

From: Sue Makinson-Sanders [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 June 2016 12:22
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>
Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Electoral Review of Lincolnshire Further Limited Consultation

Dear Sirs,

Coleby Parish Councillors have now had the opportunity to consider the issues for electoral reform further and the proposal to join Coleby with Harmston and Potterhanworth. I attach a copy of the original comments from the Parish Council which still apply and would request that those comments be taken in to serious consideration.

The review indicates that the further consultation is to consider ensuring clear boundaries while reflecting communities. The proposal in no way reflects the community of Coleby. This community is part of an area known as the Cliff Edge and there is a strong connection with the other Cliff villages. Coleby is closely linked with the other Cliff edge villages being part of the United Benefice of Graffoe, so worship within the cliff villages is connected. Medical treatment is provided by the Cliff Medical Practice and the community uses Navenby as its centre of goods and services, Potter Hanworth is a Heath village and there is no connection between Coleby and Potter Hanworth so the proposal in no way reflects the community.

Parish Councillors are against the proposal to join Coleby Harmston and Potterhandworth and would strongly wish to see the status quo remain.

Please take this into consideration when making the further review.

Regards,

Sue Makinson-Sanders
Clerk to Coleby Parish Council

[REDACTED]

COLEBY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman:

Mr Huw Davies

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Clerk:

Mrs Sue Makinson-Sanders

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

The Review Officer (Lincolnshire)

Local Government Boundary Commission for England

14th Floor Millbank Tower

Millbank

London

SW1P 4QP

3 February 2016

Dear Sirs

Local Government Boundary Commission Electoral Review of Lincolnshire County Council – Coleby Parish Council Response

Coleby Parish Council considered the 15 December 2015 recommendations from the Electoral Review of Lincolnshire County Council at our meeting on 5 January 2016 when a strong contingent of local residents was also present.

Parish Councilors and the public were unanimous in opposing the proposal for the new Potterhanworth & Coleby Division, which severs the existing strong links between Navenby, Boothby Graffoe and Coleby. A copy of the draft minute (number 14.60h) is attached.

This letter is Coleby Parish Council's formal response to the draft recommendations and follows LGBC guidance. It is structured around LGBC's three statutory criteria for reviews:

- Delivering electoral equality for local voters
- Reflecting the interests and identities of local communities
- Promoting effective and convenient local government

Delivering electoral equality for local voters

The existing Division of Branston with Navenby has a current electorate of 8,082, which is a variance of 11% from the current mean electorate per Division.

More importantly, however, the projected electorate for the existing division in 2021 is 8,157, which is a 0% variance from the 2021 projected mean electorate per Division. (Source: Electoral Figures (XLS) on LGBC website)

The projected 2021 position for the current Branston with Navenby Division is the closest of any current or proposed Divisions in the county to meeting the electoral equality criterion!

Whilst we recognise that there are very significant variations across Divisions in the county that require balancing, we do not believe that it would be appropriate (especially in the light of our comments below regarding the other LGBC criteria) to disrupt the existing ward boundaries affecting Coleby that deliver electoral equality unless that can be justified in terms of other criteria.

At the end of this letter we refer to earlier responses to your review that proposed a Division that met all of your criteria and strengthened links between Cliff Villages.

Reflecting the interests and identities of local communities

Coleby is one of the Cliff Villages of Lincolnshire – the group of villages clustered along one of the main geographic features of Lincolnshire and the A607 Grantham Road (see <http://www.lincolnshirelife.co.uk/posts/view/take-a-view-from-the-cliff>). The Cliff Villages are all within North Kesteven District (NKDC). They have a shared identity that can be evidenced in many ways:

- The main road in the area is the A607 Grantham Road that links all of the Cliff Villages with Lincoln and Grantham (the two largest towns in the county) and also with the A17 link to Newark for the A1 main road north/south and trains to London (also from Grantham).
- The village churches of Harmston, Coleby, Boothby Graffoe, Navenby, Temple Bruer, Wellingore and Skinnand come together under the Church of England 'Parish of Graffoe' with shared clergy – 'Seven Communities, One Parish'. The availability of clergy means that individual village churches cannot hold all services required so, for example, on Christmas Eve 2015 there was an afternoon service in Navenby and midnight masses in Boothby Graffoe, Coleby and Wellingore. This means that people worship in other Cliff Edge villages.
- The community newsletter 'Graffoe Link' covers those villages, meaning that other community activities are also shared along the Cliff Edge. Some activities are essentially centralised and shared. For example Coleby Gardeners Club is the only active club of its kind and attended from several other villages. A copy of a recent Graffoe Link is attached.

- The community activities above are mostly hosted in facilities at local churches or village halls that are of varying sizes. As a bigger village, Navenby now has 'The Venue' as the largest local facility that is used by Coleby residents where necessary.
- The Cliff Cluster of Parish Councils covers the seven parishes above plus Waddington and Bracebridge Heath.
- Coleby CofE Primary School serves several Cliff Villages including Boothby Graffoe. This can be seen by the map of its catchment area at: <https://www.schoolguide.co.uk/schools/coleby-church-of-england-controlled-primary-school-lincoln> (scroll down the page to see map).
- There are no shops in Coleby with the main local shops such as butcher, baker, Lincolnshire Co-Op etc. in Navenby. The local access point for County and District Council support is also in Navenby (<http://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/your-council/your-council-facts-and-figures/council-offices-and-contact-details/find-your-local-access-point/navenby-village-office/>). The other locations for local shops are in Waddington and Bracebridge Heath - both of which are also on the Cliff and A607 towards Lincoln.
- Local estate agents group the cliff villages in terms of desirable places to live (see for example <http://www.mouseprice.com/property-for-sale/cliff+villages+lincolnshire>).

Some services are provided on a larger scale but still map onto the Cliff Villages / A607 footprint:

- Community medicine is provided by the Cliff Villages Medical practice from surgeries based in Navenby and Waddington. The Practice extends to Bracebridge Heath to the North, The A15 to the East, Leadenham to the South and the Brant Road junction in Waddington to the West (<http://www.cliffvillagesmedicalpractice.co.uk>).
- The local Cliff Villages Lincoln U3a (University of the Third Age) covers broadly the same area as the GP practice (<http://www.cliffvillageslincoln3a.org.uk>).

In constructing this response we have read all of the responses made to the initial consultation on Division Arrangements. In respect of the impact on Coleby, these can be summarised as:

- There was no overall consensus within the county council and it seems that differences of opinion were split on a political basis. The county council response was from the ruling Lincolnshire Administration Group (a coalition of Conservatives and others). However, within that context the LCC response; highlights that Cliff Villages 'identify together as one

community' (p16); proposes a Navenby Rural Division that encompasses the cliff villages as far as the A17 with good co-terminosity with NKDC Wards and a projected electorate within 10% of the projected average per Division (p 17). The overall thrust of the relevant county council comments is to reflect the radial nature of links between communities rather than the concentric approach that has been adopted by the Commission (see explanation below).

- Councillor Overton (sitting county councillor for Branston with Navenby) provided comments that particularly emphasised retaining links between the Cliff Villages.

Our Coleby Parish Council comments are entirely consistent with both the above.

These are opposed by comments from Anne Walsh (organisation and location not known) who suggested:

Add Potterhanworth and Nocton to Metheringham ward (reduced slightly as below)

Add Navenby to Bassingham ward and Branston to Waddington ward

Add Billingham to Sleaford Rural

Comment text: Suggestion is to eliminate the Branston and Navenby ward based on the commuter villages spreading from Potterhanworth to Metheringham being placed together. Billingham more as a rural Sleaford village and Navenby being a similar village with similar needs with Leadenham and Bassingham.

However, there was no supporting evidence provided by Ms Walsh and we believe that the evidence presented in this response effectively negates her comments.

Promoting effective and convenient local government

We believe that the LGBC proposal for changes to the current Branston with Navenby Division will have a detrimental effect on this.

The table below shows the impact of the proposal on the existing Cliff Villages Ward for North Kesteven District Council.

Parish currently in NK's Cliff Villages Ward	Current LCC Division	Proposed LCC Division
Harmston	Branston with Navenby	Potterhanworth & Coleby
Coleby	Branston with Navenby	Potterhanworth & Coleby
Boothby Graffoe	Branston with Navenby	Bassingham & Welbourne
Navenby	Branston with Navenby	Bassingham & Welbourne
Wellingore	Bassingham Rural	Bassingham & Welbourne
Welbourn	Bassingham Rural	Bassingham & Welbourne
Leadenham	Bassingham Rural	Bassingham & Welbourne

Source for current LCC Division: Electoral Figures (XLS) on LGBC website

Source for Proposed Electoral Division: Consultation map on LGBC website

Although the proposals maintain the position where the NKDC Cliff Villages Ward is spread across two LCC Divisions, the fact remains that Coleby's link with Boothby Graffoe and Navenby is severed.

It is clear from the LGBC consultation map that the Commission has aligned parishes concentrically moving outwards from Lincoln whereas the physical and community geography as summarised above is radial along the A607, A15/B1188 etc.

We have already referred above to the local access point for County and District Council services being based in Navenby.

The current NKDC councillor chairs the Cliff Cluster of Parish Councils referred to earlier.

We believe that the proposed changes will make it more difficult for the NKDC District Councillor and the LCC Councillor representing Coleby to function effectively because the role of Councillors is to represent the communities that they serve and the current LGBC proposals do not reflect the existing strong community links.

Summary and conclusion

Coleby Parish Council is opposed to the LGBC proposal for the Potterhanworth & Coleby Division as it fails to recognise the link between the Cliff Villages and particularly of Coleby with Boothby Graffoe and Navenby.

We have provided detailed evidence to support that view including the fact that the existing Branston with Navenby Division is the closest to projected electoral equality in 2021 of any existing or proposed Divisions.

Our response to this consultation has concentrated on the proposals published on 15 December 2015. However, we also wish to draw your attention to earlier comments from the county council and Councillor Overton which both make the case for a Division that covers the Cliff Villages wider natural community and also falls within the LGBC's objective for a Division's electorate to be within 10% of the countywide average in 2021. We believe this deserves much closer consideration.

We would be happy to engage further with you on this.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Sue Makinson-Sanders

Coleby Parish Clerk for and on behalf of Coleby Parish Council