

Taylor, Laura

From: Parish Clerk <brenteleighpc@hotmail.co.uk>
Sent: 27 April 2018 17:15
To: reviews
Subject: Babergh District Council: New draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements

Dear Babergh Electoral Review Team,

Brent Eleigh Parish Council has considered the new draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements. This now proposes, in relation to Brent Eleigh, that it should be included in a "Box Vale" ward, together with Boxford, Edwardstone, Groton, Milden and Monks Eleigh.

Brent Eleigh Parish Councillors have asked me to write to you to make it clear that, unanimously, they do not consider this a good proposal for the following reasons:

- Firstly In simple geographical terms, having a narrow north - south ward called "Box Vale" does not reflect the topography. All the rivers in this part of Suffolk flow broadly west to east and both Brent Eleigh and Monks Eleigh lie in the valley of the River Brett, which flows through the middle of both villages.
- There is no functional connectivity at all between Brent Eleigh and Boxford. Boxford is some five miles to the south, accessed via a meandering, narrow C road. Brent Eleigh in planning terms is part of the Lavenham "cluster". Lavenham is only two miles to the west along the A1141 and has, as well as a primary school attended by Brent Eleigh children, a good range of everyday shops and services which Brent Eleigh residents use. Alternatively some Brent Eleigh residents use the Community Shop at Monks Eleigh. So as well as poor connectivity with Boxford there is really no shared community identity. I'm afraid that your correspondent who suggested that Brent Eleigh and Boxford have "similar community and geographical links and have a commonality of interests" is simply wrong.

However it has been suggested by the local District Councillor, Cllr Clive Arthey, and the suggestion is entirely acceptable to Brent Eleigh Parish Councillors, that if consideration could be given to moving Brent Eleigh and Monks Eleigh into the proposed South East Cosford ward, and move Lindsey and Semer into Box Vale, that would be a better "fit" in terms of community affinity. Lindsey does have a shared boundary with Boxford.

Brent Eleigh Parish Council hope that this suggestion might be seriously considered.

William Grosvenor
Clerk to Brent Eleigh Parish Council