

GRAVENEY with GOODNESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Please reply to the Clerk: Miss J Salvatori, [REDACTED]

Chairman: Mr A Stewart, [REDACTED]

The Review Officer (Swale)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London
EC1M 5LG

24th October, 2011

Dear Mr Keal

The above Parish Council considered the Electoral Review for Swale at its October Meeting. We greatly value the involvement of our Borough Councillors with the Parish Council and their attendance and advice at our meetings. We are concerned that should there be any reduction in the number of Borough Councillors we may lose that regularity of contact. The sharing of minutes or indeed phone calls subsequent to meetings are no substitute for our Borough Councillors being present to listen to the Parish Council's deliberations.

We are also aware that there are a wide range of Borough Councillors both in terms of age and experience. We fear that expecting fewer Councillors to cover the same workload would discourage younger people in full time employment from standing for election. This would make it harder for the Borough Council when deliberating on its decisions to have firsthand knowledge of the day to day problems affecting all sections of our community.

For the above reasons we would support a retention of the current ratio of electors to Councillors and therefore certainly no reduction in the number of Swale Borough Councillors.

Yours faithfully

Councillor A Stewart
Chairman, Graveney with Goodnestone Parish Council