

Cambridgeshire County

Personal Details:

Name: Andrew Roberts

E-mail: 

Postcode: 

Organisation Name: Trumpington Residents' Association

Comment text:

Boundary Commission Electoral Review of Cambridgeshire: Trumpington Residents' Association Objection to the New Draft Recommendations The Trumpington Residents' Association strongly objects to the draft proposals as they affect Trumpington (para. 32 in the Draft Recommendations and text in the Detailed Divisions). We have also objected during the first two rounds of consultation. We note that your criteria for drawing up electoral arrangements are: 1) good electoral equality; 2) reflect the interests and identity of communities and include evidence of community links; and 3) provide effective and convenient local government. We argue that the current proposals for a single ward covering Trumpington and Queen Edith's conspicuously fail to fulfil the second and third criteria and are unduly influenced by the concern for electoral equality.

2) Community identity. The proposed ward covering the historically and geographically distinct areas of Trumpington and Queen Edith's fails to match the community identify factors noted in the summary of the draft recommendations:

- Transport links: there are poor public transport links between the two areas.
- Community groups: we are not aware of any community groups whose focus covers the two areas and see no reason why such groups would become established in the future.
- Facilities: residents from Trumpington tend to use facilities within Trumpington or within the wider area of Cambridge, plus the regional health and research facilities at Addenbrooke's/CBC, with limited involvement with schools, community centres, services and shops in Queen Edith's.
- Interests: Trumpington and Queen Edith's residents share an interest in the future of Cambridge, including the future of Addenbrooke's/CBC and the outcomes of the Local Plan process, but these overlaps are no stronger than those with other parts of the city.
- Identifiable boundaries: we repeat the proposals in our previous responses that it would be appropriate to include the Addenbrooke's/CBC area within a Trumpington ward, with Long Road and Hills Road as the north eastern and eastern boundary of the ward.

3) Effective local government. We are very concerned that a ward with two councillors would provide residents with a weaker structure and service than the long-established model of a ward with one councillor. The ward would have two very separate foci and the geographic area covered by the ward would be significantly greater than that of any other ward in Cambridge. The focus of Trumpington is to the south west of the proposed ward whereas the focus of Queen Edith's is to the east. The scale and pace of growth of the population in Trumpington in just a decade from 2011-2021 will place very special demands on the ward councillor.

1) Electoral equality. We appreciate that there is a concern that a Trumpington ward would have a smaller electorate than the average. We continue to believe that your figures underestimate the speed of population growth within Trumpington. We think it would be appropriate to extend the ward to Hills Road, including the Addenbrooke's/CBC area (consistent with the original parish of Trumpington, prior to the town/district boundary changes in 1912 and 1934). We also accept that there may be a case for areas to the north of Trumpington being included within the new ward. Trumpington Residents' Association

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded