

Councillor submissions to the Peterborough City Council electoral review

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Cllr D Over



Cllr J Knowles

Barnack Ward Boundaries

Electoral Equality

Barnack Ward sits within the population variance level. The ward population is 2000-2200 with small developments in Helpston. By 2016 the ward will be almost exactly 2500 and the Local Plan shows no further growth for 10 years

Therefore the villagers' votes would have the same value as any other votes within the city.

Village turn out at local elections is one of the highest in the city

If Barnack Ward combined with Glinton and Wansford it would be outside the variance level. A Glinton/Wansford/NorthboroughBarnack Ward would have a population much larger than a three councillor ward should be.

The retention of Barnack Ward would not have any knock-on effects with other areas. Indeed it will enable three councillor wards in other areas

Community Interests and Identities

Barnack Ward consists of six villages and a number of smaller settlements together with isolated farms. It is a rural ward with specific interests and traditions that differ from other wards.

The ward has a long history from Barnack Rural District Council and as a one member ward within Peterborough District Council and Peterborough Unitary Authority. Indeed Barnack Rural District Council sat in Stamford Town Hall.

Most of the population look towards Stamford for shopping and leisure facilities. All the village addresses are Stamford except for one.

There is a similarity between the villages of local expectations, needs and facilities e.g. village halls, schools, bus services

Village children go to one of the two local primary schools which are the best in the city. Secondary students go to a secondary school in Glinton. However, a number go to King's School, Peterborough, Stamford Endowed Schools and Oundle. There is planned a new Free School in Stamford that aims to recruit from the ward's villages.

Stamford is seen by the majority of villagers as their main shopping centre.

The ward is bordered by the railway in the east, A47 to the north, A1 in the west and an area of woods, agricultural land and part of another ward to the south. The B1443

runs across the middle of the ward. There is an hourly bus service to Stamford and Peterborough along this road and it is very well used

Local groups such as the Helpston Tennis Club, Play Groups, Ufford Cricket Club and Barnack Bowls club are open to all and have been helped with funding by the appropriate Parish Councils and the Barnack Ward Group

The local Anglican church area is almost the same as Barnack Ward.

The ward is often affected by city council decisions which do not take into account the needs of the rural ward. For example the Community Leadership Fund is important to encourage ward investment. Urban areas usually do not have a parish councils but receive the 'lion's share' of funding. Rural bus services were axed with little consultation despite objections from parents sending their children to school in the city. Council support grants have been steadily reduced, sometimes with little warning, making some parish councils unable to cover their basic running costs

Effective and Convenient Local Government

A single councillor with six parish councils has effectively and efficiently administered the ward for over 16 years within the City Council

This has enabled the City Councillor to develop a personal service to the villagers and is well known in the villages.

The great success in the ward has been the Barnack Ward Group. This is where parish councillors and the city councillor meet on a regular basis. Community Leadership Fund and other voluntary sector money is spend on a variety of local needs. These can be environmental, such as setting up cross ward wildlife corridors and replanting flowers and hedges. Traffic calming, upkeep of paths and bridleways, seating and information stones are other examples

A larger ward would include over 10 parish councils making it impossible to go to the majority of parish council meetings and few social events. Villagers would not know their ward councillors and it would become an impersonal service where access to the councillor will be by email, phone or text.

Also, at least three months in every three years, councillors would be involved in local elections because each councillor would be elected by the whole ward.

-----Original Message-----

From: Cllr Knowles John [<mailto:John.Knowles@peterborough.gov.uk>]

Sent: 19 March 2014 14:29

To: Reviews@

Subject: Boundary changes peterborough

The boundary between West Ward and ravensthorpe ward needs changing .

Netherton Estate is Natural part of ravensthorpe Ward as it was built at the same time as Westwood Estate and there are community connections between people via pubs and churches and schools .

West town should be united in Ravensthorpe ward .at the moment it is decided by Mayors walk , one side in West ward and one side in Ravensthorpe .

The people share History , shops and church and school.

Regards

J knowles