

Babergh District

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Comment text:

Holbrook Parish Council have reviewed the proposals and would like to make the following submission:- It is our contention that the Draft recommendations of the Boundary Commission to be wrong in respect of Holbrook in particular, which is currently the only core village on the Peninsula, and the Peninsula in general. Whilst the combining of differing Parishes may achieve equality it does nothing for the residents of these diverse areas, administratively simpler but socially a disaster. With such a large area and three Councillors any supposed cohesion will be lost. The residents could be represented, at Councillor level by a member of an opposing party with differing views on Council actions. Councillors may be required to attend two or three Parish meetings in a single week which would be totally unacceptable. The Peninsula has many differing communities with different needs, outlook and interests. Holbrook is neither a farming nor costal community and differentiates itself from Shotley. Combing Holbrook with Stutton and Freston has some sense in commonality of 'likeness', communication, transport and facilities but Shotley is remote and has never nor will ever consider itself common to the rest in the monolith that is proposed. Based on the 2017 electoral roll figures then combining Sutton 712 with Holbrook 1359 and Harkstead 233 will give a sub total of 2304. Combining Shotley 2304 with Ewarton 110 will give a sub total of 2414. Combining Freston, Woolverstone, Chelmondiston, Wherstead and Belstead will give a sub total of 2110 i.e. a total of 6354. If one considers the proposed 2023 figures of a 9.6% uplift then the grouping of Stutton 712 (+/-0), Holbrook 1506 (+147) and Harkstead 233 (+/-0) deriving a subtotal of 2451. Combining Shotley 2304 (+456) Ewarton 110 (+/- 0) deriving a subtotal of 2414 and combining Freston, Woolverstone, Chelmondiston, Wherstead and Belstead will give a sub total of 2110 (+/- 0). Whilst at face value there appears to be an inequality it cannot be ruled out that there will be no natural or legislative growth within these five Parishes to achieve a balance by 2023 even at the nominal 10% will give a roll of 2321 and achieve a differential of less than 4%. We therefore propose as in our previous submission that a slightly modified Holbrook Ward remains as a single Councillor ward.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded