

HOLME-NEXT-THE-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk and RFO: Patsy Adams

email

04th September 2017

Paul Kingsley
Local Government Boundary Commission for England

BY EMAIL

Dear Mr Kingsley,

Boundary Review of the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk.

Holme-next-the Sea Parish Council has recently responded (17 August 2017) to the consultation on the Boundary Review setting out our proposals to modify the Ward Boundaries on the Norfolk Coast in order to move the Parish into Brancaster Ward along with the neighbouring coastal communities to the east.

The Parish Council supports the subsequent proposals set out in Cllr Elizabeth Watson's email to Paul Kingsley of 01 September (3.14pm). We do not support the proposals put forward by Kings Lynn and West Norfolk District Council (agreed at a Special Meeting on 31 August 2017). Furthermore, the Parish Council agrees the points made by the neighbouring Parish Councils of Thornham and Brancaster regarding the unsatisfactory consultation carried out by the Borough Council in order to support and justify their own proposals for new warding arrangements. This was as follows:

- 27 June. The CEO of the Local Government Boundary Commission sent a letter outlining the process of the review to Ray Harding, CEO of the Borough Council.
- 29 June. An email was sent out from BCKLWN to Parish Clerks reiterating the contents of the letter.
- No further communication was received from the Borough concerning the proposals being developed by the Borough or the timing of their process.
- 9 August. Cabinet Meeting discussed and arrived at the Borough's proposals which were to be discussed at a special meeting on August 31.
- The Parish Councils of Thornham, Holme next the Sea and Brancaster submitted responses which were put before the Meeting on August 31. The Borough Councillor, Elizabeth Watson also placed her response before the same meeting.

The following points are relevant to this process:

- The lack of communication from the Borough made it very difficult for Parish Councils to respond against an unknown timetable.
- The map reflecting the Borough's proposal was placed on their website but was virtually impossible to read.
- Parish Councils do not meet normally in August in the same way as the Borough Council reduces its activity because of holiday commitments. Therefore Parish Councils were unable to consider these proposals in the normal stream of business.
- Parish Councils had no knowledge of the significance of the Special Cabinet meeting on 9 August at which the warding arrangements were discussed.

- BCKLWN knew the normal pattern of meetings of Parish Councils over the summer period but did not communicate with Clerks to the Parish Councils to point out the significance of the two Special Meetings in August (9 and 31).
- Following the meeting on 31 August the CEO of BCKLWN wrote to the Parish Council informing us that “In the light of the impending deadline for submission to the LGBC and the consequential lack of time for members to consider and approve (or otherwise) the ‘knock on’ changes to other proposed Ward Boundaries, the Council agreed to make the submission as set out on the Council agenda”.

You will now have received submissions from the Parish Councils of Holme next the Sea, Brancaster and Thornham setting out their own views, together with the views of our Borough Councillor, Elizabeth Watson and comments from our County Councillor Andrew Jamieson. In view of the inadequacy of the Borough Council’s consultation process, we would ask you to pay particular attention to these and the sound arguments on which they are based.

Yours faithfully

Patsy Adams
Parish Clerk on behalf of
Holme-next-the-Sea Parish Council