

1st November 2024



The Local Boundary Commission for England
7th Floor, Bunhill Row
London
EC1Y 8YZ

Dear Sir/Madam

LOCAL ELECTION BOUNDARIES REVIEW

North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) have recommended to you to disband the Freshney Ward and move Great Coates into the large Wolds Ward.

It is our view that North East Lincolnshire Council have not consulted before making this submission which in our view is politically motivated and does not take into consideration the views of this council, residents or community groups.

NELC have not consulted with ourselves and we are not aware of any enquiries made with local community groups as to their views. Equally, the consultation appears to have been released into the public domain after publication of their report.

How, therefore, can their recommendation be representative of the community in serves in appropriate public consultation has not been undertaken ?

Freshney Ward is a vibrant representation of a diverse community, encompassing three areas with a deep sense of community attachment, currently represented by Independent councillors. This arrangement has allowed for a unique collaboration among the various segments of the community, fostering connections and promoting collective growth. The long-standing establishment of Freshney Ward has been instrumental in creating a sense of unity, and breaking it up would risk dismantling years of hard work and progress that have been achieved for the benefit of its residents.

The recent recommendation by North East Lincolnshire Council to abolish Freshney Ward raises significant concerns about the motivations behind this decision. It appears to be politically motivated, disregarding the deep-rooted history and the effective community work that has characterised the ward. Moreover, the proposal to merge Great Coates into Wolds Ward is particularly troubling. Wolds Ward is already quite large, and further enlarging it could lead to challenges in effective representation. Larger wards often result in residents feeling disconnected from their representatives, making it more difficult for councillors to address the specific needs of their constituents.

There are more logical alternatives that could be considered which would create a more equitable distribution of representation while ensuring all voices within the community are heard and more importantly valued.

Carl Thomas, Clerk to the Council



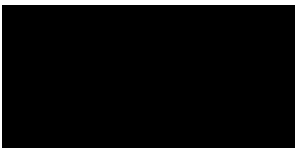
Furthermore, it's essential to recognise the historical context of Freshney Ward. Over the years, numerous initiatives have been undertaken to foster community spirit and improve local services. The commitment of independent councillors has played a pivotal role in this success, providing representation that is closely aligned with the values and needs of the community. Abolishing Freshney Ward would not only threaten this legacy but also disrupt the collaborative relationships that have been built over time.

The recommendation to abolish Freshney Ward is misguided and fails to consider the intricacies of the community it serves. The proposed merger of Great Coates into Wolds Ward is ill-conceived, as it overlooks the importance of effective representation in large wards. Instead, a more considered approach would better serve the community's diverse needs. This would ensure that all residents feel represented and engaged, allowing for continued growth and improvement within this rich and varied community.

Ultimately, preserving the integrity of Freshney Ward is vital for maintaining the positive momentum that has been established over the years.

Yours sincerely

GREAT COATES VILLAGE COUNCIL



CARL THOMAS

Clerk to the Council

Carl Thomas, Clerk to the Council



North East Lincolnshire

Personal Details:

Name: Carl Thomas

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Great Coates Village Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Please see attached.

Attached Documents:

- letter-boundary-commission-011124.pdf