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Review Officer (Babergh)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor, Millbank Tower
Millbank
London
SW1P 4QP

Sent by e-mail (reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

29th April 2018

Dear Sirs,

I write in response to your report dated March 2018 of new draft recommendations relating to the new electoral arrangements for Babergh District Council in relation to the new proposed ward of Lavenham on page 11 paragraph 39 to 45.

I write in my capacity as a Councillor for Chilton Parish Council. The Chilton Parish Council Clerk has already written to you about the new proposal. In our earlier submission we supported the retention of Chilton, Great Waldingfield, Little Waldingfield and Acton together in a rural ward. You now propose that Acton Parish Council be re-moved, and that Cockfield be joined instead into the new Lavenham Ward.

Whilst Chilton Parish Council support the retention of two councillors for the new ward we object to the proposal of Cockfield Parish Council that they be included in the ward and we support the retention of Acton Parish Council in the proposed Lavenham Ward.

You refer in paragraph 40 to Cockfield sharing a boundary with Lavenham. I should point out that Chilton Parish Council shares parish boundaries with both Acton and Great Waldingfield Parishes. There is also a network of interlinking public footpaths running to and from Chilton, Great Waldingfield and Acton Parishes

As a Parish Councillor I have worked, both in the past and currently, with and alongside Acton Parish Councillors and Great Waldingfield Parish Councillors, on local 'place shaping' groups, neighbourhood planning matters, and we are currently working on the 'green spaces' initiative with both these Parish Councils. There is therefore a shared community identity between these Parishes.

I also consider that the Cockfield proposal creates a long narrow Parish where the north end has little connectivity with the south end in terms of local community interest issues.

Accordingly, I ask please that you do not adopt Cockfield Parish Council proposal and that you revert to the previous proposal of Lavenham, Great Waldingfield, Little Waldingfield, Chilton and Acton be included together in a rural ward.

Yours faithfully

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