

Rushcliffe Borough Council

Personal Details:

Name:

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Organisation Name:



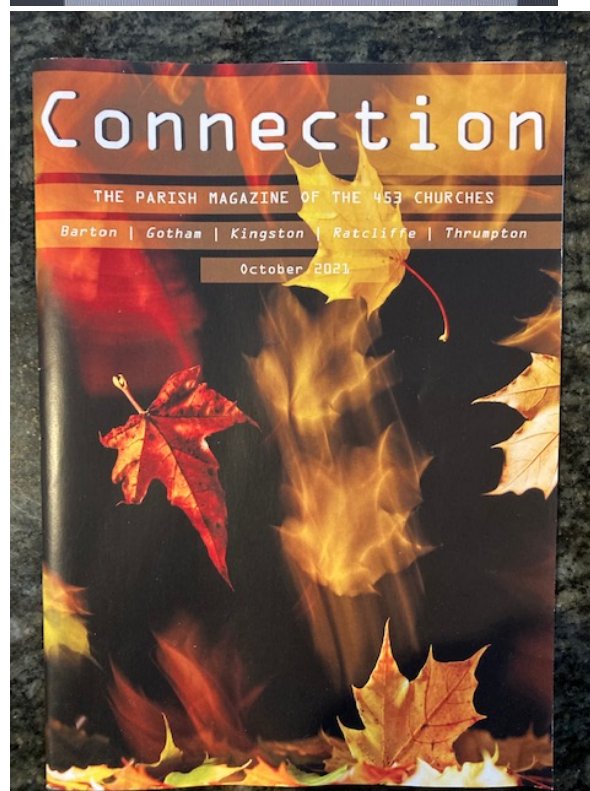
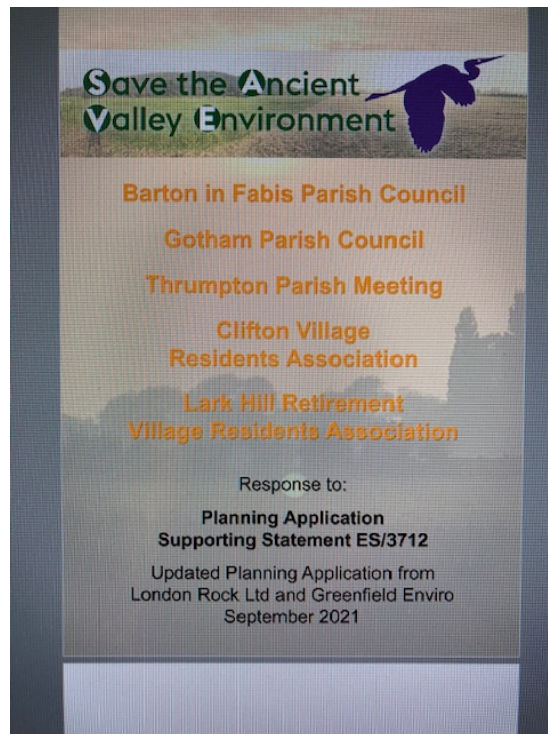
Comment text:

I strongly object to the boundaries proposed for the Barton in Fabis and Soar Valley wards. As a general comment, it appears that the review particularly in respect of these wards, has been driven by a desk top exercise and by people with little knowledge of the nature of the area and links between communities and seemingly little interest in researching these. As a result of the 3 stated considerations for the review, the focus appears to have been solely been on achieving some sort of "electoral quality" rather than "community identity". Barton in Fabis Community Identity The proposals will result in Barton in Fabis village being split away from similar village communities that it has had historic links with over centuries (Thrumpton, Gotham, Kingston and Ratcliffe). These historic ties are reflected in modern day community links (see submitted document as evidence) a) parochial church links - see 453 church magazine, (see submitted document and note 5 parishes listed) b) Parish Councils / meetings for the 5 communities meet jointly on a regular basis under the Chairmanship of our existing Borough Councillor on issues of mutual interest (see meeting invitation example in submitted document). An example has been co-ordination of responses to the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan. Other examples would be planning issues, flood risk, the impact of the redevelopment of Ratcliffe on Soar power station c) Joint campaigns across subsets of the 5 villages. Example being opposition to the proposed quarry at Barton (see submitted document) on behalf of Barton, Thrumpton and Gotham d) Gotham as the largest community of the 5 provides the only shop, library, pubs and doctor's surgery and the 5 communities listed above have a joint interest in the provision of such services e) frequent social contact between the communities for example the twice monthly breakfast club in Barton which people from Thrumpton and Gotham attend in significant numbers. The proposals would rip Barton in Fabis village from these communities with which it has a mutual interest in terms of campaigning on local issues and preserving services merely to make the electoral numbers look good. Lack of strategic fit between Barton in Fabis village and Fairham You have already noted the comments from our current Borough Councillor Rex Walker in your report (paras 36&37) regarding the difference between the suburban character of the Fairham Pastures development and the small village of Barton in Fabis (c200 electors). It is highly regrettable that you have ignored his comments made on behalf of us. The proposals would result in Barton village being totally subsumed in to a vastly bigger urban extension whose residents and concerns will be very different to those of a rural village. You should take account of the fact that Barton, Thrumpton and Gotham mounted a long campaign against the decision to create the Fairham Pastures development even as far as a judicial review in the High Court in London. To subsume Barton village in to this new development in electoral terms would be deeply insulting to the local community and even more crass to name that ward Barton in Fabis, which from a community and historical perspective refers to solely to Barton in Fabis village. Proposal Note: Table A (page 31) of the report is grossly misleading. Barton in Fabis is not currently a ward by itself in 2020 with an electorate -89% below the average and is combined with others in Gotham ward. The table is misleading in purporting to show a move from -89% 2020 to -6% in 2027. Barton in Fabis village should be included within Soar Valley but joined with Gotham, Thrumpton, Ratcliffe and Kingston represented by one Councillor (see comments on Soar Valley below) in a single ward. This would still leave a viable community remaining in what you have chosen to call Barton in Fabis (actually Fairham Pastures) of 2051. This would be admittedly 15% below the average in terms of electorate, but this would a) be only 1% more than the deficit of Soar Valley that you have included in your proposals and b) would be quickly made up as the Fairham Pastures development is built out. The addition of Barton village to the Soar Valley ward would have the benefit of reducing the electorate average deficit from -14% to -9% Soar Valley As you note in the report (para 41) the establishment of a Soar Valley ward "was not proposed to us". This was for a good reason as it is a totally artificial construct based solely on an accident of geography. As already noted above, the parishes of Thrumpton, Gotham, Kingston and Ratcliffe share many common community interests which are local to their area and there is little community link to villages in the area further south is non existent as these gravitate more towards Loughborough. I would object to the creation of a two councillor ward in any case as I would

suggest that electors prefer it when they have one representative that they can hold to account for their smaller area. The precedent of 2 councillors at County level for this general area has already been set and is not a happy one - in Barton we have never been visited by one of the Councillors and in practice the Councillors divide the villages between themselves on an arbitrary basis. It would therefore be preferable to establish 2 wards each with one Councillor - perhaps Soar Valley North and Soar Valley South if the Soar Valley concept is retained.

Uploaded Documents:

Download (https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1634922145_Boundary+changes+pictures.docx)



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5 Parish Meeting

Date	09/11/21
Time	19:30 -> 21:30 Time zone [GMT +00:00] Europe/London
Repeats	Never
Participants	Allan Kerr Julian Coles Bev Angell motionhq@gmail.com Ray State ratcliffeonsoarpm@gmail.com Mark Johnson DocAmar@btinternet.com David Fairbanks Martin & Judy Raven Gillian May Martin Raven Terry Green
Description	CP Walker is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: 5 Parish Meeting Time: Nov 9, 2021 07:30 PM London Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87336731081?pwd=cFhkVlFQWGJkSys Meeting ID: 873 3673 1081 Passcode: 065179 One tap mobile