I am writing on behalf of Kirby Bedon Parish Council to give the council's comments on the electoral review of south norfolk.

Kirby Bedon is currently in Rockland ward and would like to remain there. We moved to Rockland from Trowse with Newton about 10 years ago because we were effectively cut off from the latter when the southern bypass round Norwich was opened.

We are an extremely rural parish and we felt that we had more in common with the parishes of Rockland and Surlingham than with Trowse, which has seen a lot of housing development with more planned for the future.

Helen Bosworth
Clerk to Kirby Bedon Parish Council
Kirby Bedon Parish Council has already submitted its views on the electoral review of south Norfolk i.e. that the parish wishes to remain in Rockland ward.

However we have just learned that South Norfolk Council has recommended to you that Kirby Bedon transfer to Trowse ward and we would like to give a more detailed explanation as to why we feel this is unacceptable.

Although Kirby Bedon used to be in the Trowse ward this was when there was a road directly linking the two parishes. With the building of the southern bypass around Norwich in 1995 this road was blocked off, and now if Kirby Bedon residents wish to go to Trowse they are faced with a 5 mile detour via the A146 into Norwich and then back out again to access Trowse from the Norwich side of the village.

As a result residents of Kirby Bedon no longer send their children to Trowse primary school but rather use the schools in Rockland St Mary, Surlingham and Alpington, (all in Rockland ward). Similarly Kirby Bedon residents use the shops in Rockland St Mary and Surlingham and the surgery in Rockland St Mary. As far as the parish council is aware, because of the distance involved in getting from one parish to another, there are no community facilities or amenities in Trowse that are used by Kirby Bedon residents and no organisations or ties between the two parishes.

Furthermore Kirby Bedon is an extremely rural parish with just 88 houses. There has been no development here for over 30 years and none planned for the future. By comparison Trowse has approximately 250 existing properties with planning permission already granted for a further 770 homes on two developments in the parish (one in White Horse Lane and the other at the Deal Ground). It looks inevitable that with this level of development Trowse will at some point in the future become a suburb of Norwich. The two parishes are therefore completely different in character.

The parish council would be grateful if the Boundary Commission would take these factors into consideration and allow Kirby Bedon to remain in Rockland with the other rural parishes in that ward.

Helen Bosworth
Clerk to Kirby Bedon Parish Council