

East Cambridgeshire District

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Comment text:

The coverage of Bottisham ward is ridiculous and anomalous, as is obvious from its shape. There is little road connectivity between the north and south of this ward, with the large A14 and A11 roads providing a substantial barrier to communication between communities. The communities in this ward have little in common with each other, even the geography is different with flat arable farming land at the top, in common with the majority of Cambridgeshire; and more hilly wooded areas at the bottom. Just within this ward, if a councillor had to travel to meet a constituent at the north and at the south of the ward, it would take half an hour just to drive from one end to the other. It seems a terrible idea to make a councillor cover such an extended shape of ward. Commercially, the north of the ward is greatly influenced by Cambridge, the south is influenced by Newmarket and even Haverhill. The Boundary Commission cannot permit such an unsatisfactory arrangement to continue. It is impractical and unfair to both constituents and councillors. A councillor cannot equally understand and support such a disparate area. It is inevitable that some region of the ward will become de facto disenfranchised in terms of representation. While there might be an argument that the south of the ward might be more appropriately in Suffolk, I will assume for now it remains in East Cambs. Instead I think some realignment is required with the present north of Bottisham ward and The Swaffhams being largely merged - especially since Bottisham ward is overly large with a forecast electorate of 3450, but the Swaffhams having less than HALF of that at 1590. The south of Bottisham ward would then be merged with Dullingham Villages ward. Clearly some slight realignment of boundaries would be required to bring the relative ward populations closer together again, but these would be relatively minor after the major changes I describe are done. These realignments would probably include expanding the Cheveley ward western boundary slightly further west, and the newly merged Bottisham/Swaffhams ward slightly further south than the current southern boundary of The Swaffhams ward, certainly down to the A1304. But one way or another, the current situation with Bottisham ward must not be allowed to continue after the review.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded