

Kingsley, Paul

From: COLIN VENES [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 August 2017 14:58
To: Kingsley, Paul
Subject: Fw: KLWN Borough Council Electoral Review

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On Wednesday, 30 August 2017, 14:55, COLIN VENES [REDACTED]

Dear Council or Long

I write regarding the Boundary review of wards within KLWNBC.

I understand the need to reduce Borough expenditure and the consequent reduction in ward constituencies. I also accept that there needs to be some equity in population numbers between the wards.

As an active resident of Thornham, a small and sparse rural/coastal village of some 460 people I would like to offer some comments for your consideration. This is largely based on the knowledge gained of our area during the last seventeen years as a member of various groups including the Trustees of Thornham Village Hall & Playing Field and Thornham Parish Council. As a result of this activity I have worked with many other people in the local villages and acquired some understanding of the area and its key issues.

The wards of Docking, the Burnhams 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 current proposals do not do that in my view. There are well known and specific issues that relate to the north Norfolk coastal strip, particularly along our section of coastline 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.

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.

I urge you and your colleagues to give this proposal, which I am aware has been suggested by many others, your most serious consideration as it is clearly, in the view of many local residents, the most effective option for their representation.

Yours sincerely

Colin Venes

