

Bryan Alcock

From: Bryan Alcock [bryan.alcock@virgin.net]
Sent: 21 August 2006 10:08
To: 'Implementation@electoralcommission.org.uk'
Subject: Electoral Review Proposals for South Holland in Lincolnshire

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I wish to object in the strongest possible terms to the proposal to merge the Crowland Ward with the Deeping St. Nicholas Ward.

The reasoning and justification is flawed and flies in the face of the only evidence available. The only reason put forward in the report is to harmonise electoral equality. However the recommendation does not bring the figures within guidelines and solve that perceived anomaly but merely makes it less obvious.

In the original guidelines the main consideration was suggested to be settlement identity but this appears to have been ignored.

The Parishes have virtually nothing in common other than being geographically adjacent. Their identities are totally different and Deeping St Nicholas is indeed a somewhat unique Parish which deserves its own representative. The social and business lives are totally separate with virtually no cross pollination.

Multiple member wards are not regarded as good practice but the result would be a very large geographical rural ward with three members. The huge geographical size with sparse population and limited road connections make for extremely difficult canvassing, and ultimately representation, for any prospective candidate and virtually impossible for any independent.

Such evidence as is available supports the status quo. The elected representative bodies, two Parish Councils and the District Council, all oppose the proposals. They are the nearest there is to public opinion as they are elected by the Public to represent their interest. The fact that there is no public comment is equally valid to support the argument that there is no support for the proposals as it is to use the lack of comment to state that there is no opposition. The only conclusion one could reasonably draw is that the evidence supports the status quo being maintained.

If the recommendations are forced on this very rural area against local wishes, by a remote unelected organisation, a great disservice, which will last for generations, will result.

Bryan Alcock, District Councillor. 

21/08/2006