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From: nick meekins [REDACTED]
Sent: 29 May 2022 20:11
To: reviews
Subject: Ward Boundary Changes Proposal.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Good evening

I would like to take this opportunity to share my views on the proposed new ward boundary changes in Fenland in general and Wisbech in particular.

First a bit about me. I was born in Wisbech in 1961 and have never lived anywhere else, nor have I had any desire to.

I was first elected to the Town Council in 2007 and had the honour to be Town Mayor in 2010/2011. For personal reasons I stood down from the council in 2012. I was re-elected in 2019 to both the Town and District Councils. I was recently appointed as the Vice Chairman of the District Council. I have been on a number of committees on both councils and also am on two Internal Drainage Boards as a Fenland representative. I am on the committee of the Fenland Twinning Association and Chairman of the Wisbech - Arles Twinning Club, both of the latter are supported by the respective councils.

I am currently the Ward councillor for Peckover Ward, which if the proposals are successful will be divided with the more urban areas becoming part of Riverside Ward, and the more rural part merging with Leverington. In my opinion this makes sense, both new Wards would, I believe, reflect the character of their respective areas, and of the different issues that arise in a rural/urban area, - Riverside predominantly urban and Leverington being mainly rural. I live within about 200 yards of the Wisbech/Leverington border, so close in fact that we receive the Leverington Parish newsletter each month. I would imagine that a sizable proportion of the residents would be surprised that Leverington isn't already a part of Wisbech.

Some other parts of Wisbech will also have changes made. At the moment one of the most densely populated areas is known as Waterlees Ward (named after Waterlees Rd) however if you ask any long standing resident what that area is called, they will almost certainly say the North Ward, I am pleased that the proposal reflects the historic naming of that part of the town. Walsoken will, if the proposal is adopted, amalgamate areas of the village currently in different wards into one clearly defined Ward, this makes a lot of sense to me.

As I understand it, the proposed changes supported by both Fenland District and Wisbech Town Councils, are the same as those created by the LGBCE as part of the consultation process, it would appear that as all parties are in agreement that the proposal is accepted.

Fenland District Council will expand from 39 to 42 Councillors. This reflects the increased populations in the area and should make the Ward Councillors' workload manageable.

I fully support this proposal. If you would like to discuss it with me please contact me on:-

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Best wishes.

Nick Meekins

Town and District Councillor for Peckover Ward, Wisbech.