

Huntingdonshire District

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Comment text:

Dear Sirs, We have previously written to you with regard to the Cambridgeshire County Council Boundary Review and attach copies of the submission made for St Neots Town Council. The same comments with regard to the use of seriously flawed data also apply to the Huntingdonshire District Council Boundary Review. Should the Commission be minded to approve the current District Council new ward proposals then the errors made in the Cambridgeshire County Council Review will be further compounded. In addition to the 1,000's of phantom electors wrongly included for St Neots & Gransden Ward (Wintringham Park area) a similar number of new homes and electors have been excluded in other District & Town Council Wards. The LGBCE proposals for Huntingdonshire District Council Wards are incomprehensible to St Neots & Little Paxton residents. The village of Little Paxton is a large village separated from St Neots by the Great Ouse. Little Paxton is currently represented by a dedicated District Councillor and has significantly different Council issues to those of St Neots residents. Little Paxton electors under the proposals will be a minority absorbed into a St Neots three member ward and focus on local issues affecting the Little Paxton community will be diluted. The proposals for St Neots Eynesbury Ward include St Neots Town in the settlement of Eynesbury. These are two distinct separate communities with completely different local identities and thousand year histories. St Neots Town area was intentionally separated from Eynesbury by a 1,000 year old Papal Bull of Translation and Royal Charter of Henry II. These are totally separate communities. Equally as incomprehensible is the intention to divide the ancient settlement of Eaton Ford and append electors to Little Paxton and Priory Park. Or, to append Loves Farm, a part of St Neots to the village of Gransden many miles away. St Neots Councillors object to the District proposals because these ride roughshod over our communities, attack our strong local identities, split the local St Neots communities whilst appending some to separate villages and including the village of Little Paxton in a St Neots ward. The need for these changes is based upon grossly inaccurate data which mistakenly increases electoral inequality. Had the correct data been used then the proposed changes could not be justified. These proposals will de-stablise St Neots Town Council and Little Paxton Parish Council through eroding electoral proportionality and equality at a time both are already working hard to support the unprecedented population growth, The imposition of these ill-thought out proposals will almost certainly demoralise Town and Parish Officers and Councillors. We would implore the Commission to restructure its proposal to preserve and re-enforce the local identities of the village of Little Paxton and the individual settlements which constitute St Neots. Cllr Barry Chapman

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded