

Local Government Boundary Commission Submission to further Draft Recommendations: City of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire County Councillor Ian Manning, East Chesterton

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1. Introduction & reasoning

1.1 Why am I responding?

I am responding to the further draft recommendations as the local County Councillor and as a resident of the area since 2010.

My view that the commissions' proposals do not meet the criteria for a boundary review accurately.

I did not respond to the previous consultation individually as my political group responded and I inputted into that. The boundaries shown in that for East Chesterton are clearly the most appropriate in my view.

1.2 Context of draft recommendations

The draft proposals for Cambridge City seem to strongly stem from the proposals voted through the County Council. I believe there are a few circumstantial contexts that need to be stated:

- There are five political groups on the County council (Conservative, Liberal, UKIP, Labour and Independent)
- The Council vote was not unanimous.

In the rest of this paper I will address each evidence area.

2. Representing equal numbers of electors

In this category only I do not believe there is any substantial benefit to the original proposals or the new ones.

3. Community interests

3.1 Transport links

There are substantial negatives to the new proposals in the context of transport links.

3.1.1 The no 17 bus

The 17 bus passes through East Chesterton. In particular it serves the 'Fen Estate' (Fen Road, Izaak Walton Way & satellite roads, Cheney Way & Satellite roads)

3.1.2 The Citi 2 bus

The arterial section of this bus route goes through the High Street contiguously onto Green End Road. By splitting the ward at green end road it unnecessarily splits the bus route across two wards – previously it would stay within East Chesterton once entering.

3.2 Community groups

There are two long standing Community Groups cover East Chesterton: OCRA (Old Chesterton Residents' Association) and Chesterton Community Association (CCA).

Further there are 3 Churches which are community groups in of themselves, and two primary schools.

3.2.1 OCRA

OCRA covers the area roughly bounded by the old Chesterton Village.

3.2.2 CCA

CCA has achieved a number of funded projects for the Chesterton area which would then be taken out of Chesterton – for example a public art project on the wall of the Co-Op store.

3.2.3 The Churches

The Methodist Church on Green End Road is changed from being at the centre of the community geographically to being right on the edge of the new ward. St George's Church will be taken out of a ward it has strong ties to.

2.2.4 The primary schools

The Shirley School in particular draws its intake from the geographically surrounding neighbourhoods. A number of these (eg Fen Estate) are ripped out of Chesterton, some are kept (Apples estate).

This would force the school to deal with two sets of Councillors rather than one as currently.

3.3 Facilities (community)

Currently East Chesterton has a Youth Centre: Brownsfields. These changes would remove it and give King's Hedges two, an unfair situation.

4. Identifiable boundaries

The high street merges straight into Green End Road – many people don't even realise they are changing from one to the other, **there is no natural boundary here** shown below to highlight the permeability.

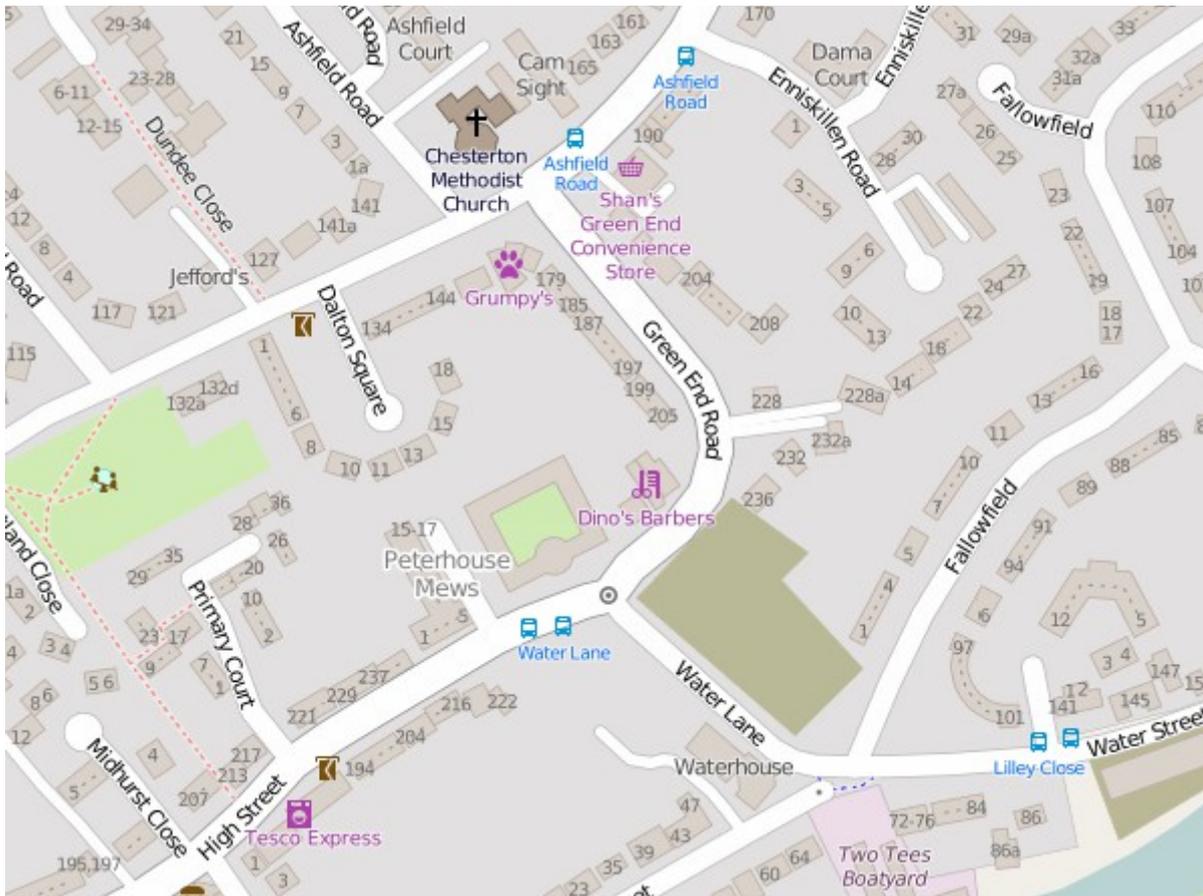


Figure 1: Map extract showing how the high street and Green End Road are contiguous

5. Effective & convenient local Government

4.1 Existing projects

There are a number of existing projects that were initiated in the context of East Chesterton's current boundaries that would have been significantly more difficult to start if the boundaries changed as proposed.

This is not comprehensive, but gives a flavour of a number of currently ongoing projects which the proposed changes will impact negatively on.

4.2 Green End Road feasibility study

£10k was allocated towards redesign of Green End Road and surrounds, which largely came about from the many residents of East Chesterton who live at the 'other' end of the ward and travel to work on the science parks via this route.

If split as suggested these residents would have to lobby a Councillor in another ward to get changes – something much less likely to get a positive response.

4.3 New rail station parking

There is understandable concern in the areas surrounding the station about the chances of commuters parking in side streets. Very roughly these roads are within the red lines below:

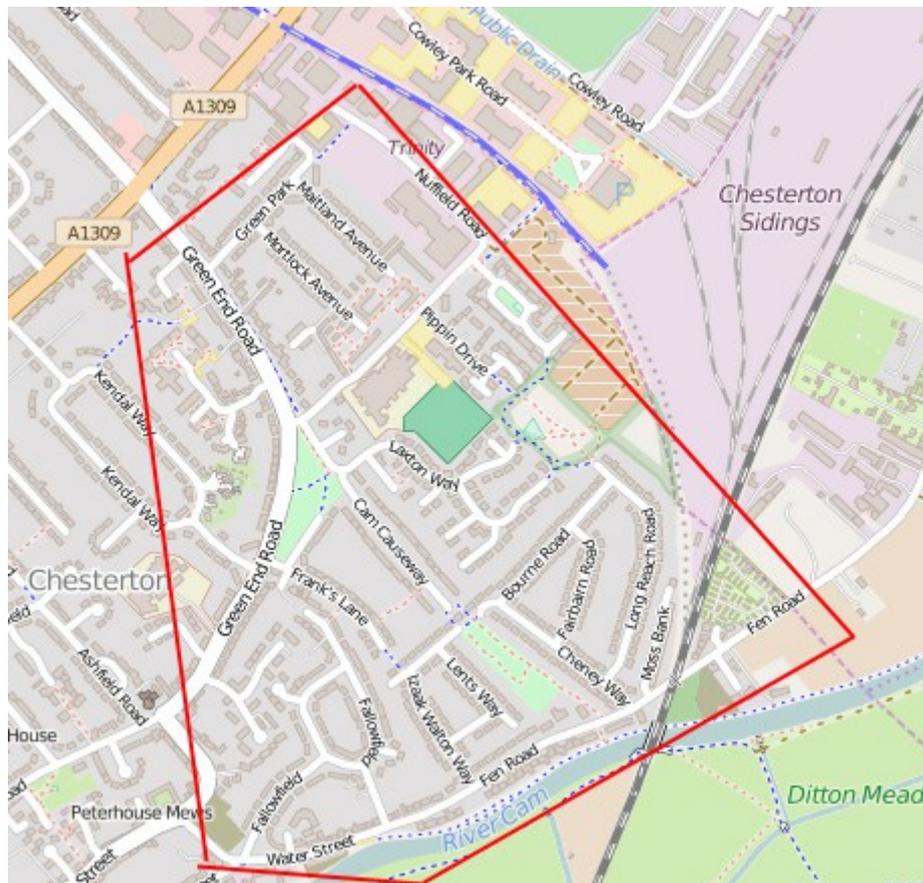


Fig2. 'At Risk' roads for station commuter parking issues

At the moment I, as the local County member, am working up plans for parking controls should there prove to be a problem. By splitting these areas across two wards getting residents to agree will be considerably more difficult.

This is because, inevitably, residents with no problem will oppose restrictions for those with a problem (as it would risk moving it to their road). If these groups are in different wards it is likely the two Councillors would end up being at loggerheads.

4.4 Eastfield Re-development

Housing association 100 houses are to redevelop a large proportion of their Eastfield estate, increasing the density significantly.

Currently this change can be managed within East Chesterton, however the proposed changes will put it on the boundary with another ward, increasing the complexity of dealing with eg traffic impacts from it.