

During consultation, we received five submissions regarding these two wards. Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council, Councillor Gelder (of the same parish council), Councillor Ball and two local residents opposed our decision to move the hamlet of Acresford, which is part of the parish council area, into Appleby ward. They argued that this change would harm local community interests and disrupt effective and convenient local governance by dividing the parish between two wards.

We have carefully considered this feedback and recognise that placing Acresford in Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe ward would lead to a forecast electoral variance of -14% for Appleby ward by 2030. Despite this relatively high variance, we have decided to adopt this proposal as we agree with the evidence received that our draft recommendations would not provide the best balance of our statutory criteria. We consider that a Oakthorpe & Donisthorpe ward that is fully contiguous with Oakthorpe, Donisthorpe & Acresford Parish Council will better reflect local community identities and promote effective and convenient local government.