

St Ives Town Council



TWINNED WITH STADTALLENDORF

TOWN CLERK: Alison Melnyczuk BA (Hons) FILCM



19 July 2016

Review Officer (Huntingdonshire)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England

By email

Dear Ms Starkie

Boundary Review (Huntingdonshire)

The proposed changes to the parish ward boundaries in St Ives were discussed at the Town Council meeting on the 13th July.

The members agreed with the number of Town Councillors remaining at 17.

There was however unanimous rejection of the creation of a 4th ward (Beech Ward) within St Ives and very strong objections were expressed against it. Members had not received any explanation for this proposal and felt that there is no rational justification for an extra ward. The members also felt that it would be counter to the stated aims of the Boundary Commission as set out in your proposals document. For example:

Commission Aims	Response to proposal
Each local councillor represents a similar number of voters	No information given on number of voters per councillor, but it appears that the councillor in the new ward would be elected by and serve significantly fewer voters than in the other areas in the town.
Community identity	The area of the proposed Beech Ward does not have different characteristics to the surrounding areas to justify a separate ward.
Effective and convenient local government	Town and Parish Councils operate on a corporate body basis so additional wards offer no advantage to the operation of the Council. An additional ward would require an extra polling desk at elections resulting in additional costs to the Town council.
Strong easily identifiable boundaries	The proposed Beech ward has no clearly identifiable boundaries

The Town Council proposes that the existing three wards be retained. Clear boundaries for the wards exists as the main roads within St Ives; St Audrey Lane / Houghton Road and Ramsey Road. In this situation the proposed Beech Ward would become part of the West Ward that would then have 4 councillors.

Should you require any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Alison Melnyczuk
Town Clerk