



Mr Paul Kingsley
Review Officer (King's Lynn & West Norfolk)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor Millbank Tower
Millbank
London SW1P 4QP

2 September 2017

Dear Mr Kingsley,

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

I write to bring before you the failure of adequate consultation by this Borough over the matter of the Boundary Review.

The sequence of events is as follows:

27 June. The CEO of the Local Government Boundary Commission sent a letter outlining the process of the review to Ray Harding.

29 June. An email was sent out from KLWNBC to Parish Clerks reiterating the contents of the letter received by Ray Harding.

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 which 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 observations are relevant to this process:

1. The lack of communication from the Borough made it very difficult for Parish Councils to respond against an unknown timetable.
2. The map reflecting the Borough's proposal was placed on their website and was virtually impossible to read with any clarity.
3. 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.
4. Parish Councils had no knowledge of the significance of the Special Cabinet meeting on 9 August.
5. It is not stretching matters to suggest that KLWNBC adopted a Machiavellian approach in consulting Parish Councils. They knew the normal pattern of meetings of Parish Councils

over the summer period and by placing the two Special Cabinet meetings in August and not communicating with Clerks to the Parish Councils, it is not unreasonable to say that they were more interested in promoting the efforts of their own civil servants rather than take into account the views of local communities.

Evidence for this can be seen in the reply to Holme next the Sea where Ray Harding wrote after the meeting on 31 August "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 have received submissions from the Parish Councils of Holme next the Sea, Brancaster and Thornham together with the views of our Borough Councillor, Elizabeth Watson. In view of the inadequacy of the Borough Council's consultative process, I would ask you to pay particular attention to these submissions.

This letter is endorsed by the Parish Council and the Clerk whose email facility is currently down.

Yours sincerely

Edward Gould
Chairman Brancaster Parish Council.