

Babergh District**Personal Details:**

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Comment text:

Cockfield Parish Council has reviewed the proposed redrawn wards in Babergh District Council and makes the following observations. We note Cockfield has been incorporated into a two member Long Melford ward. Cockfield Parish Council believes that the village has only a passing affinity with Long Melford and does not agree that this is an appropriate grouping for the village. We are closer geographically, and in all other respects, with Lavenham and consider that our residents will be better served as part of a two member Lavenham ward. When considering the requirement of heads per councillor, Cockfield Parish Council believes that the objectives of the Boundary Commission could be achieved by making the following revisions: Currently proposed by The Boundary Commission: Lavenham would be a two member ward comprising Lavenham, Acton, Chilton, Great Waldingfield, Little Waldingfield - total electorate (2023) 4953 - per councillor 2477 variance 7%. Long Melford would be a two member ward comprising Long Melford, Alpheton, Cockfield, Shimpling - total electorate (2023) 4412 - per councillor 2206 variance -5%. Glemsford would be a two member ward comprising Glemsford, Lawshall, Hartest, Somerton, Boxted, Stanstead - total electorate (2023) 4540 - per councillor 2270 variance -2%. ----- Cockfield Parish Council would propose: Lavenham to be a two member ward comprising Lavenham, Cockfield, Chilton, Great Waldingfield, Little Waldingfield - total electorate (2023) 4199 - per councillor 2100 variance -10%. Long Melford to be a two member ward comprising Long Melford, Alpheton, Acton - total electorate (2023) 4809 - per councillor 2405 variance 4%. Glemsford to be a two member ward comprising Glemsford, Lawshall, Hartest, Somerton, Boxted, Stanstead, Shimpling - total electorate (2023) 4897.- per councillor 2449 variance 6%. ----- Our reasoning is based on our knowledge of the area and its residents and relies directly on The Babergh Local Plan 2011-2031 Core Strategy & Policies February 2014, Appendix 4, Accessing Key Services Map (2010) (copy attached). • It will be seen that Cockfield has a direct link to Lavenham for shopping and access to a doctors' surgery • Acton shows no links to Lavenham, only to Long Melford • Shimpling shows no links to Long Melford We would ask you to note: • The A1141 runs right through Cockfield directly into Lavenham • The A134 runs from Bury St Edmunds through Long Melford and beyond. Cockfield is on the east side of this major trunk road, Long Melford is on the west • There is no direct road link to Long Melford from Cockfield • Traditionally Cockfield has no affinity with villages to the west of the A134 which forms a natural boundary. Whilst Cockfield Parish Council recognises that emotional ties are not part of your remit they do form part of Cockfield's everyday life and work and in addition: • Cockfield shares a parish boundary with Lavenham • There are public footpath links between Cockfield and Lavenham • The river Brett runs through Cockfield and Lavenham • Many former residents of Cockfield choose Lavenham as a retirement destination • Cockfield is part of the Lavenham Deanery • Cockfield's nearest doctors' surgery is in Lavenham • An hourly public transport service runs through Cockfield, onto Lavenham and beyond • 10% of Cockfield's Women's Institute members live in Lavenham • Cockfield's nearest dental surgery is in Lavenham • There are business, trade and employment links between Cockfield and Lavenham and land is farmed spanning the two parishes • Cockfield residents use the Lavenham public library • Cockfield residents take part in Lavenham's many and varied cultural activities ----- Whilst appreciating that there is a variance of -10% in a Lavenham ward containing Cockfield there is a precedent for this in the proposed ward of Sudbury North where the variance is -10%. There is planned housing in Cockfield with applications currently under consideration or with permission granted for approximately 67 new dwellings. This will decrease the variance. Cockfield Parish Council requests that these revisions be considered by the Commission as we believe that the democratic interests of the residents of Cockfield will be best served in this way.

Uploaded Documents:

https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1512403932_2017-11-30+Item+10+-+Babergh+DC+Electoral+Review+-+Accessing+Key+Services+Map+%282010%29.pdf

APPENDIX 4: Accessing Key Services Map (2010)

