

Taylor, Laura

From: Michael Bamford [REDACTED]
Sent: 26 November 2017 11:02
To: reviews
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Babergh Ward review: Bentley Village

I am responding to your consultation in respect of Babergh District Council's ward boundary review, on behalf of Bentley Parish Council.

Our current situation is that we are linked with East Bergholt in a 2 Councillor ward.

Your proposals would link us with Chelmondiston Wherstead and Belstead in a 1 councillor ward.

Bentley Parish Council is of the opinion that this is an inappropriate linkage because

- Chelmondiston is a Parish on Shotley peninsula with entirely different issues of population growth, transport links, healthcare and educational links. Its natural links would be with Shotley, Holbrook, Stutton and Erwarton
- Wherstead is contiguous with Ipswich and Its natural links are with Ipswich, although it shares some connectivity with Belstead.
- Belstead is a contiguous Parish with some commonality of interests in transport links and protection of the historic and natural landscape with Bentley

Bentley Parish has many affiliated interests with Copdock and Washbrook.

- It shares linked primary schools.
- It is in the same group of linked Parish churches (with Belstead and Tattlingstone).
- It is linked with Copdock and Washbrook in a planning grouping in Babergh's local plan as hinterland villages of Capel St. Mary. Potential planning developments would create shared infrastructure problems.
- Residents share health services centred on Capel St Mary.
- There are many shared logistic and transport problems, based on junctions with, and access to the A.12 with associated problems of frequently difficult access to Ipswich and the A.14.

Bentley Parish Council would propose

- A potential ward consisting of **Bentley, Belstead, Copdock and Washbrook (excluding Chattisham and Hintlesham) and Tattlingstone** with a projected electorate of around 2,200.
- Hintlesham and Chattisham could be accommodated with Whatfield and Elmsett, with some adjustment with Bildeston and Boxford (villages on the Eastern corridor between Sudbury, Hadleigh and Ipswich)
- Chelmondiston and Wherstead could be linked with Shotley and Stutton in a 2 member ward
- Holbrook could be a single member ward.
- Brantham could be a single member ward.

These arrangements would allow a similar numerical distribution of residents per councillor, and a linkage of parishes with similar interests and issues, in particular those with shared interests with Bentley and those Parishes on the Shotley Peninsula with linked developmental and infrastructural interests.

With regards

Dr Michael F M Bamford
Chair, Bentley Parish Council

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