

Mr Richard Buck

LGBCE

27th September 2016

Dear Sir

We refer to the ward boundary changes proposed for Fakenham by North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) and in particular the proposed changes to Fakenham North (Lancaster North Ward)

We as District Councillors for Fakenham North have not been consulted in any way by the working party who have been placed to consider the propose changes and we disagree with these proposals decided without our consideration.

Fakenham is designated a growth area for housing and industry by NNDC and the vast majority of this growth to take place on allocated land in Fakenham North. Indeed there are 900 houses with outline planning in place and with full planning permission being sort for an early start on this site. As well as industrial areas and the erection of 66 assisted living/housing with care flats, three storey block of 13 general needs and/or supported living flats, a three storey block of 14 general need flats and 6 two storey and 1 x three storey general need housing all with planning permission and pending agreement of 106 allocations.

There are several smaller building projects either with planning permission or in construction at the moment and further land available in Fakenham North,

In reality, as can be seen, Fakenham North is subject to vast growth in the near future of probably some two thousand people whilst Fakenham South land allocations have mostly been exhausted (there are proposals in place for a small development close to the river we are told)

We have been made aware that the Ward Boundary are made to balance numbers of people allocated to each Councillor and it seems that new boundaries have been decided between Fakenham North and Fakenham South to accommodate this with no other consideration. Allocating one Councillor to the North Ward and two councillors to the South Ward (at present we have four District Councillors, two in the North and two in the South). As suggested is lacking in judgement and consideration of future expansion of a rapidly expanding and developing town.

Fakenham North is already a very busy ward, requiring regular dealings with the general public and many issues, including personal problems such as homelessness, jobs, various planning issues, enforcement...all the problems that would be expected of a District Councillor and this can only escalate. To remove a Councillor from this ward would be totally incorrect as the future growth of Fakenham is imminent and this ward's expansion over the next five years or so will be large!

We understand to create the correct number of people allocated to each Councillor the proposals by the working party at NNDC is to adjust the boundaries between wards, removing much of Fakenham North and reallocating to Fakenham South (this we believe is totally incorrect for the reasons given and must be reconsidered). We are told that the wards must have defined borders. Fakenham North has just that, defined by Fakenham A148 bypass and what better to reposition the border if necessary to accommodate the correct number to Holt Road Fakenham, at present the border defined by Greenway Lane Fakenham, this

requiring little or no adjustment at the town junctions of Queens Road and Holt Road.

Further consideration should also be given as to the inclusion of the village of Sculthorpe into the Fakenham North Ward. Sculthorpe is a village split by the Fakenham bypass and adjacent to the Fakenham North Ward, and many of the properties of Sculthorpe village are situated within Fakenham side of the A1065/A148 bypass ie. Fakenham Sandy Lane, Sculthorpe Eastgate Fakenham, and Wells Road Filling Station Fakenham. The residents in these areas, although in the parish of Sculthorpe, already consider themselves Fakenham residents and indeed are part of Fakenham.

We have been told that it is imperative that the review of the Ward Boundaries is established correctly this time! And having lived and worked in Fakenham all our working lives we could not agree more. Fakenham is important for the future, ideally placed as a gateway to North Norfolk, its jobs, its tourism and its people. The people of Fakenham deserve the best representation available!

We urge you to consider this proposal to reconsider that already put forward. Indeed it is probable that with the proposed growth of houses and business in the Fakenham area perhaps further consideration should be given to maintaining four Councillors.

Our very kind regards

Roy Reynolds and Annie Claussen-Reynolds

District Councillors Lancaster North Ward (Fakenham North)

