

# Norwich City Council Labour Group

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Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Dear Commissioners

Re: Ward Boundary Review

This submission on behalf of the Norwich Labour City Council Group is in support of the submission of Norwich City Council, agreed at the City Council meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup>, the City Council will be sending the detailed ward boundaries to you shortly and this document should be read in conjunction with that. This document contains the supporting reasons why we support the City Council's submission.

All but one of the recommendations (that for the Crome / Thorpe Hamlet ward boundary) was approved by both the Labour and Liberal Democrats groups, two out of the three groups on the council.

This document contains recommendations as to the ward boundary review of Norwich City Council. In producing these proposals we have been mindful of your commission guidelines.

Firstly we have completely fulfilled your guidance that our electoral arrangement should reflect the electoral cycle of the Council, in that we are proposing that the 39 city Councillors be elected by thirds in 13 wards.

As to the other two principal guidelines, we have tried to balance the need for electoral equality between the number of votes for each councillor and the need to respect community links. Within our

recommendations, each of which are supported by the reasons we are putting them forward.

We include the motion that was approved at the City Council as an appendix. We believe that the City Council will be providing the maps and GPS data.

Yours Faithfully



Cllr Paul Kendrick  
Secretary  
Norwich City Council Labour Group

# Bowthorpe Ward

Bowthorpe Ward is in regard to estimated number of electors in 2023, 10% above the quota. Given that most of Bowthorpe ward is surrounded by South Norfolk District Council and that University ward is 36% below the quota, the only reasonable option is to divide the BO4 polling district.

This part of Bowthorpe ward, shares with the western part of University Ward, the same secondary Shopping centre at West Earlham, most of the children attend the same schools and share the same local library at West Earlham. Both areas contain a high proportion of social housing.

# Catton Grove ward

The Catton Grove ward is very close to the quota and we would recommend that no change is made to the ward boundaries.

# Crome ward

Crome ward is under the protected quota of electors in five years' time by 10% while the Thorpe Hamlet ward will be over the quota by 38%.

The area we propose to move into Crome ward including the Telegraph Lane East and the homes to the east of that and the area north and including Kett's Hill. Thorpe Hamlet is the only ward where residential communities are adjacent to Crome Ward. We chose the boundary between the proposed Crome ward and the remaining Thorpe Hamlet, because we will think that the area to the west of this proposed boundary look towards the riverside area and should remain in the Thorpe Hamlet ward.

The boundary at present is half way down across Harvey Road, our proposal would create a natural boundary if extended to Yarmouth Rd, where the City boundary is.

Telegraph Lane East boundary links in with Wellesley Avenue area to Harvey lane. This is a natural division as the residential area is raised well above much of the TH4/5 polling districts beneath it.

Quebec Road to Plumstead Road forms another logical boundary also with Wolfe Road no longer being cut in two. Extending Crome ward down Kett's Hill as this is the main bus route to the Crome ward.

The reason for the transfer of this area is that there is already a considerable amount of shared community characterises between this area and the residents of Crome ward, especially those living in the Pilling Park estate in the present CRI polling district.

They share the same secondary shopping area in the Plumstead Road with the residents of the Crome Ward. They share the same local library in the Plumstead Road with the residents of Crome Ward.

They share with the same community centre with the residents of the Pilling Park community centre. They share with the residents of the Pilling Park estate in that the same local junior and infant schools, to which most local children in the area attend.

They share with the resident of Pilling Park in use of the local wood at Lionwood. They share with the residents of Pilling Park estate, the GP practice in Wellesley Road North.

Given that the new ward will contain 90% of the old ward of Crome, we recommend that the name of 'Crome' is retained for the new ward.

There are topographic reasons for choosing to including both sides of Telegraph Lane East (including Stan Petersen Close and High Green) this area is at a higher elevation than that to the west, therefore more closely following the military crest of the ridge. The same reason that we included both sides of Kett's Hill (including Ladbroke Place) for it is at similar elevation below Kett's Height.

While the Liberal Democrat Group and the Labour Group agreed at the City Council meeting on March 20<sup>th</sup> to all the other recommendations in City Council submission, we did not agreed as to the Crome and Thorpe Hamlet boundary, as the Liberal Democrats wished instead to add the TH1 polling district to the Crome Ward. However we can't support this because the TH1 polling district and the Crome ward is separated by Mousehold Heath and the prison. There is no direct public transport links and the two areas do not share any community facilities.

## Eaton and Town Close ward

We suggest that the area of the TC4 polling district to the north west of the middle of Newmarket Road and those parts of the northern side of Mount Pleasant be taken from Town Close ward and be added to Eaton Ward thereby reducing the electoral inequality between the two wards. This area was part of the Eaton Ward until 2004 and residents have more affinity with Eaton than Town Close ward.

Residents in this area share the Castle Partnership GP surgery on Mile End Road with residents in Eaton ward, they also share Eaton CNS as the catchment high school. The average age of the residents in this area is more in line with Eaton, than the rest of Town Close wards, so is their income bracket and educational professional status.

Residents tend to shop in Eaton, using the Waitrose centre facilities rather than the independent shops within the town Close ward. They tend to use Eaton Park rather than Jenny Lind park in town Close ward.

LSOA Norwich 011F shows that this area is better than 79% of England in terms of deprivation, LSOA012F (adjoining) in Eaton to be better than 96% in terms of deprivation and 012B (adjoining) in Eaton to be better than 91% in similar terms.

We recommend that both sides of Mount Pleasant be included within the Eaton ward, there is a strong sense of community within this road, with highways and planning issues, residents hold community events in Mount Pleasant.

## Lakenham ward

Lakenham ward is 10% below the quota, we would recommend that as that the area around Carrow Hill be added from the Mancroft ward and the Thorpe Hamlet ward. Much of this area was in Lakenham ward prior to 2003. This area shares with residents of the northern part of Lakenham ward the same secondary shopping area at the northern end of Hall road and part and the eastern end of Queens Road. Also the northern boundary of this ward would lie along the river, a more natural boundary and would extend to the Novi Sad Friendship Bridge to the west.

## Mile Cross ward

Mile Cross Ward is in regard to estimated number of electors in 2023, 3% below the quota. Given that both Catton Grove and Sewell ward are close to the quota, the most logical change would be to move the boundary with Mancroft ward to the south.

This area shares the community links with those roads at the southern end of the present Mile Cross ward, such as the local schools and the use of the Anglia Square shopping centre.

## Sewell ward

Sewell ward is 3% below the quota, we recommend that Bargate Court, the eastern side of Charlton Road and that part of the south side of Bull Close Road between Charlton Road and Silver Road be taken from Mancroft ward and added to Sewell Road. This area is separated from the rest of Mancroft ward by two major busy roads. It also has much in common with the silver triangle area in Sewell ward with the same local community centre at the Silver rooms.

We did examine whether Sewell ward could be expanded further but the Cowgate and Magdalen Road area has a strong sense of community, it would be wrong to spilt it up and to include the whole area be too large for Sewell ward in regard to the quota.

## Mancroft Ward

As described elsewhere in our report, we recommend that the areas be removed from the Mancroft Ward. However we also recommended that the rest of the TH3 polling district (not being added to the Lakenham ward), should be added to Mancroft Ward.

We believe that the northern area of Kings Street and the area surrounding it should be included within Mancroft because the ward comprises the City centre and the area around the northern area of Kings Street shares many of the same issues as the City Centre as it has late night entertainment venues with the resulting anti-social behaviour problems associated with it.

We support the transfer from Mancroft ward to the proposed Thorpe hamlet ward, the area south of Barrack Street and to the east of Whitefrairs. There are no electors there but it would form a more tidy boundary especially if the area was redeveloped for housing in the future.

# University and Nelson Ward

Given that University ward is 36% below the quota of electors for 2023, there is a need to bring in new electors from other wards including Nelson ward. We propose that the boundary between the two wards north of Jessop Road remains the same but to the south it runs along the Christchurch Road.

It makes geographic sense to move the southern western part of Nelson ward into University ward. This area shares a number of features with the UN5 polling district. They share the same secondary shopping centre in Colman Road. Residents in both areas are mainly professional workers and owner occupiers. Most children in both areas attend Colman Road Primary school.

When the subtraction of the south western corner of Nelson ward and that the present Nelson Ward is already 10% below the quota. Therefore we propose that two new areas be added to the new Nelson ward, firstly that the MA1 polling district be included within the new Nelson ward. This area is already bordered by on Nelson ward on two sides while divided from the rest of Mancroft ward by two major roads. Given that Mancroft ward is in excess of the quota by 20% in 2023, it makes clear geographic sense to include it in the new Nelson ward.

The second area to be added to Nelson ward is to be taken from both Mancroft and Wensum wards. This area is similar in types of housings from to the area south of the Dereham Road in Nelson ward, equally the residents are of similar social demographic mixture. The residents share with the residents south of Dereham Road the use of the same secondary shopping area in the Dereham Road.

We would wish to draw the attention of the commission to the issue of the changing number of electors in the UN2 polling district during the course of the academic year and our firm belief that this must be taken into account when you examine the number of electors in the proposed University Ward. Listed below are the number of electors in the UN2 polling district over the past 16 months, the source is the electoral registration office of Norwich City Council

Dec 16 - 524  
Jan 17 - 717  
Feb 17 - 736  
Mar 17 - 831

3 April 17 - 880  
26 April 17 - 902  
May 17 – 1124  
June 17 - 1529  
July 17 - 1581  
Aug 17 - 1577  
Sep 17 - 15  
Dec 17 - 144  
Jan 18 - 178  
Feb 18 – 188  
March 18 - 382

## Wensum Ward

To move the segment of WE4, bordered to the north by Earlham Green Lane and Bowthorpe Road into University Ward.

Reasons for the suggestion.

- a) The community in this area use the post office, Tesco and Co-operative shops, on Earlham Green Lane together with the shops on Bowthorpe Road itself. It is distinct from the main North Earlham estate built in the 1930s.
- b) Children from the area travel across Earlham Road to attend City Academy and Northfields Junior School.
- c) The area has a high level of private ownership containing a significant student population. Student's travel to the University of East Anglia across Earlham Road and it is a natural community.
- d) Due to pressure on local GP practices, a number of resident's have enrolled at the University Medical Practice which is accessed on campus, together with the dentist practice.
- e) Bowthorpe Road is a significant road running through the polling district and separating the community. Geographically, the area is distinctly separate.

To move that part of the WE3 polling district south of the Bowthorpe Road into University ward, reason for this change are as follows.

- a) The community in this area use the post office, shops and significant facilities contained within the Earlham House Shopping Centre, on Earlham Road.



- b) Children from the area travel across Earlham Road to attend Recreation Road First School and Avenue Junior School.
- c) The area has a high level of private ownership containing a significant student population. Student's travel to the University of East Anglia across Earlham Road and it is a natural community.
- d) The area is very remote from the main community created within the WE3 polling district, namely the roads off Bowthorpe Road including Godric, Merton and Bond Street.

The use of Old Place Road as eastern boundary for Wensum ward is a more natural boundary than the present eastern boundary of the ward. The area to added to Wensum ward is similar to the WE2 polling district in types of housing and social demographic profile. Both areas share the same facilities such as schools, GP practice, local community centre and secondary shopping centre.

**Motion: Boundary review submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England**

"The guidelines of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in regards to the electoral cycle of the council, sets out the need for electoral equality between the number of votes for each councillor and the need to respect community links.

Council **RESOLVES** to ask the portfolio holder for resources to submit the following proposals, on behalf of the council to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England:

- (1) To divide the BO4 polling district along the following boundary south along the middle of Larkman Lane (that part which lies within the BO4 polling district), then west along the footpath that runs parallel north of St. Mildreds Road, and then south along the middle of Malbrook Road and then across the open ground to the River Yare and add this area to the University ward.
- (2) To make no change to the boundaries of the Catton Grove ward as it is very close to the quota.
- (3) To take an area from the present Thorpe Hamlet ward and add it to the proposed Crome ward. The new boundary will go down the middle of Gurney Road. The both sides of Kett's Hill and Ladbroke Place shall be included within the Crome ward, the boundary will then go down the middle of Quebec Road, then include both sides of Telegraph Lane East including Stan Petersen Close, High Green, the new section of the Rosary cemetery, Lionwood Infantry School as far south as the junction with Cotman Road, the along the middle of Telegraph Lane East, then proceed across Thorpe Road to the city boundary.
- (4) To transfer the part of Town Close ward north west of Newmarket Road and to the south, but including Mount Pleasant, Arlington Lane and The Mews from Town Close ward to Eaton ward.
- (5) To add the area around Carrow Hill from Mancroft ward and Thorpe Hamlet ward to the proposed Lakenham ward. The precise boundary of the new area to be added to proposed Lakenham ward, is to the south and east of a boundary which will proceed down the middle of Finkelgate, then along the middle of Ber Street (between Finkelgate to Mariners Lane), then down the middle of Mariners Lane, then along the footpath to Rouen Road, then down the middle of Rouen Road and Kings Street until the Novi Sad friendship bridge where the River Wensum shall form the northern boundary.
- (6) To take the area bounded by the River Wensum to the west, and Saint Crispins Road to the south and to the east by Saint Augustines Street and Pitt Street from Mancroft ward and add it to the proposed Mile Cross ward.

- (7) To take Bargate Court, the eastern side of Charlton Road and that part of the south side of Bull Close Road between Charlton Road and Silver Road from Mancroft ward and add it to the proposed Sewell ward.
- (8) To add the rest of the TH3 polling district (not being added to the Lakenham ward), to the proposed Mancroft ward.
- (9) To add Mancroft ward east of Whitefriars and south of Barrack Street to Thorpe Hamlet ward.
- (10) To take the area west of Christchurch Road from Nelson ward and add it to the proposed University ward.
- (11) To take the MA1 polling district from Mancroft ward and add it to the proposed Nelson ward.
- (12) To add the following area from within Mancroft and Wensum wards to the proposed Nelson ward, including the area between the Dereham Road to the south, Northumberland Street to the west, Old Palace Road to the east and to the north, West End Street (from Northumberland Street to Nelson Street) then to the south of Armes Street.
- (13) To add the area within Wensum ward south of the Bowthorpe Road to the proposed University ward.
- (14) To add the area of Mancroft ward to the north of Armes Street and to the west of the footpath between Heigham Street and the River Wensum and middle of Old Palace Road to the proposed Wensum ward."