

Starkie, Emily

From: Tracey Coulson [REDACTED]
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To: reviews
Subject: Electoral review of East Cambridgeshire: draft recommendations

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At a meeting of the City of Ely Council held on 14th December 2015 members were invited to comment on the Draft Recommendation regarding the City of Ely parish wards as contained in the Local Government Boundary Commission's proposals (page 13, para 34) for East Cambridgeshire District Council.

The Council wishes me to bring the following to your attention:

The creation of separate wards for the village communities of Chettisham, Stuntney and Prickwillow is not supported by the Council. The reasons for this are:

1. that there is no historical precedent to support the move; the villages have voted within the larger community since the nineteenth century and the present arrangement is well accepted by three villages which, over many years, have been closely integrated into the wider parish of Ely.
2. two of the three villages are very small and the third, Prickwillow, only a little larger. It is the belief of the Council that electorates would be so small as to make contested elections unlikely or decided by a very small number of voters. In the case of Chettisham with fewer than 140 electors or Stuntney with 240 average turnouts could see councillors elected with fewer than 50 votes. This would be in sharp contrast to the more urban wards with electorates in the several of thousands.

The City of Ely Council, therefore, submits the proposal that the villages of Chettisham and Prickwillow become part of Ely North ward and Stuntney part of Ely East ward. The number of members returned by those ward to be amended appropriately.

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Clerk to the City of Ely Council

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