

LANGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Chair: Brenda Palmer

Parish Clerk:

Helen Duckering

8th August 2017

Dear Sirs,

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF RUTLAND: WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

Langham Parish Council notes that our Parish Boundary, the majority of which dates back to the 16th century and before, is identical to the boundary of the existing Langham Ward. Continued representation of Langham's forecast electorate (1179) by 1 councillor would deliver the required electoral equality across a Rutland Council of 26 councillors each representing an average of 1243 electors.

Langham is a conservation village surrounded by rural land and a few outlying homes. The Parish has a strong sense of its own history and independence from nearby Oakham protected and reinforced by unanimously supported provision, within its 'made' Neighbourhood Plan, of a 'Green Separation Zone' on its southern boundary. Langham is a Local Service Centre with Primary School, 2 churches, 2 pubs and a busy Village Hall. This cohesive community is evidenced by the support for 20+ thriving activity groups and numerous annual events that take place in the village.

Langham Parish Council strongly advocates the retention of the existing ward arrangements for Langham. That having been said, we could acknowledge the logic of extending the south-eastern boundary of Langham Ward to the A606 ring road north east of Oakham, between the Ashwell Rd/A606 roundabout and A606/B604 roundabout. There is no housing within this area.

Finally, our calculations, based on your figures, suggest amalgamating Oakham South East and Oakham South West with an allocation of 3 rather than 4 councillors and giving Oakham North West 3 rather than 2 councillors would deliver greater electoral equality across Rutland.

Yours sincerely

Helen Duckering

Parish Clerk

Langham Parish Council

