

HASLINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

12th July, 2016

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

Dear Sirs,

**Reference: Electoral Review of South Cambridgeshire: New Draft Recommendations
Submission of Haslingfield Parish Council**

- 1. Objection to proposed three council member ward arrangement**
- 2. Preferred electoral arrangement is for three one member wards**

I write on behalf of Haslingfield Parish Council regarding the proposed inclusion of the Parish in a three council member ward for the District Council. Haslingfield and our neighbouring parish of Harlton have very close links on many levels including formal educational, religious and traffic calming initiatives as well as social links with clubs and friendships. Other villages within the proposed three councillors ward also have close links, one with another but certainly not many close links all together.

The three primary criteria of the electoral review are: -

- To deliver electoral equality where each district councillor represents roughly the same number of electors as others across the district
- That the pattern of wards should, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities
- That the electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government.

In our view the current proposal only meets the first requirement on a subjective arithmetical requirement of 10% variance. It regrettable fails to address the other two primary criteria. There has been too much stress placed on numerical balance and too little on reflecting the interests and identities of local communities. This will lead to ineffective and inconvenient local government and a neglect of local interests and identities.

We propose that you re-examine the earlier three separate one member wards proposed by the District Council or a slightly modified similar arrangement. Whilst these wards demonstrate a higher variance than your 10% ideal, they more properly and effectively reflect the different interests and identities of our local communities, which is of prime importance in our view.

We trust that you will modify your proposals accordingly.

This letter was formally approved by Haslingfield Parish Council at its regular monthly meeting on Monday 11th July 2016.

Yours faithfully,


Robert Branch
Chairman
Haslingfield Parish Council



cc: South Cambridgeshire District Council