

Boughton Parish Council

7 November 2022

F.A.O - The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Submitted online via: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/> [REDACTED]

Dear Sirs,

West Northamptonshire Ward Boundaries

Until very recently, Boughton Parish Council understood that the view of West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) was that the new Moulton Ward would comprise of the parishes of Moulton, Pitsford, Boughton and Overstone. The Parish Council are in support of this formation providing that the entirety of Boughton parish is included.

The Parish Council were very surprised, and disappointed, to see the inclusion of the following sentence in WNC's documents for their meeting on 3 November:- "the development of Buckton Fields is part of the proposed Kingsthorpe North ward". Neither Parish councillors nor residents were made aware of any suggestion to "hive off" part of Boughton to the ward of Kingsthorpe North.

WNC's proposal would result in a ward composed of three members representing 11,616 electors resulting in a variance of -6.96% from the average. As no specific electoral data for "Buckton Fields" has been provided, it is difficult to justify why Buckton Fields should be hived off when it creates such a significant variance.

WNC's report justifies revising the boundary (i.e including Buckton Fields to Kingsthorpe North) to better reflect community identity. Yet the Parish Council has extensive examples to demonstrate the existing community identity of Boughton Parish. Following the 2021 election, a key objective of the Parish Council has been to foster a parish wide sense of community spirit. The Parish Council have gone to great lengths to create a sense of inclusion and representation across the growing parish. The recent Jubilee celebrations, which were very well attended, were hosted at Buckton Fields and in the historic part of the village. With residents from across the parish volunteering significant amounts of their time and effort to organise and run the events, the parish bolstered its community spirit even further. It should also be noted that the Parish Council have recently expended significant time and effort in supporting Buckton Field residents in raising issues with the developers /

PARISH CLERK – CIARA WANSTALL

[REDACTED] E CLERK@BOUGHTONPARISHCOUNCIL.CO.UK

management company of the estate, as the Parish Council feel representation of the whole parish is essential.

WNC's report recognises the "strong sense of community" of the Kingsthorpe North Ward whilst completely disregarding the fact that their proposal divides an existing community. The WNC report also argues that Buckton Fields is an urban extension, noting that Boughton is a predominately rural ward. However, their map suggests (although it is not clear from the thick black lines) that the 41 affordable houses located directly opposite Buckton Fields on Welford Road are specifically excluded from the urban extension, which raises doubts about their justification. The development of Buckton Fields whilst adjacent to Kingsthorpe North is clearly distinguishable by road signs which show the "Northampton Borough" boundary. As Boughton sits in the Daventry District of West Northamptonshire Council, the signs are a clear and natural boundary of where the two parishes/wards sit.

In summary, the Parish Council raises significant concerns to dividing their community.

Yours faithfully

Clerk to Boughton Parish Council

PARISH CLERK – CIARA WANSTALL

 [E CLERK@BOUGHTONPARISHCOUNCIL.CO.UK](mailto:CLERK@BOUGHTONPARISHCOUNCIL.CO.UK)

West Northamptonshire Council

Personal Details:

Name: Ciara Wanstall
E-mail: clerk@boughtonparishcouncil.co.uk
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: Boughton Parish Council

Comment text:

Dear Sirs, Until very recently, Boughton Parish Council understood that the view of West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) was that the new Moulton Ward would comprise of the parishes of Moulton, Pitsford, Boughton and Overstone. The Parish Council are in support of this formation providing that the entirety of Boughton parish is included. The Parish Council were very surprised, and disappointed, to see the inclusion of the following sentence in WNC's documents for their meeting on 3 November:- "the development of Buckton Fields is part of the proposed Kingsthorpe North ward". Neither Parish councillors or residents were made aware of any suggestion to "hive off" part of Boughton to the ward of Kingsthorpe North. WNC's proposal would result in a ward composed of three members representing 11,616 electors resulting in a variance of -6.96% from the average. As no specific electoral data for "Buckton Fields" has been provided, it is difficult to justify why Buckton Fields should be hived off when it creates such a significant variance. WNC's report justifies revising the boundary (i.e including Buckton Fields to Kingsthorpe North) to better reflect community identity. Yet the Parish Council has extensive examples to demonstrate the existing community identity of Boughton Parish. Following the 2021 election, a key objective of the Parish Council has been to foster a parish wide sense of community spirit. The Parish Council have gone to great lengths to create a sense of inclusion and representation across the growing parish. The recent Jubilee celebrations, which were very well attended, were hosted at Buckton Fields and in the historic part of the village. With residents from across the parish volunteering significant amounts of their time and effort to organise and run the events, the parish bolstered its community spirit even further. It should also be noted that the Parish Council have recently expended significant time and effort in supporting Buckton Field residents in raising issues with the developers / management company of the estate, as the Parish Council feel representation of the whole parish is essential. WNC's report recognises the "strong sense of community" of the Kingsthorpe North Ward whilst completely disregarding the fact that their proposal divides an existing community. The WNC report also argues that Buckton Fields is an urban extension, noting that Boughton is a predominately rural ward. However, their map suggests (although it is not clear from the thick black lines) that the 41 affordable houses located directly opposite Buckton Fields on Welford Road are specifically excluded from the urban extension, which raises doubts about their justification. The development of Buckton Fields whilst adjacent to Kingsthorpe North is clearly distinguishable by road signs which show the "Northampton Borough" boundary. As Boughton sits in the Daventry District of West Northamptonshire Council, the signs are a clear and natural boundary of where the two parishes/wards sit. In summary, the Parish Council raises significant concerns to dividing their community. Kind regards Parish Clerk to Boughton Parish Council (A pdf of this letter is attached)

Uploaded Documents:

[Download \(https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1667850129_Letter+re+Boundary+Review+-+07.11.22.pdf\)](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1667850129_Letter+re+Boundary+Review+-+07.11.22.pdf)