



Rutland and Melton Labour Party

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16 July 2015

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

Dear Sir

Leicestershire County Council Boundaries in the Borough of Melton Mowbray

I write on behalf of the Rutland and Melton Constituency Labour Party. We have serious concerns about the proposals of Leicestershire County Council as they affect Melton Town and adjacent rural communities.

It is easy to be critical but we have put considerable effort into working up a positive alternative that:

- Ensures, as far as reasonably possible, equality of representation, keeping within the Local Boundary Commission's tolerance of 10%
- Recognises the interests, identities and needs of rural and urban communities, including the need for the recognisable community of Melton Town to be suitably represented
- Promotes effective and convenient local government by creating divisions that are an appropriate size so as to be easily manageable in terms of representation, and have clear boundaries.

1. Proposals

- a. Melton Town to have two Divisions:
Melton East with 10,510¹ voters (variance +5.33%)
Melton West with 10,384 voters (variance +4.65%)
- b. Rural areas to have two divisions:
Asfordby with 9,319 voters (variance -6.35%)
Belvoir with 9,590 voters (variance -3.63%)

2. Urban & Rural Community Interests

We set out to address the importance of the diverse interests and community identities of the town and villages across the Borough of Melton Mowbray.

Melton Town does not have a Town Council and depends upon its Borough and County elected representatives to consider its particular interests, opportunities and challenges.

¹ Figures relate to 2021 unless otherwise stated

Similarly, rural communities value representation from those with a strong commitment and understanding of their interests. We believe to merge the representation of rural and urban communities would compromise the effectiveness of representation of both urban and rural communities.

3. How is this achieved? – Melton Town

- a. Melton Town currently has an unfortunate boundary between the Borough Council Wards of Sysonby and Newport. Removing this anomaly creates a more logical and clear boundary as well as helping to ‘balance’ the numbers of voters.

The removal of the “bulge” merely requires a shift of 1014 voters of Melton Sysonby Station “I” being moved from the new Melton West to the New Melton East.



The resulting two Melton Town Divisions are almost equal in number of voters.

- b. By creating a west-east axis boundary, based on current Town Ward boundaries, we strengthen the community identification of people living and working in the town. An advantage of mainly keeping the MBC Ward boundaries facilitates good governance through liaison between County and Borough Councillors.
- c. Although not a proposal, you may wish to consider the names of the two Melton Town Divisions. The obvious and functional names would be “Melton East” and “Melton West”. However, as the River Wreake changes its name to the River Eye as it flows through Melton Town, it may be worth considering “Melton Wreake” and “Melton Eye” as suitable, more community identifiable names.

4. How is this achieved? – Rural Areas

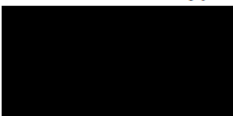
- a. We recognise the need to “balance” voter numbers in rural areas. However, the identity of rural areas is precious to rural residents and using a mix of rural / urban voters does not respect that sense of identity. Our proposal seeks to respect that community identification by keeping changes simple and within rural communities.
- b. We therefore propose adding 738 voters from the Parishes of Freeby, Wymondham and Edmondthorpe (Polling Stations AP, AS, AT) to a new Asfordby County Council Division. This obviously reduces the new Belvoir Division. The two new Divisions – Asfordby and Belvoir are almost the same size and, at -6.35 and -3.63 are well within the tolerance expected.

5. Range of variance

The overall *range* of variance in this proposal is from +5.62 to -6.35 ie 11.97. This is less than the proposal provided by Leicestershire County Council and considerably less than the current position of 26.36.

Two appendixes below show a map of the area and detailed figures for the proposed Divisions.

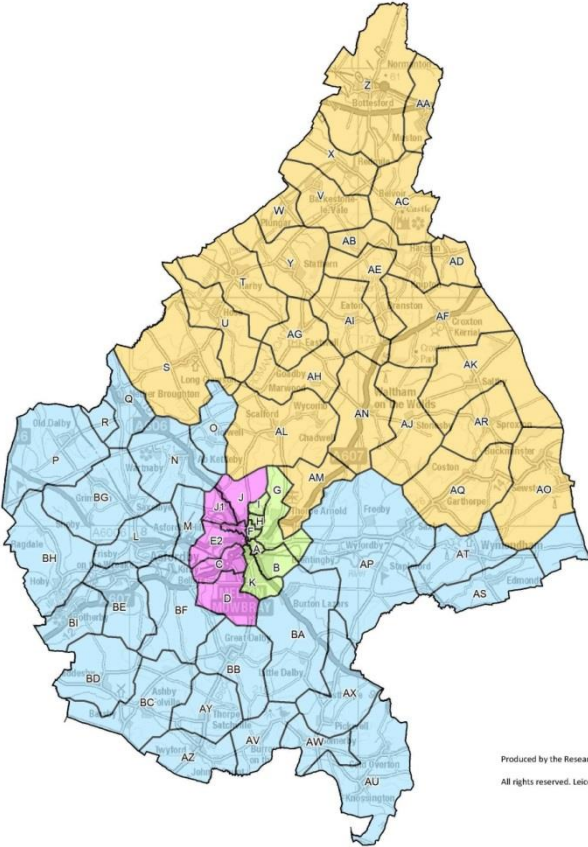
Yours sincerely,



Graham Bett
Chair
Rutland & Melton Constituency Labour Party

Appendix A

Melton Division



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Appendix B

| Polling district | Parish | Parish ward | Existing Borough ward | Existing County division | Electorate 2014 | Variance | Electorate 2021 | Variance |
|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| Asfordby | | | | | | | | |
| L | Asfordby | Asfordby | Asfordby | Asfordby | 2282 | | 2284 | |
| M | Asfordby | Asfordby Hill | Asfordby | Asfordby | 411 | | 399 | |
| N | Ab Kettleby | Ab Kettleby | Old Dalby | Asfordby | 335 | | 335 | |
| O | Ab Kettleby | Holwell | Old Dalby | Asfordby | 126 | | 124 | |
| P | Broughton and Dalby | Dalby Ward | Old Dalby | Asfordby | 553 | | 553 | |
| Q | Broughton and Dalby | Broughton Ward | Old Dalby | Asfordby | 314 | | 309 | |
| R | Broughton and Dalby | Broughton Ward | Old Dalby | Asfordby | 291 | | 282 | |
| AU | Knossington and Cold Overton | | Somerby | Asfordby | 259 | | 262 | |
| AV | Somerby | Burrough on the Hill | Somerby | Asfordby | 157 | | 161 | |
| AW | Somerby | Somerby | Somerby | Asfordby | 337 | | 340 | |
| AX | Somerby | Leesthorpe and Pickwell | Somerby | Asfordby | 158 | | 158 | |
| AY | Twyford and Thorpe | Thorpe | Somerby | Asfordby | 196 | | 199 | |
| AZ | Twyford and Thorpe | Twyford | Somerby | Asfordby | 310 | | 323 | |
| BA | Burton and Dalby | Burton | Gaddesby | Asfordby | 436 | | 442 | |
| BB | Burton and Dalby | Dalby Ward | Gaddesby | Asfordby | 350 | | 351 | |
| BC | Gaddesby | Ashby Folville | Gaddesby | Asfordby | 257 | | 260 | |
| BD | Gaddesby | Gaddesby | Gaddesby | Asfordby | 360 | | 358 | |
| BE | Frisby | | Frisby on the Wreake | Asfordby | 482 | | 490 | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| BF | Kirby Bellars | | Frisby on the Wreake | Asfordby | 301 | | 288 | |
| BG | Grimston | | Frisby on the Wreake | Asfordby | 226 | | 223 | |
| BH | Hoby with Rotherby | Hoby and Ragdale Ward | Frisby on the Wreake | Asfordby | 298 | | 294 | |
| BI | Hoby with Rotherby | Rotherby and Brooksby Wards | Frisby on the Wreake | Asfordby | 150 | | 148 | |
| AP | Freeby | Freeby and Stapleford Wards | Wymondham | Belvoir | 196 | | 191 | |
| AS | Wymondham and Edmondthorpe | Edmondthorpe | Wymondham | Belvoir | 85 | | 85 | |
| AT | Wymondham and Edmondthorpe | Wymondham | Wymondham | Belvoir | 472 | | 463 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | 9342 | -1 | 9319 | -7 |

| Polling district | Parish | Parish ward | Existing Borough ward | Existing County division | Electorate 2014 | Variance | Electorate 2021 | Variance |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Belvoir | | | | | | | | |
| S | Clawson Hose and Harby | Clawson | Long Clawson & Stathern | Belvoir | 825 | | 838 | |
| T | Clawson Hose and Harby | Harby | Long Clawson & Stathern | Belvoir | 753 | | 766 | |
| U | Clawson Hose and Harby | Hose | Long Clawson & Stathern | Belvoir | 478 | | 475 | |
| V | Barkestone, Plungar and Redmile | Barkestone | Long Clawson & Stathern | Belvoir | 263 | | 252 | |
| W | Barkestone, Plungar and Redmile | Plungar | Long Clawson & Stathern | Belvoir | 205 | | 203 | |
| X | Barkestone, Plungar and Redmile | Redmile | Long Clawson & Stathern | Belvoir | 240 | | 231 | |
| Y | Stathern | | Long Clawson & Stathern | Belvoir | 565 | | 558 | |
| Z | Bottesford | | Bottesford | Belvoir | 2703 | | 2792 | |
| AA | Bottesford | | Bottesford | Belvoir | 204 | | 208 | |
| AB | Belvoir | Belvoir | Croxton Kerrial | Belvoir | 101 | | 107 | |
| AC | Belvoir | Belvoir | Croxton Kerrial | Belvoir | 59 | | 62 | |
| AD | Belvoir | Harston | Croxton Kerrial | Belvoir | 83 | | 88 | |
| AE | Croxton Kerrial | Branston | Croxton Kerrial | Belvoir | 111 | | 111 | |
| AF | Croxton Kerrial | Croxton Kerrial | Croxton Kerrial | Belvoir | 321 | | 313 | |
| AG | Eaton | Eastwell | Croxton Kerrial | Belvoir | 155 | | 154 | |
| AH | Eaton | Eastwell | Croxton Kerrial | Belvoir | 108 | | 106 | |
| AI | Eaton | Eaton | Croxton Kerrial | Belvoir | 254 | | 252 | |
| AJ | Sproxtton | Stonesby | Croxton Kerrial | Belvoir | 145 | | 142 | |

| | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|--------------------------|-----------------|---------|-------------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| AK | Sproxton | Salby | Croxton Kerrial | Belvoir | 147 | | 144 | |
| AL | Scalford | | Waltham | Belvoir | 520 | | 525 | |
| AM | Waltham on the Wolds and Thorpe Arnold | | Waltham | Belvoir | 94 | | 93 | |
| AN | Waltham on the Wolds and Thorpe Arnold | | Waltham | Belvoir | 697 | | 693 | |
| AO | Buckminster | Buckminster and Sewstern | Wyndham | Belvoir | 276 | | 275 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| AQ | Garthorpe | | Wyndham | Belvoir | 54 | | 52 | |
| AR | Sproxton | Sproxton | Wyndham | Belvoir | 152 | | 147 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | 9513 | 0 | 9590 | -4 |

| Polling district | Parish | Parish ward | Existing Borough ward | Existing County division | Electorate 2014 | Variance | Electorate 2021 | Variance |
|--------------------|--------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| Melton East | | | | | | | | |
| A | | | Melton Craven | Melton Mowbray South | 740 | | 735 | |
| B | | | Melton Craven | Melton Mowbray South | 2061 | | 2016 | |
| F | | | Melton Newport | Melton Mowbray North | 865 | | 905 | |
| G | | | Melton Newport | Melton Mowbray North | 1981 | | 2040 | |
| H | | | Melton Newport | Melton Mowbray North | 1065 | | 1089 | |
| K | | | Melton Warwick | Melton Mowbray South | 2640 | | 2711 | |
| I | | | Melton Sysonby | Melton Mowbray North | 1001 | | 1014 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | 10353 | 9 | 10510 | 5 |

| Polling district | Parish | Parish ward | Existing Borough ward | Existing County division | Electorate 2014 | Variance | Electorate 2021 | Variance |
|--------------------|--------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| Melton West | | | | | | | | |
| C | | | Melton Dorian | Melton Mowbray South | 2730 | | 2741 | |
| D | | | Melton Dorian | Melton Mowbray South | 1472 | | 1488 | |
| E1 | | | Melton Egerton | Melton Mowbray North | 1610 | | 1653 | |
| E2 | | | Melton Egerton | Melton Mowbray North | 1203 | | 1232 | |
| J | | | Melton Sysonby | Melton Mowbray North | 1608 | | 1711 | |
| J1 | | | Melton Sysonby | Melton Mowbray North | 1508 | | 1559 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | 10131 | 7 | 10384 | 4 |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | Total | 39339 | | 39803 | |