

Rushcliffe Borough Council

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Please find attached my views.

Uploaded Documents:

Download (https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1639427322_Cotgrave+and+Tollerton+Boundary+Submission.pdf)

Cotgrave and Tollerton Electoral Wards

Below is our response to the proposed electoral wards for Cotgrave and Tollerton wards by The Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Our response for these wards are broken in two:

1. **Removal of the 3 member ward**
2. **Do the wards represent the community**

1. Removal of 3 member wards

Multiple member wards weaken the accountability of a councillor to their electorate. By having a multiple member wards it makes it difficult for the electorate to proportion the activity in that ward to the councillor. More so when the ward has 3 councillors it is further exasperated with the simple question:

Who is my councillor?

For this reason we strongly believe that the best way forward is for all wards to be single member wards as they:

1. Enable all parties to compete equally on a level playing field making it easier for independent candidates to stand.
2. Offer a direct and accountable link between the resident and their councillor.
3. Give the community confidence that their views, however different, will be represented fairly at public meetings.
4. Encourage more residents to engage in the democratic process rather than feeling left out and, therefore, not voting.

Where this is not possible, then a cap of 2 member wards should be put in place. In our proposal set out below we have identified an easy way for a maximum of 2 member wards (set out in Option 2), however we believe with some work by Local Government Boundary Commission for England they could easily split Ash lea ward in two to and ensure that all the wards are single member wards.

2. Do the wards represent the community

The proposal for Cotgrave and Tollerton has made significant changes to the boundaries in what appears to be a number crunching exercise with out understanding the community links of the local parishes.

We agree that Tollerton has a unique identity and should if possible be represented by a single councillor for that single community. However this is done at the expense of Cotgrave, Norman-on-the-wolds and Clipston, that have no community links with each other and have been placed together based on simple maths equation.

Community Links

Cotgrave

Cotgrave is the 4th largest settlement in Rushcliffe and is a Town. It is a self contained community that provides, medical care, schooling and employment and has no links to the proposed additions. Furthermore the area has been represented by councillors that have had single responsibility for Cotgrave since the creation of Rushcliffe Borough Council on the 1st April 1974. The history and close community links alone represent a strong case for Cotgrave to remain represented by Councillors that represent that area alone.

Normanton on the Wold

Normanton on the Wold has a small population of just over 200 people. It has close community links with the Wold communities in the locality. Residents rely on neighbouring Keyworth and Tollerton for medical provisions, schools and local bus routes to Nottingham Centre. Keyworth and Tollerton are there closest large settlements and are closer than Cotgrave.

The settlement is so small that it does not have its own community space for people to attend to vote, instead they attend neighbouring Plumtree to vote. If you speak to resident living in Normanton on the Wolds they will identify as having stronger links to Tollerton and Keyworth.

Clipston

Clipston is a small farming community with an electorate circa 60 people. It has close community links with Tollerton for medical provisions, schools and local bus routes to Nottingham Centre.

The settlement is so small that it does not have its own community space for people to attend to vote, instead they attend neighbouring Tollerton to vote. The residents of Clipston will see themselves as being a stand alone community that has closes links to Tollerton since it has for decades attended Tollerton for voting purposes along as schooling etc.

Our main concern - Clipston and Normanton on the wolds are small rural settlements which has different needs and concerns to the Town of Cotgrave. The electorate in Cotgrave Town will most likely decide the political make up of the councillors, by linking Clipston and Normanton on the Wolds to Cotgrave you risk the community identity, values and concerns being lost by the large population of Cotgrave.

It is the responsibility of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to come up with boundaries that meet the electorate number within an ideal + or - 10% variance. However in doing so it needs to ensure that the local communities are linked and are not put together purely on maths. For the reasons above we ask the commission to note and understand:

1. Cotgrave has had its own representatives since the inception of Rushcliffe Borough Council on 1st April 1974.
2. Normanton on the Wolds has close community links with the neighbouring "Wolds" and are grouped together as the Wolds.
3. Normanton on the Wolds has local community links with Keyworth and Tollerton, where its children attend the schools, residents use medical centres, post offices, local shops and bus services.

4. Normanton on the Wolds residents vote in Plumtree which will be in a different polling ward should these proposals be accepted.
5. Clipston has local community links with Keyworth and Tollerton, where its children attend the schools, residents use medical centres, post offices, local shops and bus services.
6. Clipston residents vote in Tollerton which will be in a different polling ward should these proposals be accepted.

To summarise Normanton on the Wolds and Clipston have stronger ties and links to Tollerton and Keyworth and the Wolds, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England needs to review its proposal and consider the linking of these settlements and preserving Cotgrave as a single electoral ward for Rushcliffe Borough Council. That said we do see this complications caused by the variance and the difficulties in linking them, looking at the proposed wards we have identified an alternative that keeps Cotgrave, Tollerton and Keyworth as its own distinct electoral wards. To do this you would place Normanton on the Wolds and Clipston into the neighbouring ward of Neville and Langar resulting in all wards being within the electoral variance of plus or minus 10%, below details our counter proposal including variance:

Below are 3 options that encompasses the movement of Normanton on the Wolds and Clipston into Neville and Langar, should the Local Government Boundary Commission for England decide against this, then we maintain the argument for Cotgrave to remain as a standalone community having its own councillors and should be organised into 3 single member wards.

Option 1 - Preferred Option

If you was to split Ash Lea Ward down through Woodview / Candleby Lane you would be able to cut it in half for the electorate, some fine tuning would be required, however this wouldn't take much work and would give full electoral accountability, creating 5 Single member wards:

Ash lea 1 (rename required)

Ash Lea 2 (rename required)

Manor

Tollerton

Neville and Langar

All wards sit within a plus or minus 10% variance using the 2027 Electorate.

Cotgrave Ash Lea Half 1 - 1 Member

Polling District	Parish	Parish Ward	Electorate 2020	Electorate 2027
COAS	Cotgrave	Ash Lea	2085	2250
Total:			2085	2250

Variance: -7%

Cotgrave Ash Lea Half 2 - 1 Member

Polling District	Parish	Parish Ward	Electorate 2020	Electorate 2027
COAS	Cotgrave	Ash Lea	2085	2250
Total:			2085	2250

Variance: -7%

Cotgrave - Manor - 1 Member

Polling District	Parish	Parish Ward	Electorate 2020	Electorate 2027
COAS	Cotgrave	Manor	2082	2536
Total:			2082	2536

Variance: 4%

Tollerton - 1 Member

Polling District	Parish	Parish Ward	Electorate 2020	Electorate 2027
TOTO	Tollerton	Tollerton	1550	2636
Total:			1550	2636

Variance: 8%

Neville and Langar - 1 Member

Polling District	Parish	Parish Ward	Electorate 2020	Electorate 2027
NLCB	Colston Bassett	Colston Bassett	191	201
NLHI	Hickling	Hickling	434	459
NLKI	Kinoulton	Kinoulton	797	838
NLLA	Langar	Langar	423	443
NLOW	Owthorpe	Owthorpe	81	86
NLUB	Upper Broughton	Upper Broughton	319	359
TOCL	Clipston	Clipston	58	66
TONO	Normanton-on-the-Wolds	Normanton-on-the-Wolds	210	227
Total:			2513	2679

Variance: 10%

Option 2:

Keep Ash Lea as a whole ward creating one two member ward and 3 single member wards:
Ash Lea (2 Member)
Manor (1 Member)
Tollerton (1 Member)
Neville and Langar (1 Member)
All wards sit within a plus or minus 10% variance using the 2027 Electorate.

Cotgrave Ash Lea - 2 Member

Polling District	Parish	Parish Ward	Electorate 2020	Electorate 2027
COAS	Cotgrave	Ash Lea	4170	4500
Total:			4170	4500

Variance: -7%

Cotgrave- Manor - 1 Member

Polling District	Parish	Parish Ward	Electorate 2020	Electorate 2027
COAS	Cotgrave	Manor	2082	2536
Total:			2082	2536

Variance: 4%

Tollerton - 1 Member

Polling District	Parish	Parish Ward	Electorate 2020	Electorate 2027
TOTO	Tollerton	Tollerton	1550	2636
Total:			1550	2636

Variance: 8%

Neville and Langar - 1 Member

Polling District	Parish	Parish Ward	Electorate 2020	Electorate 2027
NLCB	Colston Bassett	Colston Bassett	191	201
NLHI	Hickling	Hickling	434	459
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NLUB	Upper Broughton	Upper Broughton	319	359
TOCL	Clipston	Clipston	58	66
TONO	Normanton-on-the-Wolds	Normanton-on-the-Wolds	210	227
Total:			2513	2679

Variance: 10%

Option 3:

Retaining Cotgrave as 3 member ward (as per the current system) and create 2 new single member wards:

Cotgrave (3 Member)

Tollerton (1 Member)

Neville and Langar (1 Member)

All wards sit within a plus or minus 10% variance using the 2027 Electorate.

Cotgrave 3 Member				
Polling District	Parish	Parish Ward	Electorate 2020	Electorate 2027
COAS	Cotgrave	Ash Lea	4170	4500
COMA	Cotgrave	Manor	2082	2536
Total:			6252	7036

Variance: -4%

Tollerton - 1 Member				
Polling District	Parish	Parish Ward	Electorate 2020	Electorate 2027
TOTO	Tollerton	Tollerton	1550	2636
Total:			1550	2636

Variance: 8%

Neville and Langar - 1 Member				
Polling District	Parish	Parish Ward	Electorate 2020	Electorate 2027
NLCB	Colston Bassett	Colston Bassett	191	201
NLHI	Hickling	Hickling	434	459
NLKI	Kinoulton	Kinoulton	797	838
NLLA	Langar	Langar	423	443
NLOW	Owthorpe	Owthorpe	81	86
NLUB	Upper Broughton	Upper Broughton	319	359
TOCL	Clipston	Clipston	58	66
TONO	Normanton-on-the-Wolds	Normanton-on-the-Wolds	210	227
Total:			2513	2679

Variance: 10%