

Electoral Ward Boundaries in Rutland

Barrowden Parish Council at its meeting on 4 September 2017 considered its response to the consultation on electoral ward boundaries in Rutland. It was agreed that for Barrowden there were three feasible options:

1. Join with nearest neighbouring villages, i.e. Morcott, South Luffenham and Tixover (one county councillor)

2. Join with a larger group of villages, i.e. Tixover , Morcott, South Luffenham, North Luffenham, Wing, and Pilton (two county councillors)

3. Retain existing boundaries, i.e. Ketton, Tinwell, Barrowden and Tixover together (two county councillors)

The Council resolved to conduct a village poll to establish the level of support in the village for each of these options. The poll closed on 27 September. 60 votes were cast, 57 online and 3 on ballot forms collected from the village shop.

The result was follows:

Option 1 38 votes

Option 2 9 votes

Option 3 13 votes

This result represents a decisive 63% vote in favour of a ward consisting of Barrowden and the immediately neighbouring villages. The Council respects and supports this choice, while noting that some 20% wished to retain existing boundaries.

A ward combining Barrowden with neighbouring villages would reflect a community of interest between villages within walking distance of each other and of comparable size. The present ward links Barrowden with Ketton, an appreciably larger and rather more urban community several miles away.

Richard Littlejohns, Clerk to Barrowden Parish Council