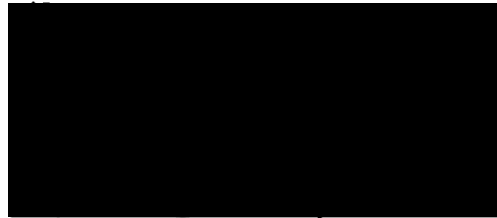


DEEPINGS HERITAGE

WE CARE ABOUT THE PAST . . . AND THE PRESENT . . . FOR THE SAKE OF THE FUTURE

Keith Simpson,



18th January 2016

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



Dear Sir

In the Electoral Review of Lincolnshire: Draft Recommendations, the criteria for submissions are:-

- 1) Equality of representation;
- 2) Reflecting community interests and identities and
- 3) Providing for convenient and effective local government.


Members of Deepings Heritage, founded as a Civic Society in 1989, are concerned that the changes proposed for the Deepings do not appear to have given sufficient importance to the second recommendation; that of reflecting community interest and identity. Although the members of our Society understand the requirement for the equality of representation and the need to provide convenient and effective local government, we feel that the historic nature of the Deepings should also be taken into consideration when drawing up those constituencies.

The historic nature of the Deepings in general and Market Deeping in particular should certainly be taken into account when drawing the boundaries, particularly when giving names to the new constituencies. To propose a new constituency called 'Deeping St James' that includes the Market Deeping Town Hall and the majority of the rest of that town suggests that an arbitrary line has been drawn on a map without any consideration to what the population of Market Deeping and Deeping St James actually feel about the idea that a constituency involving both communities should be called 'Deeping St James'.

The proposed line that divides Market Deeping along Church Street suggests that no one has looked in detail at what makes up the nature of the communities involved. To draw this arbitrary line has problems of its own; to then call the new constituency 'Deeping St. James' compounds those problems.

The historic nature of Market Deeping cannot be understated, with its ancient stone buildings, St Guthlac's Church (with Saxon remains of an earlier church) and a tower financed by Margaret Beaufort, the mother of Henry VII; not forgetting the 14th century rectory. There is a close association of the Wake family with the Deepings. Until its demolition to make way for a housing estate, Hall Farm, at the northern end of Market Deeping, was the site of Wake Hall. Leofric, the father of 'Hereward the Wake', who had lands in the area, was closely associated with the Deepings. Joan Wake was given a Charter in 1308 for her and her heirs in perpetuity, to hold a market on a Wednesday in Deeping and a Feast on the eve of St Michael and for 6 days after. The Feast continued to be held into the early part of the 20th century and the market is still held on a Wednesday. There is a copy of the Charter in Lincoln archives. Deeping St James does have a few remains of an ancient Benedictine Priory but other than that, does not have many old buildings. A large proportion of Deeping St James in the past was involved in farming, the land of which has now been converted into modern housing estates (mainly post 1950).

I understand that a proposal has been submitted by the Market Deeping Town Council that shows how different boundary lines could be drawn. Those proposed boundary lines certainly seem to reflect the community interests and identities of the constituents involved without deflecting from the equality of representation. The proposal would also satisfy the need to provide convenient and effective local government. Deepings Heritage can find no finer solution than that proposed by the Council to the redrawing of the boundaries in this part of south of Lincolnshire.



Yours Sincerely
Keith Simpson,
Secretary,
Deepings Heritage.