

Laura Taylor
Review Officer (Babergh)
LGBCE
14th Floor
Millbank Tower
London SW1P 4QP

20 November 2017

Dear Ms Taylor

Babergh Council Electoral Review

The Nedging with Naughton Parish Council have reviewed your draft recommendations and have the following comments.

Nedging with Naughton is a rural parish depending on Hadleigh (5miles distant) for retail services, secondary education, health services, leisure activities, Police, Fire Service, Banking and public transport connections.

It is a Hinterland Village in the Planning Hierarchy for Babergh and the Core Village it connects to is Bildeston. Bildeston (2miles distant) is the source for Primary Education and Health Services including GP Surgery, District Nurse, Health Visitor and Dispensary. It also has the nearest Post Office.

Future Infrastructure development will be concentrated on Bildeston at the expense of most of its Hinterland Villages currently without direct electoral influence on the nature or quality of the provision or maintenance.

The proposed grouping of Nedging with Naughton in a Ward with 8 other parishes, mostly smaller in numbers of electors and named as "Whatfield", one of the smaller Parishes, with no apparent historic or current significance, is not appealing to electors and lacks any obvious logic or advantage.

Nedging with Naughton, Monks Eleigh, Chelsworth, Wattisham and Semer should be grouped with their Core Village Bildeston.

Aldham, Elmsett, Whatfield and Kersey should be grouped with Hadleigh.

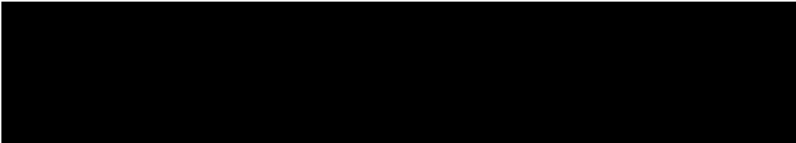
The present grouping of Parishes and Towns in Wards appears largely random and does not take account of the factors which affect the lives of electors. Your proposed wards do not offer an improved structure and arguably would be even less relevant.

Babergh has a clear declared Planning Hierarchy which is logical and comprehensible to the electorate. Any new Ward arrangements should be compatible with the Hierarchy and electors should be able to recognise that their particular issues are understood and represented in the governing structure.

Where the number of electors indicates a requirement for multiple Councillors in Wards, they should have specific areas of representation to ensure that local needs are represented and not submerged in broader political demands.

On behalf of Nedging with Naughton Parish Council

Yours sincerely



Christopher Harding
Chairman