

Hemingford Grey Parish Council submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission concerning the re-warding of Huntingdonshire District Council. July 2016

Current Situation

Hemingford Grey parish is currently combined with Hemingford Abbots, Houghton & Wyton, and Hilton parishes to form a two member ward for HDC.

LGBC proposals

LGBC are proposing to include Hemingford Grey in a new, two member ward to include Houghton and Wyton, and Wyton on the Hill. Hilton would be combined, in a single member ward, with Fenstanton which in turn would lose some electors to St Ives South. Hemingford Abbots would be combined in a three member ward with Godmanchester and the Offords.

Hemingford Grey comments

We understand the difficulty of trying to fit very variable sizes of parish into a ward structure but submit that the proposed arrangement is totally unsuited to the parishes of Hemingford Grey and Hemingford Abbots which are 'joined at the hip'!

We believe that The Hemingfords should have a single member ward for H Grey and H Abbots. The number of electors in the two parishes falls right in the middle of the range of electors for a single councillor required by LGBC for HDC in 2021. The two villages share a shop, a school, a pavilion and playing fields as well as a unique regatta on the River Ouse with races that start in Abbots and finish in Grey. Most of the social life of the parishes is shared in many joint clubs and societies: Gardeners Society; Hemlocs local history society, bowls, tennis, football, cricket, and squash clubs. All road communications are south of the river. Both parishes have the current and future A14 roads running through them. The parishes have similar demographics and neither are designated for any substantial development in the current draft of the HDC local plan.

There is only a single bridleway that links The Hemingfords to Houghton and that is often cut off by floods.

We therefore conclude that The Hemingfords should form a single member ward that would form a close knit social and geographical unit of just the right number of electors in 2021.