several other North Lanarkshire schools, all of which are understood to be closer than the Glasgow City Council catchment schools, which our development may also be zoned to, are not identified in the North Lanarkshire Council response letter as having any capacity issues. We both feel that we would be happy to be zoned to any available North Lanarkshire Council schools, all of which would be easier to travel to by car or public transport and some of which would potentially allow our children to walk to school.*

*In terms of the North Lanarkshire Council response letter that a financial contribution could not be obtained from the developers of the developments within the boundary review area, whilst this is true, it should be noted that a freedom of information request which obtained some information up to 2013 on Section 75 planning obligations which North Lanarkshire Council have received, revealed that Taylor Woodrow (now Taylor Wimpey) contributed £350,000 to NLC as part of Frankfield Loch (phase 1), obligations which were termed as "playpark improvements" and "management of nature reserve".*

*With this in mind, some form of financial obligations could feasibly also have been sought by North Lanarkshire Council from; Taylor Wimpey Frankfield Loch (phase 2), which could have alleviated the obviously known capacity issues at Stepps and St. Josephs primary schools.*

Many hundreds of houses have been built in the Stepps/Cardowan area over the last decade, the developers of which could also feasibly have been asked to make contributions to aid with expansions and/or improvements to schools to cope with increased numbers of school age children which these developments would also have brought to the area.

### **Glasgow City Council points**

*In relation to Millerston, there are two housing sites which will be developed over the coming years adjacent to the area referred to by the Boundary Commission. Robroyston Community Growth Areas (to the north of Millerston) has a capacity of 1,600 houses and is currently on site. There is also a site immediately to the west of the Millerston area. The Council owns part of the site and City Property (the Council's property ALEO) is expecting to bring a larger site to the market soon.*

*The proposed new Robroyston and Millerston railway station will secure enhanced public transport accessibility for existing and new residents in the Robroyston and Millerston area where significant residential development is planned over the next ten years through the formation of new access roads and car parking, will better link the two expanding communities. The proposed new station will help facilitate the future delivery of new housing to the west of Station Road, adding to the 1,600 houses already under construction at Robroyston.*

*Any loss of this area to North Lanarkshire Council and a potential redrawing of the boundary up to the railway line could further complicate delivery of the new station (between 2017-2019) through the creation of a new legislative boundary that cuts through or abuts the proposed new station site. For the delivery partners of the proposed new station (Scotrail, Network Rail, Stewart Milne, Elmford, GCC, SPT and Transport Scotland) this could result in the need for North Lanarkshire Council to be brought in to cover planning and roads matters instead of the current single authority (GCC) arrangement that exists.*

It is unclear what the above point raised by Glasgow City Council relates to and indeed the relevance to this boundary review, the only possible reasoning for this argument is the point highlighted by LGBCS that a boundary issue similar to that of our development may exist at Millerston.

This part of Glasgow City Council 's response is not relevant to the boundary area under review and therefore should not be considered. In any case, our development is situated several miles from the proposed Robroyston and Millerston railway station and is indeed separated from the nearby Cumbernauld to Glasgow railway line on which the proposed new station would be located, by the Bellway The Marches Phase 2 development, which is already located within the boundary of North Lanarkshire Council.

Finally, the other parts of Glasgow City Council's response letter which discuss review of options for provision of education for current and future developments and discuss development of housing around the Seven Lochs Wetland Area are both speculative and lacking in sufficient detail to be of real use in conjunction with this boundary review.

Yours faithfully,

Mr and Mrs Lyall

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

Mr & Mrs Lyall



October 16th 2015

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Fifth General Review of ward boundary proposals - Request for Review and Amendment of Glasgow City Council Ward 21 (North East)**

I understand that you are consulting with the public on your ward boundary proposals as part of your Fifth Reviews of Electoral Arrangements, following a period of consultation with Glasgow City Council.

I am writing to request that a review and amendment of the aforementioned ward boundary is made, to re-assign the following affected properties to a North Lanarkshire ward e.g. Strathkelvin Ward 5, in any proposals that you make to the Scottish Ministers/Secretary of State under the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (or equivalent procedure):

- The near-completed\* Bellway 'The Marches' housing development , which includes addresses within Dunlop Close, Crescent, Grove, Place and Wynd and which will ultimately comprise 100 homes (\***Note**: 3 houses are as yet unbuilt, but cannot be constructed until the site compound being used for the adjacent Bellway North Lanarkshire phase of The Marches development is removed); and
- The completed Miller Homes 'Rowan Grove' housing development including addresses within Dunlop Court, Gardens, Gate and Crescent which comprises 58 homes.

It should be noted that due to local topography and existing watercourses that further residential development will not be easily made within the surroundings to the two aforementioned developments. Although it is understood that the LGBCS would normally only recommend an amendment of local authority boundaries where a development has taken place across a council boundary e.g. if properties physically straddle a local authority boundary as was the case in the 2009 Cardowan review, it is felt by the majority local residents of the aforementioned two housing developments that there are several circumstances which make such a review and amendment necessary in this case, these include:

**1. Council Services**

Currently the only appreciable services provided by Glasgow City Council to the residents of the aforementioned developments are provision of street lighting and refuse collection. Other typical council services (covered in more detail below) such as education, local healthcare, amenities etc are not easily accessible and/or local to affected residents.

## **2. Education**

### **2.1 Provision of primary and secondary schooling**

Primary schools which are located closest to the two developments are Stepps Primary or St. Joseph's Primary which are both within easy and safe walking distance for children and their parents (1.1 miles and 0.6 miles distant respectively). This is the safest and most environmentally friendly option for families and local schools (see: Walk to School campaign by Living Streets and Healthier Scotland by Scottish Government). Both of these schools are within the North Lanarkshire Council boundary (Strathkelvin Ward 5).

The nearest school provision by Glasgow City Council is located in Easterhouse (Lochend Primary or St. Benedict's Primary). These are located 6.1 and 6.0 miles travelling distance respectively, requiring use of a private transport or the provision by the local authority of a school bus (no such service is provided at present). Public transport journey times are more than 1 hour, using at least 2 buses, and the nearest bus-stop on Cumbernauld Road is only accessible via. a 10-15 minute walk from our properties.

The nearest secondary schools to our properties are located at Chryston High, Muirhead (located 1.75 miles travelling distance) or Our Lady's High School, Cumbernauld, which is accessed via. an existing well utilised school bus service which picks-up/drops-off from Dewar Road.

Glasgow City Council nearest secondary school provision are either Lochend Community High School (6.1 miles travelling distance) or St. Andrew's Secondary School, Carntyne (4.9 miles travelling distance). Either option will require private transport or public transport, with a journey time of over 1 hour, using 2 buses.

Glasgow City Council has a statutory responsibility which now appears to align with the minimum legal requirements of section 42(4) of the 1980 Act (the provision was until recently more generous) to provide free school transport to children living more than 2 miles away for primary school and more than 3 miles away for secondary school ref: (<http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=8707>), although the information included within this article appears to be incomplete as to the process followed after the Free School Transport application form is completed and submitted.

### **2.2 Placing requests to alternative schools**

LGBCS Paper 2289 states "The nearest primary and secondary schools to the development are within North Lanarkshire council area. However there is the possibility to request that children should attend a school in a different council area for those living near to a council area boundary." I believe this statement relates to a comment made in a letter from Glasgow City Council Chief Executive Anne Marie O'Donnell to LGBC on 27th May 2015 (reference AMOD/JC/ci/boundary commission), to the effect that residents of the two developments chose to buy properties located in Glasgow City Council and have the option to make placing requests to North Lanarkshire Council to access schools which are just across the Council boundary. This is factually correct however placing requests are decided by a strict set of guidelines which differ between Councils, and which for North Lanarkshire are: <http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=5609>: including:

"Where there are more applications than places available, preference will be given in accordance with the following priority order:

- (a) in the case of a primary school, applications from children living in the delineated area but who could not be accommodated to date
  - (b) in the case of secondary school, applications from children living in the delineated area of an associated primary school but who could not be accommodated in the school to date
  - (c) in the case of a primary school, early entry requests from children living in the delineated area and considered for primary education
  - (d) applications from children with relevant medical conditions supported by the family doctor and the community medicine specialist
  - (e) in the case of a primary school, early entry requests from children living outwith the delineated area and considered ready for primary education
  - (f) applications affected by other factors, for example, family circumstances, presence of older siblings in the school, distance between home and school and curricular provision
- Once the applications have been considered in terms of the above admission criteria and where there are still more requests than places available, these places will be allocated by ballot."

Mr Lyall recently submitted a Freedom of Information request to North Lanarkshire Council to determine numbers of placing requests and the outcomes of these at our nearest primary/secondary schools, namely Stepps and Chryston Primary. The response confirmed that in the last 3 years 51 placing requests have been made to Chryston Primary, with only 4 granted following appeals made by parents and in the same period 24 placing requests have been made to Stepps Primary, with only 2 granted, including 1 granted following an appeal by parents, therefore it is clear that getting access to our most local schools via placing requests is not going to be an easy option for parents of school age children within the two housing developments. It is also worth noting that the placing request process must be undertaken for every child within each family, with no guarantee that siblings who are near in age will end up in the same primary or secondary schools together.

Whilst this raises the question of whether Stepps Primary and/or Chryston Primary/High schools could accommodate the extra 158 homes from our two developments, it should be noted that in the last few years 114 homes have been built by Taylor Wimpey in the North Lanarkshire based Frankfield Loch development just off Cumbernauld Road and a further 125 homes have recently received planning permission approval, all of which will have Stepps Primary as the catchment primary school and Chryston High School as the catchment secondary school. The 79 homes which are under construction in the North Lanarkshire based latest phase of the Bellway 'The Marches' will have Chryston Primary as the catchment primary school and Chryston High School as the catchment secondary school. This will make placing requests to either school by non-North Lanarkshire based school children even more difficult to obtain in the short term, but medium to long term plans must be in place by North Lanarkshire to cope with the additional numbers of school age children which will likely require to be accommodated by the North Lanarkshire based Bellway and Taylor Wimpey housing.

It should be noted that there are also 5 other local primary schools which are located within North Lanarkshire (St. Barbaras, Gartcosh, Auchinloch, Glenmanor and St. Michaels primary schools), which although further away from our two developments are all are still within closer travelling distance to us than our Glasgow City Council catchment schools.

### **3. Childcare**

Our childminder, who is the only professional childminder available to us in the local area, is based in the Honeywell housing estate in North Lanarkshire but may not be willing to travel the distance to any of the aforementioned Glasgow City Council schools in the near future, to collect our child on our behalf. This would cause a major issue which may force us to

either attempt to change our working patterns to enable us to drop off/pick up our child to/from school or disrupt our child's established relationship with their childminder and start them with a new childminder who would need to be based nearer his catchment school, but who would be further away from where we live.

#### **4. Transport links**

There is presently only one public road which provides direct access to and from our properties, which is Dewar Road, which is partly located within the boundaries of North Lanarkshire Council boundary and partly within the boundaries of Glasgow City Council, which has caused some issues with mix-ups in gritting responsibilities etc and personally discovered when I reported a serious road fault (collapsed manhole) adjacent to my property via. the Glasgow City Council Road and Lighting Faults (RALF) system, which was initially referred on to North Lanarkshire Council and after several months eventually repaired, by which Council I'm not sure. This single link road means that there is no physical access possible to any other Glasgow City Council facilities or services without leaving Glasgow City Council boundary and then travelling through North Lanarkshire Council to then re-enter the Glasgow City Council boundary.

A planned access road (Ref: City Plan 1 and, City Plan 2 - Proposal T005) linking Dewar Road, South to Lochend Road, which, if constructed would seem to be the only sensible reason to include our two developments within the Glasgow City Council boundary, but with plans to construct this road on hold since 2009 it does not appear likely that this is planned in the near future. The LGBCS Paper 2289 quotes that "Recently the Glasgow City Council Development Department (GCCDD) stated that "the road proposal is not currently viable". Indeed in the letter from Glasgow City Council Chief Executive Anne Marie O'Donnell to LGBC on 27th May 2015 (reference AMOD/JC/cj/boundary commission), I believe there was an admission made by the Chief Executive that there are no plans to construct the road and that it would only be kept under review.

Furthermore the nearest Glasgow City Council public roads which ultimately link to the aforementioned North Lanarkshire Council public road which provides sole access to our properties are located several miles East and Westwards of us.

All local bus stops/routes and train stations are located within North Lanarkshire and access to our properties if travelling by taxi is subject to addition to the fare of a boundary charge, even when travelling directly from Glasgow City Centre, as the driver must travel from Glasgow City Council through North Lanarkshire and back to Glasgow City Council to reach our properties.



## 5. Council amenities and facilities

### 5.1 Leisure centres

The tables below demonstrate that the typical local amenities and facilities which are most easily accessible and within walking distance are all based in North Lanarkshire, the most locally based identical Glasgow City Council amenities and facilities are provided for comparison.

Facility	Council Area	Distance from properties	Public transport journey time
Stepps Cultural Centre	North Lanarkshire	1.1 miles	N/A
Iain Nicolson Recreation Centre	North Lanarkshire	2.3 miles	21 mins (including 16 mins walking)
Garthamlock Community Centre	Glasgow City	3.9 miles	48 mins (including 26 min walking)

### 5.2 Libraries

Facility	Council Area	Distance from properties	Public transport journey time
Stepps Cultural Centre	North Lanarkshire	1.1 miles	N/A
Chryston Library	North Lanarkshire	1.8 miles	19 mins (including 16 mins walking)
Riddrie Library	Glasgow City	3.7 miles	24 mins (including 16 mins walking)

## 6. Healthcare

We are registered with our local GP who is based in North Lanarkshire, we are currently expecting our second child and as our child will be delivered at Glasgow Royal Infirmary there may be issues with cross-boundary midwifery and health visiting services. Our first child was until recently served by health visitors provided by North Lanarkshire but this has been changed, we believe because of the Glasgow City Council boundary issue. Prior to this change we were able to access local health visiting clinics which were easily accessible and a walkable distance, which with the changes will no longer be possible.

Local post natal services which are provided to support new mothers e.g. local breastfeeding clinic would also not be accessible to us therefore Mrs Lyall and others within our two developments would miss out on the opportunity to meet many other locally based mothers.

## 7. Local Community

Like many other similar families in our two developments, our young family have attended community groups, churches and amenities within the North Lanarkshire area; for example, Book-Bug and Mother and Toddler Group at Stepps Library and Learning Centre, Jumping Joeys at St. Joseph's Church, Cardowan, and attended the recently resurrected Chryston and Muirhead Gala days over the last couple of years and have developed a bond with our fellow local residents, the vast majority of whom reside within the limits of the North Lanarkshire Council boundary.

The families in the Bellway and Miller Homes developments have bonded far more with the local communities in Cardowan, Stepps and Muirhead and the physical separation which currently exists and will exist for the foreseeable future severely limits the relationship which can be built with any local Glasgow City Council neighbours outwith the 158 households within our two developments.

## **8. Easily Identifiable Boundaries**

Schedule 61 (1) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 sets out the rules to be observed in considering electoral arrangements and notes that (a) the desirability of fixing boundaries which are and will remain easily identifiable and (b) any local ties which would be broken by the fixing of any particular boundary. Geographically it makes total sense to align the Southern extent of our developments in a similar fashion to that of the Honeywell estate and feel that the reverse of is true of (b) above in that in our case re-fixing the particular boundary would actually strengthen existing local ties.

If you wish to contact us in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to do so using the contact details contained within this letter.

Yours faithfully,

Mr & Mrs Lyall