

Newnham Liberal Democrats

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

The Review Officer for Cambridgeshire
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th floor Millbank Tower
21-24 Millbank
London
SW1P 4QP

30 November 2015

Dear Review Officer,

I am writing on behalf of Newnham Liberal Democrats to respond to the latest phase of consultation in your review of Cambridgeshire and its county council.

We object strongly to the proposal to have a combined Newnham and Castle ward for the following reasons.

1. Newnham is a geographically well- defined community, largely surrounded by green space to the, south, west and east and by Madingley Road to the north. There are few residential dwellings to the north of Madingley Road and residents south of Madingley Road typically look to Newnham Croft as the heart of their local community – or east to the city centre as the heart of their city community.
2. There is a strong sense of community and common identity in Newnham, with those in the north of the ward relating closely to those in the south, sharing similar concerns and using the same shops, school and local facilities. By contrast Newnham residents do not typically relate to Castle ward and the shops and services in the Castle area.
3. There are large changes in housing numbers due to take place in Castle ward and it is important to make sure that residents enjoy equitable democratic circumstances. However could be achieved by smaller adjustments to the ward boundaries say moving colleges rather than this drastic approach of combining two distinct communities. The imperative for the new residents of North West Cambridge is that they feel they can be part of a genuine neighbourhood attached to an existing community and the best way to achieve this is to keep the two wards, albeit with small adjustments.

4. We would like to have coterminous boundaries with the city council arrangements for better administration of joint arrangements such as the county's highway improvement scheme which relies on contributions from the city's environmental improvement programme. Coterminous arrangements also assist residents, especially new residents, understand the democratic structures; such clarity is vital to good democracy.

We very much hope you will reconsider these proposals.

Yours truly

Sian Reid
Ward chair