

SPROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs S. Frankis

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The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor Millbank Tower
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8th August 2017

Dear Ms Taylor

Electoral Review of Babergh: Warding Arrangements

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and influence the review of electoral arrangements in Babergh District.

Sproughton Parish Council convened an Extraordinary meeting of the Council to consider this matter on 2 August 2017. It unanimously resolved to comment as follows.

It is understood that the proposed Council size for Babergh going forward is 31 councillors. Currently there are 43 councillors with a District wide average of 1 councillor representing 1667 electors. Moving forward (to 2022), it is believed that with electorate growth, the proposed 31 councillors would represent a ratio of 1 councillor per 2400 electors.

Background

Sproughton parish is in the Brook Ward of Babergh together with the parishes of Burstall, Hintlesham, Chattisham, Copdock and Washbrook, Belstead and Wherstead and is represented at District council level by 2 District councillors (equates to 1 councillor representing 1667 electors; the average for the whole district).

Sproughton is a predominantly rural parish with urban fringe elements, including industrial and employment areas at the eastern side of the parish adjoining Ipswich. Sproughton is included in the Ipswich Policy Area (IPA) of Ipswich Borough Council together with the Babergh parishes of Copdock and Washbrook, Belstead, Wherstead and Pinewood (https://www.ipswich.gov.uk/sites/www.ipswich.gov.uk/files/ipa_illustrative_map_4_jul_2014.pdf). These parishes form part of the major economic growth area within the Greater Ipswich sub-region and their grouping together with other parishes within the Mid Suffolk and Suffolk Coastal District Council administrative areas enables the co-ordination and co-

operation of local and strategic planning policy and issues, and the necessary infrastructure of transport, education, skills, power, green infrastructure and flood and coastal defences. Sproughton has areas of potential significant development; Chantry Vale (for residential, currently agricultural land) and the Sproughton Sugar Beet factory site (now owned by Ipswich Borough Council, for business / employment, currently brownfield site).

Traffic has a significant impact on Sproughton and the potential of growth within the IPA is likely to produce significant challenges and issues for the parish and the other surrounding communities. The A14 trunk road passes through Sproughton and has interchanges in Sproughton and Copdock and Washbrook, Pinewood and Wherstead. The A12 trunk road connects with the A14 adjacent to Pinewood and has 2 interchanges in Copdock and Washbrook. These interchanges give access to/from the strategic network to support growth but also deliver significant diverted traffic volumes from them and onto the county road network through these communities on the occasion of traffic incidents and capacity problems on the trunk roads. The A1071 Principal County road passes through Sproughton and provides an east – west transport corridor between the A12/A14/Ipswich area and the significant growth areas in Hadleigh, Sudbury and Haverhill to the west. Again, this gives rise to significant impact issues for Sproughton, together with Hintlesham and Burstall.

Sproughton Parish Council's Proposal for Electoral Ward Boundaries

It is proposed that Sproughton would be within a 'New' Electoral Ward made up of the following parishes:

Sproughton, Pinewood, Burstall, Hintlesham, Chattisham, Copdock and Washbrook, Belstead and Wherstead (existing Brook ward plus Pinewood parish).

1. Electoral equality for voters-

Currently, Brook Ward is represented by 2 councillors and Pinewood by 2 councillors. It is proposed that the 'New' Electoral ward would be represented by 3 councillors. This would give a ratio in 2022 of 1 councillor per 2345 electors. This is within 2% of the Babergh target representation for the whole of the district. 3 Councillors per ward is recognised by the Local Authority Boundary Commission as workable, and the adjacent Borough of Ipswich has 16 Wards each with 3 councillors.

2. Community interests and identities

The parishes within the proposed 'New' Electoral grouping have obvious commonalities. Growth and development is common to Sproughton, Pinewood, Copdock and Washbrook, Belstead and Wherstead, and they are within the IPA. Roughly 50% of the developed Sproughton area is contiguous with Ipswich urban area as is Pinewood. All the parishes within the grouping have existing transport and traffic related issues that are potentially going to become more problematic with the proposed growth for the local area and will require associated infrastructure. With the exception of perhaps

Pinewood, all parishes have significant rural identities and look towards the urban area of Ipswich for certain services and towards the rural hinterland for others.

3. Convenient and effective local government

The proposed grouping of parishes to form the 'New' electoral ward would all be represented by the same MP (South Suffolk constituency), share a single County Councillor (Belstead Brook Division) and share 3 District councillors.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Frankis, Clerk to the Parish of Sproughton

Ipswich Policy Area Board

Revised Terms of Reference, October 2015

To provide a forum in which the five local authorities can work together to develop, promote and deliver their vision for the Ipswich Policy Area as a major economic growth area within the Greater Ipswich sub region, County of Suffolk and New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership.

To enable them to co-operate as local planning authorities on the preparation and monitoring of their Local Plans and share relevant evidence and intelligence.

To provide a mechanism to ensure that all partners and stakeholders work together to deliver the housing and employment growth requirements for the Ipswich Policy Area and coordinate the delivery of the necessary infrastructure – including transport, education, skills, power, green infrastructure, flood and coastal defences.

Constitution

The Board will consist of one Councillor and one Officer from the following authorities:

Ipswich Borough Council Suffolk Coastal District Council Mid Suffolk District Council Babergh District Council Suffolk County Council

Each authority will nominate its representatives to the Board.

Ipswich Borough Council will provide the Secretariat to the Board, including Minutes of all meetings and processing all Freedom of Information requests.

The Board will be chaired by Suffolk County Council until March 2017.

The Board will meet every two months but additional meetings may be called if required.

Sub-groups may be established by agreement. Other organisations may be coopted onto sub-groups or invited to attend meetings.