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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 June 2022 22:12  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** Fw: Fenland boundary review

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Dear Sirs/ Madam,  
Please find my views below on Fenland RReview.

I have for many years been a Councillor representing March. I serve on the Town, District and County Councils.

I don't agree with the Fenland wards suggested by the LGBCE in your initial proposals. The boundaries within March are, in places, very weak and cut through communities.

I represent Maple Grove residents at Cambridgeshire County Council. The local community there is united by the road, not divided by it. It makes no sense to use Maple Grove as a boundary when residents both sides of the road are united especially by their concerns about parking and speeding along the road, much of which relates to Westwood School.

Rather than using relatively small back-roads as boundaries, such as Creek Road, Maple Grove and Robingoodfellow's Road, it is far better, and accords more with the LGBCE's statutory criteria, to use clearly identified natural or man-made boundaries are, where necessary, major roads.

I support the revised proposals agreed on May 20<sup>th</sup> by the Full Council of FDC, under which March, together with Benwick and Christchurch, is allocated ten seats. This neatly allows the area to be divided into two almost exactly equal halves, each half being entitled to five councillors using the 2027 electorates. Both halves are then divided into a 2-member and a 3-member ward, but in all cases just using main roads as boundaries.

The first split uses (1) the A141 from the Mill Hill roundabout in the South nearly up to the Peas Hill Roundabout. This section of the A141 provides a very strong and clear boundary between the more rural and urban parts of South March and (2) the river all the way from the A141 to the Town's easternmost boundary. The river between these two points has only one crossing point and it has generally steep banks making it very much a dividing feature rather than a uniting one. It makes no sense to include just a couple of hundred houses in your proposed March East ward which are cut off from the rest of the ward by the river.

Then, the revised FDC proposal makes use of the main roads through the town as additional ward boundaries – the B1101 going south from the town centre to the boundary at the Mill Hill roundabout and, north of the river, Wisbech Road (the B1099) and Norwood Road/Hundred Road to the Town boundary. These are far stronger and much more easily identifiable boundaries than have been proposed by the LGBCE in their initial consultation; they don't split communities and they'll be easier for residents and for councillors to understand.

My County Division includes Wisbech St Mary and Elm parishes. I very much welcome your proposal to put these two parishes into a single FDC ward. They are unusual parishes in that they are both quite

disparate and both contain several quite distinct villages. As such, these two parishes sit well together, and are both contained within my County Division of March North & Waldersley.

Christchurch also falls within my County Division. It has stronger links for shops, services and schools with March than with anywhere else, so it makes sense to re-instate Christchurch back with March electorally. One of the longest roads in the Parish of Christchurch is called “March Riverside” – a clear sign of the links that Christchurch has with March.

Similarly, Benwick used to be part of the March West County Division and that was appropriate as Benwick very much looks to March for its shops, secondary schooling and other services. All buses serving Benwick go to, from or through March.

To comply best with the LGBCE’s statutory criteria, I ask you to adopt in full the revised FDC warding proposals passed last month.

Yours faithfully,

Cllr Jan French  
Town Councillor, South Ward  
District Councillor, March West Ward  
County Councillor, March North & Waldersey Division

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