

Holt, Nicole

From: Cllr C Thomas <Cllr.CThomas@rushcliffe.gov.uk>
Sent: 23 June 2021 20:46
To: reviews
Cc: Cllr K Shaw; Cllr L Way; [REDACTED]
Subject: Electoral boundary review for Rushcliffe
Attachments: Rushcliffe Warding - comments from Leake Ward members.pdf

OFFICIAL

I attach a response to this consultation from the three ward members for Leake ward, Rushcliffe Borough Council.

Best wishes,

Cllr Carys Thomas - Leake Ward, Rushcliffe Borough Council

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Rushcliffe Borough Council
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Electoral Review of Rushcliffe Borough Council

Comments of Leake Ward Members

1. East Leake village is a coherent community with housing grouped reasonably symmetrically around a central service and retail area, and the three member single ward works well. There are no distinctive differences or barriers between the various parts of the village. We would not like to see the parish of East Leake split between wards or split into smaller wards. We would like to see East Leake form the nucleus of a three member ward as at present.
2. There are three other parishes in Leake ward at present – West Leake, Normanton on Soar, and Stanford on Soar. West Leake has a parish meeting, the other two have Parish Councils. This works well as a ward unit, however we recognise that with the housing growth in East Leake the number of electors per councillor will be above the norm by the year 2027 and that the review may seek to address this.
3. Apart from the three parishes above there are four more parishes that border East Leake – Gotham, Bunny, Costock, and Rempstone. Sutton Bonington is another community that has links to East Leake.
4. Of these 8 parishes, the one that links most closely with East Leake is **West Leake**, a much smaller settlement with historic links. Although in most respects it is a separate settlement we think it is important for West Leake to remain with East Leake. There is the obvious link of the name. The Church is under the East Leake "umbrella" and in past times it was actually West Leake that was the "mother" church to East Leake. What goes on in East Leake really affects West Leake - the traffic through the village, the sewage works, the Kingston Brook. The fact that both villages are under the East Midlands Airport flight path is also important and does not really have the same impact on other villages. West Leake parish is affected by the Gypsum Mines based in East Leake with a lot of the old workings extending under both parishes. The Soar Valley bus service (though infrequent) links the villages, and there are well established walking routes between the two including the Midshires Way long distance trail. West Leake has a small electorate and we hope it will be possible to keep it with East Leake.
5. **Stanford on Soar** also has a small electorate. It has good transport links with East Leake, via the No 1 Bus service running frequently between Loughborough and Nottingham. An important item of common interest between the parishes of East Leake and Stanford on Soar is the defence rehabilitation centre at Stanford Hall, which impacts strongly on both villages, with East Leake being the nearest service centre for the complex as well as providing housing for its staff. The National Rehabilitation Centre will be developed in the coming years and both the construction phase and the ongoing operation of this facility will draw the two parishes closer together. The road system linking and surrounding the two villages is another area of common interest. Many East Leake residents use the road through Stanford to travel to Loughborough for employment etc. The A6006 trunk road separates the parishes however. Stanford on Soar sits well within the current warding arrangement and this would continue to work well in future.
6. Combining East Leake with any other parish or parishes would exceed +10% variance so we have not commented here on the community links with the other parishes, but will do so should this be required. Normanton on Soar is geographically and socially closely linked to Sutton Bonington and we recommend that it should be warded with it if possible. Stanford on Soar relates more closely to Normanton on Soar than to Rempstone, so would be best moving with Normanton on Soar or staying with East Leake.
7. With 44 councillors and constraints of keeping East Leake in one ward with three members, and West Leake with East Leake the options appear to be a ward consisting of:
East and West Leake – Electorate 7611, variance +4% **OR**
East Leake, West Leake and Stanford on Soar, electorate 7724, variance +6%
8. We suggest retaining the name of the ward as **Leake Ward**