

East Cambridgeshire District

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Comment text:

In the latest proposals Witchford and Wentworth which are currently part of Haddenham Ward (3 members) are split between the new Stretham (2 member) and Sutton (2 member) wards. Haddenham is retained as a single member ward. Witchford and Wentworth are connected in almost every way – they share pre-school, Brownies, Cubs, Guides, Church events. Wentworth children relate to Witchford from the age of three when they start at pre-school. Witchford Post Office serves Wentworth. The traveller families who have lived in Wentworth for many years relate to Witchford – including the school and the Church although of course there is a Church in Wentworth. Geographically, half of Sutton Road in Witchford is part of the parish of Wentworth. Sutton has no particular relationship with Wentworth. Nor does Stretham have any particular relationship with Witchford. The proposed Stretham ward geographically would cover an enormous area which I would suggest would be far too large for accountability. I could juggle your figures to try and make them work out exactly to justify a single member ward for Witchford and Wentworth – but of course the figures are your responsibility. Witchford currently has a planning consent (recently won on appeal) for 120 houses. There is another consent for 5 houses behind Barton Close. Planning and discussions regarding a Community Land Trust to build more houses are currently taking place. Discussions are taking place for a possible twenty houses at the Wentworth end of Witchford. These are not discussions going forward well into the future – they are current and do not take account of individual consents which exist and on which building is currently taking place. I believe that there should be a single member ward – Witchford and Wentworth. This reorganisation gives an opportunity to improve local democracy by having one councillor for Witchford and Wentworth ward which would give far more accountability than currently exists and would be a progressive change rather than moving us backwards

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded