

From: Cllr Francis Purdue-Horan - RBC and Bingham TC member for Bingham West Ward and Notts CC member for Bingham East Division.

Response to the LGBCE draft proposals for Rushcliffe Borough Council Wards

The draft recommendations of remaining with a total of 44 Councillors (Cllrs,) increases the average number of 2058 electors per Cllr in 2020, to 2432 electors per Cllr, in 2027 (estimated,) an increase of 18.2%. There is no explanation why 44 Cllrs are considered to be the preferred or optimum number of Cllrs. With practical experience as an elected member in Bingham and Bingham East County Division, I restrict my comments to the east of Rushcliffe only and I would suggest there is a case for one additional seat. However, I have tried to work with a 44 seat proposal.

The proposals for number of electors also allow up to a plus or minus 10% variance, to maintain "Electoral Quality," however, I would like to request consideration for a flexible allowance for geographical variance so that rural areas, such as the smaller eastern villages, are recognised as not the same as concentrated urban areas, like West Bridgford or even large villages, like Keyworth.

Multi-member Wards work well in the urban areas and larger village settlements, but I remain to be convinced they work in rural village Wards. The local RBC Cllr and County Cllr are expected to attend Parish Council meetings regularly and various village events throughout the year, two Cllrs covering the same large Ward, attending the same meetings and events, may not be an efficient use of Councillors time and may result in being unable to cover clashing meetings or events effectively. There is also a possible issue with responses to planning applications, local village Parish Councils expect RBC Cllrs to comment on plans and this is more manageable in single member Wards.

I appreciate the LGBCE Panel have done the hard work and it is easier to put forward amendments to draft proposals, however, I hope my suggestions have some merit.

SUMMARY OF MY COMMENTS and SUGGESTIONS:

Bingham North and South Wards – No objection to the draft proposals.

East Bridgford Ward - Far too large both geographically and the number of Parishes.

Newton and Saxondale – Join Upper Saxondale to Newton and Shelford.

Aslockton and Cropwell Ward – Far too large both geographically and the number of Parishes

Cranmer – Keep as a single member Ward with Scarrington and add Orston, Flawborough, Elton and Granby.

Cropwell – Keep as a single member Ward, with the addition of Colston Bassett.

Nevile & Langar Ward – Move Barnstone into this Ward.

BINGHAM

As one of the sitting Councillors for Bingham West Ward, I am very saddened by the suggested abolition of my seat, however, I understand the reasons for the new proposal of Bingham North and Bingham South and do not object. The proposed boundary is more obvious and logical than the current East/West divide.

Draft LGBCE proposal: EAST BRIDGFORD WARD

An expanded East Bridgford Ward stretching from Shelford in the east, by the river Trent all the way over to Orston and Flawborough in the east, including Flintham, Sibthorpe, Shelton and Hawksworth, a total of 15 Parish Councils and Meetings creates the largest Ward in Rushcliffe. Even with two Cllrs, this is far too large geographically, along with too many Parishes and at least 5 meeting monthly. I would strongly urge reconsideration and maintain single member Ward representation.

In my tables below, the Parishes in **bold** hold regular meetings, usually monthly and are an important feature of the work carried out by rural Borough and County Cllrs, three or four regular Parish Council meetings is a busy Ward.

My suggestion of Upper Saxondale joining with Saxondale, Newton, Shelford and crossing the A46 to add Car Colston and Screveton is not an unreasonable consideration. My suggestion of East Bridgford and Flintham forming the core of another single member Ward, is slightly above the recommended EQ variance, but has precedence within other draft LGBCE proposals.

My suggestion: **Newton & Saxondale**

My suggestion: **East Bridgford & Flintham**

Parish	2027 Electors		Parish	2027 Electors
Upp Saxondale	580		East Bridgford	1763
Saxondale village	28		Kneeton	39
Newton	1333		Flintham	498
Shelford	219		Sibthorpe	110
Car Colston	144		Shelton	119
Screveton	132		Hawksworth	116
			Thoroton	110
Total	2436		Total	2755
EQ	+0.2%		EQ	+13.3%

My suggestion: an amended CRANMER WARD

My suggested amendment is to support the views of Aslockton and Whatton Parish Cllrs and others to retain an enlarged single member Cranmer Ward within Rushcliffe Borough. This Ward has significant historical heritage, being the birthplace of Archbishop Cranmer and it would be an extremely unpopular decision to abolish the Ward name and the strong community within the Cranmer group of villages.

With four regular Parish Council meetings, it would be a busy Ward for an RBC Cllr. The electoral quality, as defined by the Panel, is only slightly above the variance range and the geographical size is not unreasonable.

Parish	2027 Electors
Aslockton	912
Whatton in the Vale	762
Scarrington	148
Flawborough	45
Orston	423
Elton	83
Granby	335

Total	2708
EQ	+11.3%

Draft LGBCE proposal: ASLOCKTON & CROPWELL WARD

The proposed Aslockton and Cropwell Ward is also extremely large geographically and far too busy with at least 6 Parishes meeting regularly. Aslockton and Whatton parishes, lying north of the A52 are not really close to south side village communities. The rather odd decision to accept the case for Upper Saxondale moving away from Radcliffe On Trent Ward, makes this a strange proposal.

Langar and Barnstone Parish Councillors have strongly argued, very convincingly, to my fellow County Cllr, the two RBC Cllrs and myself, that Langar and Barnstone being in the same Parish Council should be together in the same RBC Ward. It is true that the two villages are virtually one community in day to day activities, I suggest to move Barnstone into Nevile and Langar Ward.

My suggested amendment is an expanded single member Cropwell Ward, not with Upper Saxondale, but rather Colston Bassett, a fellow cheese-making village. This provides a very good EQ, as defined by the LGBCE panel.

My Suggestion: an amended CROPWELL WARD

Parish	2027 Electors
Cropwell Butler	580
Cropwell Bishop	1634
Tithby & Wiverton	58
Colston Bassett	201
Total	2473
EQ	+1.7%

My suggestion: an amended NEVILE & LANGAR WARD

As previously suggested, moving Barnstone into the existing Nevile & Langar Ward, pushes the EQ up to +13.6, however, by moving Colston Bassett into an expanded Cropwell Ward (not unreasonable for another cheese making village,) improves the EQ to within a reasonable variance and reducing the total Cllr workload to four active Parish Councils.

Parish	2027 Electors
Barnstone*	378
Langar*	443
Hickling	459
Kinoulton	838
Owthorpe	86
Upper Broughton	359
Total	2563
EQ	+5.4%

*Langar and Barnstone is one Parish Council.

