

**Taylor, Laura**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 26 March 2018 13:14  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** From Wattisham Parish Council Ward Boundaries

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The Parish Council would like to strongly appeal to the proposed Ward Boundary changes as indicated in the recently received notification. These are the following reasons that the Parish Council feel would be counter-productive to the overall community welfare of our village.

The proposal that Wattisham joins the South East Cosford Ward, doesn't make a lot of sense, in that we only share a small boundary with Nedging, and have no interconnecting road between Wattisham and Nedging without travelling down through Bildeston and back up to Nedging.

We would much prefer to be associated with the NW Cosford Ward: Our boundaries, services and roads are shared in a much greater way by Bildeston and Hitcham (the only other two parishes in Babergh that border our parish). The communities of Hitcham, Bildeston and Wattisham are closely linked through shared services both civic and social which include:

• School Bus Service • Primary School • GP Surgery • Village Shop • Linked transport services • The Parochial Parish of Bildeston with Wattisham

The Parish Council would like to address the possible misconception that Wattisham Village and the Wattisham Army Air Base are closely connected. We are not and there is no direct contact between the two. Although geographically linked, Wattisham Base falls under Mid Suffolk District Council and there is no direct through road connecting the the Parish of Wattisham with either the Army Air Base or the South East Cosford ward.

We would also like to point out that if it is a matter of having an even amount of individual voters in each ward, the numbers that Wattisham have (approximately 89 persons eligible to vote) would have little impact if it was in either Ward, in fact the numbers would be more even if Wattisham joined NW Cosford rather than SW Cosford.

Wattisham is a small village, but we would prefer to have a District Councillor that is also involved with the more important adjoining villages, that have a much larger impact on our Parish. In terms of discussion of planning issues in the wider area, roads that connect the two villages and even crime prevention.

Paul McDonald  
Clerk to the Wattisham Parish Council