

**Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 474**

**Principal Area Boundary Review
Borough of Ipswich/District of Suffolk
Coastal**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 474

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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THE RT. HON. PATRICK JENKIN MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

1. At present the village of Westerfield is split between Ipswich Borough and Suffolk Coastal District; the part situated in Ipswich is unparished, whilst the part in Suffolk Coastal is in the parish of Westerfield. On 19 March 1981 the Chairman of Westerfield Parish Meeting wrote to us seeking an alteration to the district boundary in the village; the Parish Meeting wished this boundary to be moved southwards so that the whole village would lie within the district of Suffolk Coastal and the parish of Westerfield, thus reflecting community ties and making the parish large enough to have a council of its own.

2. We sought the views of Suffolk Coastal District Council, Ipswich Borough Council, and Suffolk County Council on the matter. Suffolk Coastal District Council were in favour of the suggested boundary change, and made a formal request to us accordingly. Ipswich Borough Council were against a change being made to the Westerfield part of their boundary in isolation; they wished the whole of the Borough boundary to be considered simultaneously at a later date, as part of a comprehensive review of district boundaries. Suffolk County Council generally took the view that consideration of district boundary changes should await a comprehensive review, but, since this particular suggestion was likely to have only a marginal effect on the administration of the principal county services, they would not object to it if all other parties were in agreement.

3. We considered Suffolk Coastal District Council's request, as required by section 48(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, having regard to DOE Circular 33/78 and to our own Report No. 287. We noted that the suggested change appeared to meet the criteria set out in paragraph 14 of the DOE Circular.

4. We decided, therefore, to publish draft proposals based on the line suggested by Suffolk Coastal District Council and agreed with Westerfield Parish Meeting. The Ordnance Survey had suggested some adjustments to the proposed line on technical grounds, and drawn attention to certain issues of an administrative nature arising from access to one particular property on the Ipswich side of this line; we decided, however, that for the purposes of our draft proposals we should adhere to the council's suggested line, although we should draw the Ordnance Survey's suggestions to the attention of Suffolk Coastal District Council and Ipswich Borough Council.

5. Our draft proposals envisaged a new, enlarged parish of Westerfield, consisting of the area of the present parish plus the area which would be transferred from Ipswich Borough to Suffolk Coastal District. We also noted that the proposed boundary change would raise the electorate of Westerfield above the 200 mark. Section 9(2)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires that, if a parish does not have a parish council (whether separate or common), the district council concerned shall by order establish a separate parish council for that parish if the population includes 200 or more local government electors. We therefore considered it likely that, if we subsequently decided to confirm our draft proposals as final proposals, and an Order was made giving effect to those proposals, the Order would include provision for the establishment of a parish council for Westerfield. For this purpose, we considered that a council of seven members would be appropriate.

6. On 2 July 1982 we issued a consultation letter giving details of our draft proposals. The letter was addressed jointly to Suffolk Coastal District Council and Ipswich Borough Council. Copies were sent to Suffolk County Council, the Chairman of Westerfield Parish Meeting, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned, the headquarters of the main political parties, the Suffolk Association of Local Councils, the East Anglian Regional Health Authority, the Anglian Water

Authority, the Eastern Regional Office of the Department of the Environment, the local radio station serving the area, and to the editors of local newspapers circulating in the area and of the local government press. We asked the two district councils to arrange for the publication of a notice about the draft proposals for two successive weeks in the local press, and to display copies of the notice at places where public notices are customarily displayed; and to place a copy of the draft proposals on deposit at their main offices for a period of six weeks.

Comments on the draft proposals were invited by 27 August 1982. In a further letter to the two district councils, we pointed out the Ordnance Survey's suggestions, and invited the district councils' observations on these.

7. In response to our consultation letter, we received letters from Suffolk Coastal District Council, Ipswich Borough Council, Westerfield Parish Meeting, Westerfield Parochial Church Council, the Ipswich Conservative Association, three Ipswich Borough Councillors, a commercial organisation, and 69 private individuals.

8. Suffolk Coastal District Council supported the draft proposals: as far as the exact line of the new boundary was concerned they had no strong views and were willing to be guided by the Ordnance Survey and Westerfield Parish Meeting. The Parish Meeting, the Parochial Church Council, and two residents of the Ipswich part of Westerfield also supported the draft proposals. Another Westerfield resident, Dr D N Hall, stated that in August 1982, at Westerfield Village Hall, he chaired a public meeting which expressed the view that, if the present district boundary was to be changed, it would be more appropriate, for historical reasons, for it to follow the southern part of the ecclesiastical parish boundary: this would have the effect of transferring a larger area of land to Suffolk Coastal District than would our draft proposals, which only affected land north of the Ipswich - Woodbridge railway line. Dr Hall himself preferred a slightly modified version of the ecclesiastical boundary. The Ordnance Survey suggested some technical adjustments to Dr Hall's proposal in the event of its being adopted.

9. Ipswich Borough Council objected to our draft proposals; they reiterated their view that any changes should await a general review of the Borough boundary. This view was also expressed by the Ipswich Conservative Association, and by the three Ipswich Borough Councillors representing the St Margaret's ward, which includes the Ipswich part of Westerfield. It was argued that many residents of the Ipswich part of the village wished to remain within the Borough; and that, in the context of a comprehensive review, it might be appropriate to bring the whole village into Ipswich rather than into Suffolk Coastal. Robert Cubitt Holdings Ltd, a local commercial organisation situated in the affected area, strongly objected to being transferred to Suffolk Coastal District; they were very satisfied with the services provided by Ipswich Borough Council. Similar opposition to our draft proposals was expressed - mostly in the form of a stereotyped letter - by 66 Westerfield residents from some 25 different households in the Ipswich part of the village.

10. We considered the response to our draft proposals. On the basis of the information before us, we remained of the view that, in the interests of effective and convenient local government, the village of Westerfield should probably be united under one district. However, we were not satisfied that we had gained an adequate picture of public opinion on both sides of the existing boundary. We also noted that there was some conflict of view about the effectiveness of present arrangements for the provision of services. We therefore decided that a local meeting should be held to obtain further information about public opinion on the question of uniting Westerfield, and in particular the suggestion that the whole village be brought entirely within Ipswich Borough.

11. Arrangements were made for the local meeting to be held on 2 November 1983, starting at 10.30 am, at the Village Hall in Westerfield's neighbouring village of Tuddenham. (This hall was chosen because its capacity was understood to be greater than that of the Westerfield village hall). In accordance with section 65(2) of the 1972 Act, and at our request, Mr L H Baines OBE was appointed an

Assistant Commissioner to hold the meeting and to report to us. Mr Baines was asked to assess the balance of local feeling, and the factors affecting effective and convenient local government, and to make recommendations accordingly, including a suggestion as to the precise line that any new district boundary should follow. If he were to take the view that Westerfield should be united within Ipswich Borough, he was to recommend whether or not the village should be parished, and if so, where the southern boundary of the parish should run. He was also asked to give, if applicable, his observations on the question of parish council size.

12. On 16 September 1983 we issued a letter, addressed jointly to Suffolk Coastal District Council and Ipswich Borough Council, announcing the arrangements for the local meeting. Copies were sent to all the bodies and persons whom we had notified of our draft proposals or who had commented on those proposals. We asked the two district councils to arrange for the publication of a notice about the local meeting for two successive weeks in the local press, to display copies of the notice at appropriate places, and to place all relevant documents on deposit at their main offices until after the meeting had been concluded.

13. In the letter about the local meeting, we stated that we did not have in prospect any comprehensive review of non-metropolitan district boundaries, and that we saw no reason why the present examination of the Suffolk Coastal/Ipswich boundary at Westerfield should not be completed on the current limited basis. We made it clear that the local meeting would not deal with any wider questions or whether other changes to Ipswich's boundaries were desirable. We also advised anyone who intended to speak at the meeting that it would be helpful if they were to state beforehand, in writing, broadly what they intended to say.

14. Between then and the local meeting, we received letters from 14 interested bodies, persons, or groups of persons; we sent the Assistant Commissioner copies of all these letters. Of the ones which expressed a view about the boundary, a majority supported the unification of Westerfield within Suffolk Coastal District. One of the people who wrote was the Chairman of Westerfield Parish Meeting, who had

conducted a survey of local opinion among the residents of the Suffolk Coastal part of Westerfield. He enclosed 83 reply slips from these residents; almost all the slips expressed support for the unification of Westerfield within Suffolk Coastal and for the formation of a parish council to cover the whole village. The Chairman of the Parish Meeting stated that he had not received any objections to this view, and that the general opinion was that the only acceptable options were for the whole village to go into Suffolk Coastal or for the boundary to remain as at present.

15. We received some objections to the proposed time and venue of the meeting, on the grounds that they were inconvenient. After consultation with the Assistant Commissioner, we agreed that an evening session should be held, commencing at 7 pm on 2 November 1983, in addition to the advertised daytime session starting at 10.30 am and we took steps to ensure that interested parties were informed accordingly. We did not, however, consider it appropriate to change the venue of the meeting: we remained of the view that Tuddenham Village Hall was suitable for this purpose.

16. After the meeting had taken place, we received six more letters. We forwarded copies of four of these to the Assistant Commissioner for him to take into account when preparing his report; the other two letters were received too late for us to forward to him, but we did not regard these as adding anything of significance to the arguments already advanced.

17. On 2 December 1983 the Assistant Commissioner submitted his report to us: a copy of this is enclosed as Schedule 4 to this report. In the light of the discussion at the meeting, the various written representations made, and his own detailed inspection of the area, he came to the conclusion that the unification of the village of Westerfield under one district would be in the interests of effective and convenient local government, and that, in the event of its being unified, it would be appropriate for it to be administered by Suffolk Coastal District Council and by a seven-member parish council for the combined area, as in our draft proposals: he considered, however, that some amendments should be made to our proposed district

boundary line, so as to take account of comments which had earlier been made by the Ordnance Survey and to bring into the enlarged parish of Westerfield certain further properties which in his view were essentially part of the Westerfield community. He recommended accordingly.

18. We have considered the Assistant Commissioner's recommendations, and have decided to accept them all, subject to a minor technical adjustment subsequently suggested by the Ordnance Survey. We hereby make final proposals accordingly.

19. Details of our final proposals, which would have the effect of transferring some 250-300 electors from Ipswich Borough to Suffolk Coastal District, are set out in Schedules 1-3 to this Report and are illustrated on a large scale map which is being sent separately to your Department. Schedule 1 specifies the proposed changes in local authority areas, and Schedules 2 and 3 specify the consequential adjustments to the existing electoral arrangements at district and county level respectively. These consequential adjustments merely involve bringing the boundaries of the relevant district wards and county electoral divisions into line with the proposed new district/parish boundaries; the electoral balance at district and county level would not be significantly affected thereby, and we do not therefore consider that any fundamental changes in electoral arrangements are necessary.

20. Separate letters are being sent, with copies of this report and the large scale map, to Suffolk Coastal District Council and Ipswich Borough Council, asking them to place copies of the report and map on deposit at their main offices, and to put notices to this effect on public notice boards and in the local press. The text of the notices will refer to your power to make an Order implementing the proposals, if you think fit, after the expiry of six weeks from the date they are submitted to you; it will suggest that any comments on the proposals should therefore be addressed to you, in writing, preferably within six weeks of the date of the letter. Copies of this report, which includes a small sketch plan

illustrating the proposed changes are also being sent to the other bodies and persons who received the letter about the local meeting and to everyone else who attended the meeting or made written representations to us or to the Assistant Commissioner.

LS

SIGNED: G J ELLERTON (Chairman)

JOAN ACKNER

TYRRELL BROCKBANK

G E CHERRY

D P HARRISON

LESLIE GRIMSHAW
Secretary

24 May 1984

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

PRINCIPAL AREA REVIEW: FINAL PROPOSALS

SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT/BOROUGH OF IPSWICH

Note: Where a boundary is described as following a road, railway, river, canal or similar feature, it should be deemed to follow the centre line of said feature, unless otherwise stated.

SCHEDULE 1

Description of an area of land proposed to be transferred from the Borough of Ipswich to Suffolk Coastal District, and to be included in the new Westerfield CP.

That area bounded by a line commencing at a point where the existing District boundary meets the southern boundary of the Lowestoft to Ipswich railway at Tuddenham Road, thence westwards along said southern boundary to the western boundary of the track leading to Westerfield Road, thence southwestwards along said western boundary to the southern boundary of said railway, thence westwards along said southern boundary to the southeastern boundary of Parcel No 9713 as shown on OS 1:2500 Microfilm TM 1647(A) date of publication 1967, thence southwestwards along said southeastern boundary and westwards along the southern boundary of said parcel, crossing Westerfield Road, to the eastern boundary of Parcel No 8400, thence northeastwards along said eastern boundary and continuing northeastwards along the eastern boundary of Parcel No 5600 to the southern boundary of said railway, thence eastwards along said southern boundary to the western boundary of Westerfield Road, thence northeastwards along said western boundary to the northern boundary of said railway, thence westwards along said northern boundary to the eastern boundary of Parcel No 7929, thence generally northwards along said eastern boundary and westwards along the northern boundary

of said parcel to the eastern boundary of Parcel No 6751, thence northeastwards along said eastern boundary and the eastern boundary of Parcel No 7172 to the northern boundary of the last-mentioned parcel, thence northwestwards along said northern boundary and the northern boundary of Parcel No 5376 to the western boundary of the last-mentioned parcel, thence southwestwards along said western boundary to the southern boundary of Parcel No 4990, thence northwestwards, northeastwards and southeastwards along the southern, western and northern boundaries of said parcel to the eastern boundary of Parcel No 4500, thence northeastwards along said eastern boundary and in prolongation thereof to the existing District boundary, thence generally eastwards along said District boundary to the point of commencement.

Westerfield CP will return seven members for the combined area.

SCHEDULE 2

Revised District electoral arrangements, consequent upon the proposals described in Schedule 1.

It is proposed that the District Wards, as defined in the District of Suffolk Coastal (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980 and the Borough of Ipswich (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1978 shall be altered as described below.

That area as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the St Margaret's Ward of the Borough of Ipswich to the Bealings Ward of the District of Suffolk Coastal.

SCHEDULE 3

Revised County electoral arrangements, consequent upon the proposals described in Schedule 1.

It is proposed that the County Electoral Divisions, as defined in the County of Suffolk (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1973, shall be altered as described below.

That area as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Ipswich St Margaret's ED to Carlford ED (Op. 2 5 85).

PRINCIPAL AREA REVIEW

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT

TÜDDENHAM ST.

WESTERFIELD CP

WESTERFIELD CP

SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT

Westerfield

BOROUGH OF IPSWICH

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND
FINAL PROPOSAL

- EXISTING DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- - - - - PROPOSED DISTRICT BOUNDARY
- EXISTING CP BOUNDARY