

# THORNHAM PARISH COUNCIL



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Chair: Mrs. S Mocatta      Clerk: Mrs. S Bristow

31 August 2017

Cllr B Long  
Leader of the Council  
King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council  
Kings Court  
Chapel Street  
King's Lynn  
PE30 1EX

## Boundary Review

Dear Cllr Long

Thornham Parish Council wishes to make the following comments regarding the Boundary Review.

The Council understand that there needs to be a review to balance the population numbers between wards. This will also aid the need to reduce Borough expenditure and the consequent reduction in ward constituencies.

The Parish Council would like to make the following comments and hope they can be taken into consideration. Thornham is a small and sparse rural/coastal village of some 460 people. With a large proportion of second homes and now more so let properties.

The wards of Docking, the Burnham's and Brancaster are the 5th, 7th and 9th most sparse wards in the whole of Norfolk. This does present difficulties and inevitably means that wards will be geographically much bigger than in the towns of Lynn, Downham and Hunstanton. This surely suggests that when a re-organisation is required the opportunity to bring the greatest possible coherence to these large areas/wards should be taken. The Parish Council believes that the current proposal does not take this into account. There are specific issues that are well known that relate to the North Norfolk Coastal Strip, particularly along the coastline that Thornham belongs to along the A149.

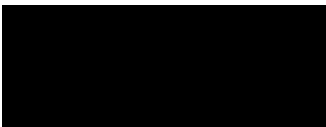
The issues of demography where the coastal strip villages have a significantly higher than national or Norfolk percentage of people above retirement age, often more than twice the national average; the high percentage of houses, often touching 50%, that are not a principal residence and often now not a second home but a weekly holiday 'let'; the issues of coastal defence and potential flooding; the difficulty in accessing key services and the allied issues re

public transport; the dearth of younger people and children in our communities and the high percentage of houses with a single resident. These are all common to the coastal strip.

Thornham Parish Council believes in this circumstance a more coherent ward structure would surely merge Old Hunstanton, Holme next the Sea, Thornham, Titchwell, Choseley, Brancaster, Brancaster Staithe and Burnham Deepdale. Ringstead too, though just off the coast shares more in common with these villages than perhaps it does with Docking.

The Parish Council would urge you and your colleagues to give this proposal, which has been already suggested by our neighbouring Parish Councils and their residents serious consideration as it is clearly, in the view of many local residents, the most effective option for their representation.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Bristow  
Parish Clerk/RFO  
Thornham Parish Council