

The Corby Cube

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Review Officer (Corby)

LGBCE

Layden House

76-86 Turnmill Street

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8th April 2014

Dear Sir/Madam

Electoral Arrangements for Corby Borough

Further to your publication of draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Corby Borough Council I can confirm that the Council considered this matter at their Full Council meeting on 20th March 2014.

Broadly the Council welcomed the draft recommendations and support their implementation. The only area of concern related to the proposal to transfer 3 urban streets into Rural West ward.

It is recognised that in terms of electoral equality that Rural West ward does not fall within electoral equality parameters. It does however have a distinct rural identity as it comprises the villages of Rockingham, Cottingham, Middleton & East Carlton.

Whilst recognising this dilemma, Full Council expressed its reservations at the proposal to transfer Hooke Close, Watson Close and White Post Court into a rural ward. The three streets do not in the view of Council share any connection with the villages. There is no common community identity, no economic or commercial links, no transport links and no natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for the proposals. The electors in these three streets identify with the urban Borough not the rural. In matters of community safety and facilities the three streets are urban.

The introduction of an urban electorate into a rural ward may alter the dynamics for the villages. Whilst it is recognised that any elected member needs to be able to



reflect the views of a diverse constituency it is felt that it would be preferred in this case to maintain the urban/rural split.

In addition, Full Council noted the Commission considered an option regarding Beanfield ward. On behalf of Council I would register our strong opposition to the division of Beanfield estate. In our submission, supported by the Commission, Beanfield estate would be largely unified. This has been widely welcomed and long overdue. The Council would not support any deviation from the proposal included within your draft recommendations.

Council would like to thank the Commission for the opportunity to comment on its draft proposals. As stated previously, the Council supports the recommendations with the exception of the Rural West proposal where it registers its concern.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Paul Goult.

Paul Goult
Democratic Services Manager
On behalf of Corby Borough Council