
From: Dawn Wakefield [REDACTED]
Sent: 02 September 2016 13:32
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>
Subject: North Norfolk District Council boundary review

I am writing with regards to the boundary review of wards within North Norfolk District Council. As a former North Norfolk District Councillor myself, I would recommend strongly that the reductions in numbers are achieved by reducing the number of Councillors representing the same ward in a towns such as Fakenham, Cromer , Sheringham and North Walsham.

My reasoning for this is that in a rural ward which accounts for a large part of this District Council's area, one single District Councillor can find themselves representing up to 12 different villages. This means a large number of different unrelated issues to deal with, a lot of travelling when personal presence is needed at a large number of separate Parish Council meetings and similar, or to meet with individuals. These Councillors can end up over stretched and so less able to perform their role effectively.

In contrast those Councillors representing a town have less work to do. In Fakenham where I live, we currently have 2 Councillors for each ward - 4 in total. Currently the 2 District Councillors in my ward in Fakenham are a married couple, so effectively receiving twice the allowance when we only have one point of contact. In fact 2 Councillors (one for each ward) would be plenty as they only have one Town Council to attend and all the case work can be dealt with in a compact area, so travel for these reasons is minimal.

These factors need taking into account as well as numbers of constituents. At present, in my opinion the District Councillors for towns have considerably less work to do, than those representing a similar number of the electorate spread over a wide rural area. As well as evening up numbers this review needs to take into account the geographical spread of the numbers of electors, so that the workload of Councillors is better balanced.

Dawn Wakefield

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