

## Fenland District Council

### Personal Details:

**Name:**

**E-mail:**

**Postcode:**

**Organisation Name:** Christchurch Parish Council

### Comment text:

The official response from Christchurch Parish Council is attached.

### Uploaded Documents:

**Download ([https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download\\_document?file=draft%2F1654548537\\_Boundary+Review+Response+5.6.22.pdf](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1654548537_Boundary+Review+Response+5.6.22.pdf))**

# Christchurch Parish Council

Clerk: Dave Gibbs



5 June 2022

Review Officer (Fenland)  
LGBCE,  
PO BOX 133,  
Blyth,  
NE24 9FE

Dear Sirs


## **New Electoral Arrangements for Fenland District Council**

Christchurch Parish Council has considered the proposals set out in the Draft Recommendations, which it finds wholly unsatisfactory.

The grouping of Christchurch with Wimblington, Doddington and Benwick is nothing more than a mopping-up exercise of remainder parishes. It has no basis whatsoever in the everyday lives of any of the residents of any of these parishes. The report contains numerous unsubstantiated claims about the lifestyles of our residents, written with the sole purpose of propping up an ill-conceived solution to a non-existent problem.

Whilst it is true to say that Christchurch lies closer to March than to Wisbech, the entire journey to Wisbech follows the A1101, reducing the difference in journey times to a mere 6 minutes. Wisbech offers a far greater range of shops and other services and is the destination of choice for Christchurch residents. The availability of schools and medical facilities across the border in Norfolk also provides a more attractive and widely-used proposition than any of the corresponding amenities in March.

We understand that Fenland District Council has now resolved to propose a new solution, which amalgamates Christchurch into the town of March. This is nothing but a geographical convenience with no logical foundation. Indeed, the District Council's own submission acknowledges that there is no direct road link between Christchurch and March, lying, as they do, on opposite sides of a major local waterway. To adopt such a proposal, without any public consultation, would be morally reprehensible and make a mockery of the entire process.



The parish of Christchurch has long-standing links with the neighbouring parish of Elm and the two Parish Councils have an established working relationship, even sharing a Clerk recently. The proposal from the Fenland Independents Alliance recognised this key issue in retaining the status quo regarding the two easternmost parishes.

In summary, Christchurch Parish Council rejects both the proposed grouping with Wimblington, Doddington and Benwick and the counter-proposal to amalgamate our rural parish with the town of March. The existing association with the parish of Elm has brought benefits to both parishes and should be retained.

Yours faithfully



pp Christchurch Parish Council