

Acton Parish Council

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

Dear Sir / Madam

Electoral Review of Babergh: Warding Arrangements

Acton Parish Council wishes to make further representations following the publication of the draft recommendations for new electoral arrangements for Babergh District Council.

The Parish Council feels that the best interests of Acton residents will be served by a ward comprising the parishes of Lavenham, Acton, Great Waldingfield and Little Waldingfield.

The case for including Acton within this ward configuration is as follows:

- (i) the B1071 runs centrally through the ward connecting all communities within it. Although Acton shares a parish boundary with both Long Melford and Lavenham the A134 represents both a physical and perceptual barrier between Acton and Long Melford.
- (ii) the ward will be commendably compact. By contrast the proposed Lavenham ward is a narrow north/south corridor with residents in Cockfield having little or no contact or common interest with residents in the Waldingfields;
- (iii) Acton, Great Waldingfield and Little Waldingfield have well established common interests already sharing public transport, schools, guide and scouting groups, recreational facilities, convenience stores and post office. Furthermore, Acton and Great Waldingfield parishes are in the same benefice, share a vicar, lay staff, services and many spiritual and social activities.

The Council asks the Boundary Commission to recognise that strong community links already exist and that the dislocation of Acton from the Waldingfields will undermine existing community cohesion. Acton's links with the Waldingfields are deep rooted and far more significant than its links with Long Melford;

The Council notes that Babergh District Council's 2010 map *Accessing Key Services* is quoted in support of Cockfield's inclusion within the Lavenham ward. Unfortunately, because Bury St Edmunds does not lie within Babergh, the key services map ignores the fact that Bury St Edmunds lies only a few miles north of Cockfield and that many Cockfield residents look there for provision of services.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]
Paul MacLachlan
Clerk