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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 January 2022 10:05
To: reviews
Subject: Fenland Review

Categories: Submissions, [REDACTED]

Dear Sirs,

Please find the comments and recommendations from Whittlesey Town Council

Whittlesey Town Council met last month to consider its response to the initial consultation on the review of Fenland District Council's ward boundaries.

Whittlesey Town Council supports the proposal by Fenland District Council to change the number of District Councillors to 42, of which eight would be allocated to the Town of Whittlesey.

We welcome the fact that, under the proposals put forward by FDC, all eight of our District Councillors will represent wards wholly contained within the boundaries of the Parish of Whittlesey. We believe that will promote effective and convenient local government. We do not wish to continue having part of our Area represented by District Councillors who also represent the Parish of Benwick. Benwick village is far from Whittlesey and doesn't really fit comfortably in a Ward based in the Town of Whittlesey.

The reason we support the proposals put forward by FDC is that the boundaries within Whittlesey Town reflect community identities and are boundaries which are strong and clearly identifiable.

The proposed strong boundary that we most welcome is the use of the A605 in the urban part of Whittlesey, clearly defining the boundary between Whittlesey North West and Whittlesey East and Villages Wards to the north and Whittlesey South and Lattersey Wards to the south of the A605.

The Town of Whittlesey has an urban core with several villages or hamlets to the East, South and West. But the 2027 electorate numbers, and the geographical links, are such that the rural parts of the Town cannot within the permitted variance constitute a Ward by, or within, themselves, without splitting natural communities. The village of Turves must be included within the same ward as Coates, because there's no commonly used access to and from Turves within Whittlesey other than through Coates. This is satisfied in the proposed Fenland ward of Whittlesey East and Villages.

The B1098 is one of the main routes into Whittlesey from the South. It is appropriate that the unifying nature of the B1098 is recognised in the new proposed ward of Whittlesey South, as FDC have done by including in that proposed ward those residents living on or near its route.

Similarly, the village of Pondersbridge is clearly most closely linked with the rest of Whittlesey through the B1040, so it's completely appropriate that Pondersbridge is included in the new proposed Whittlesey South. Pondersbridge has much clearer and effectively closer links with the urban part of Whittlesey via the B1040 than it does with the other rural areas of the Parish (such as Eastrea and Coates) with which it has no effective road links.

King's Delph has no practicable road links within Whittlesey to any part of the Parish other than along to A605 to the urban area of the Town. It is appropriate therefore that King's Delph is included in Whittlesey South Ward with other areas along the A605 such as Peterborough Road.

Whittlesey Town Council therefore welcomes and endorses Fenland District Council's proposed new wards:

Whittlesey North-West (2)

Whittlesey East and Villages (3)

Lattersey (1)

Whittlesey South (2)

These ward boundaries are roundly endorsed by Whittlesey Town Council. Were the LGBCE to decide on a Council Size of 41 (with which we disagree) rather than 42, we would advocate keeping the same

boundaries as for 42 members, but extending Whittlesey South Ward to include the Parish of Benwick in a renamed 'Whittlesey South and Benwick" Ward.

Should you require any further information or wish to speak to us, please feel free to contact me on the email or number below.

Kind Regards

Sue

[REDACTED]
Clerk & RFO to the Council
Whittlesey Town Council

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