

Kingsley, Paul

From: Richard Carden <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 11 January 2017 00:57
To: reviews
Subject: South Norfolk Review
Attachments: SNCWardsD&E(SNLD).pdf; SNCWardsD&S(SNLD).pdf; SN Submission to LGBCE.docx

Dear Sirs,

I realise that, officially, consultation on your proposals for South Norfolk Council closed on Monday but when I telephoned your offices that day I was told that the person dealing with the review was on holiday and that a later submission would be acceptable. I thus attach our submission in the form of a document and two pdfs.

One observation. The reason for my call was to check some figures. I was very surprised to find that nowhere in your Draft Proposals are the parishes that make up the individual wards listed. The only way of establishing these details is to refer to the list of wards in your initial Warding Patterns document and then apply the changes described in the Draft Recommendations.

Yours faithfully,
Richard Carden
Data Officer
South Norfolk Liberal Democrats
[REDACTED]



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL - WARD CHANGES 2017

Replacement of proposed Ditchingham & Earsham Ward

Revised Ward	Parish	Electorate 2022	Target	Variance	From
			2,556		
Ditchingham	Broome	407			
	Ditchingham	1,506			
	Ellingham	482			
	Kirby Cane	297			
	Thwaite	67			
			2,759	7.9%	
Earsham	Alburgh	334			
	Bedingham	181			
	Denton	313			
	Earsham	723			
	Hedenham	144			
	Woodton	453			
	Wortwell	473			Harleston
			2,621	2.5%	
Thurlton		2,606			
Add	Geldeston	321			Ditinghm & Earshm
Remove	Toft Monks	292			
			2,635	3.1%	
Loddon & Chedgrave		4,801			
Add	Toft Monks	292			Thurlton
			5,093		
			2,547	-0.4%	
Harleston		4,864			
Add	Starston	263			Dickleburgh & Scole
Remove	Wortwell	473			
			4,654		
			2,327	-9.0%	
Dickleburgh & Scole		5,186			
Remove	Starston	263			
			4,923		
			2,462	-3.7%	

SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL - WARD CHANGES 2017

Replacement of proposed Dickleburgh & Scole Ward

Revised Ward	Parish	Electorate 2022	Target	Variance	From
			2,556		
Dickleburgh & Scole	Dickleburgh	1,048			
	Rushall	115			
	Scole	1,154			
			2,317	-9.4%	
Tivetshall & The Pulhams	Pulham Market	861			
	Pulham St Mary	744			
	Starston	263			
	Tivetshall St Margaret	238			
	Tivetshall St Margaret	233			
			2,339	-8.5%	
Harleston		4,864			
Add	Brockdish East	409			Dickleburgh & Scole
	Brockdish West	121			Dickleburgh & Scole
Remove	Wortwell	473			
			4,921		
			2,461	-3.7%	

To
Review Officer (South Norfolk)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England 14th Floor, Millbank Tower, Millbank,
London, SW1P 4QP

From
Richard Carden, Data Officer,
On behalf of South Norfolk Liberal Democrats

We wish to comment on the Commission's Draft Recommendations for South Norfolk Council and suggest some modifications to their proposals.

Introduction

We did not respond to the Initial Warding Patterns Proposals published in August as they seemed broadly acceptable. However the current Draft scheme significantly increases the number of multi-member wards, and we would prefer to see that number reduced. We are therefore proposing that two of the two-member wards should be divided. This can only be achieved by making further small changes to some neighbouring wards but we believe that the basic requirements of the three statutory criteria are maintained.

For a number of reasons we have always preferred to see single-member wards in authorities with all-out elections. We like the idea of electors having a single person to represent them without any confusion. We also believe that representing the smallest possible area, commensurate with equality of representation, makes the councillor's job simpler and more effective. However we recognise that, in order to meet the three statutory criteria it is sometimes easier to create multi-member wards particularly in urban areas.

We would suggest that the difficulties with multi-membership become most serious when large rural wards are created. Thus the proposed Ditchingham and Earsham Ward would consist of 12 parishes, covered by nine parish councils and two parish meetings. There is a valuable tradition in South Norfolk of district councillors attending their parish councils' meetings on a regular basis. This helps them to keep in touch with local opinion and provides an excellent channel of communication between the two levels of local government. Most PCs meet on a monthly basis. It is going to be very difficult for the councillors for this ward to make nine or more evenings available each month to carry on this useful dialogue. Of course the two councillors could agree to split the meetings between them but this could be difficult particularly if they are not members of the same political party.

Similar problems arise in the proposed Dickleburgh and Scole Ward and we suggest that area would also be much better served by two separately elected councillors

We believe that the proposed wards of Ditchingham & Earsham and Dickleburgh & Scole could each be easily divided into two single-member wards. To retain equality of representation some small adjustments are required to neighbouring wards but with no significant impact in terms of the other criteria. Details of our proposals follow with statistical information provided in two accompanying pdfs generated from spreadsheets.

A - Ditchingham & Earsham Ward

While the parishes that make up this ward all lie along the Waveney valley and are linked by the A143 there are few shared community interests between the eastern and western ends.

We suggest that two new wards be formed as follows:

Ditchingham

The Parishes of Broome, Ditchingham, Ellingham, Kirby Cane and Thwaite.

Electorate (2022) 2,759

Variance from average 8%

All of these parishes are closely linked. Broome and Ditchingham share some facilities. Thwaite, which has a Parish Meeting, uses Ditchingham Village Hall as its polling station. Ellingham and Kirby Cane have a Joint Parish Council.

Earsham

The parishes of: Alburgh, Bedingham, Denton, Earsham, Hedenham, Woodton and Wortwell.

Electorate (2022) 2,621

Variance from average 3%

Four of the parishes Alburgh, Denton, Earsham and Wortwell are part of the current Earsham ward, hold regular joint meetings and are used to working together in various ways. Three of them share a rector. Bedingham and Hedenham both have Parish Meetings and are closely linked to Woodton in various ways.

Thurlton

Add Geldeston

Remove Toft Monks

Electorate (2022) 2,635

Variance from average 3%

The changes to Ditchingham & Earsham proposed above would leave one parish, Geldeston, unallocated. It is suggested that it should be added to the Thurlton Ward where it has close links with Gillingham. Like most parishes in the Thurlton Ward it has extended river frontage and shares with them the risk of flooding. To balance this change we suggest Toft Monks should be moved to the Loddon & Chedgrave Ward

Loddon & Chedgrave

Add Toft Monks

Electorate (2022) 5,093

2,547

Variance from average 0%

This change improves the variation for this ward. Toft Monks is the only parish in the Thurlton Ward with no river frontage.

Harleston

Add Starston

Remove Wortwell

Electorate (2022) 4,654

2,327

Variance from average -9%

Replacing Wortwell with Starston keeps the ward within the 10% limit. Starston is closely linked with its immediate neighbour Harleston.

Dickleburgh & Scole

Remove Starston

4,923

2,462 -4%

The loss of Starston would make little difference to the variation for this ward.

NB. The changes to the Harleston Ward described above would change again if the division of the Dickleburgh & Scole Ward proposed below is also accepted.

B - Dickleburgh & Scole Ward

While the parishes that make up this ward are linked by the A140 there are limited shared community interests between them and we believe that they would be better served by councillors in two single-member wards formed as follows:

Dickleburgh & Scole

Dickleburgh & Rushall East and West, Scole

Electorate (2022) 2,317

Variance from average -9%

Tivetshall & The Pulhams

Pulham Market, Pulham St Mary, Starston, Tivetshall St Mary, Tivetshall St Margaret

Electorate (2022) 2,339

Variance from average -8%

The two Pulhams and the two Tivetshalls are both closely linked and together form a very logical ward.

Harleston

Add Brockdish East and West

Remove Wortwell

Electorate (2022) 4,921

2,461

Variance from average -4%

Both parts of Brockdish are closely linked with Needham which is already part of the Harleston Ward.

NB If this change goes ahead Starston would no longer move to the Harleston Ward.