

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 January 2022 19:04
To: reviews
Subject: Electoral Review of Fenland District Council

Categories: Submissions, [REDACTED]

Dear Sirs

Within Fenland District Council, the Doddington and Wimblington Ward has two Councillors on the District Council each representing their respective village. Each village has its own Parish Council. The two areas are closely linked, each having a similar numbers of electors. There is a common boundary between the two areas and each village is connected by the B1093. Each village centre is surrounded by significant areas of agricultural land. Each village has its own primary school, village hall, recreation fields and churches. Doddington has a thriving cottage hospital which serves the surrounding villages. Both villages are serviced by a common medical group. The residents of both villages have easy road and bus routes from their respective village into the towns of March and Chatteris, these being some 5 miles from the villages in a northerly and southerly direction.

There has been some suggestion that the civil parishes of Benwick and Christchurch should be added to the Doddington / Wimblington ward with the representation on Fenland District Council being increased from 2 councillors to 3 councillors. One could argue that as the total number of electors from these two civil parishes is similar to the number of electors in Doddington or Wimblington that there may be some merit in exploring this option. The 2011 census gives the following electors:

Doddington	2181	
Wimblington	2211	
Benwick	1137	
Christchurch	883	2030

However, Benwick is located to the west of Doddington and Christchurch is located to the North East of Wimblington. Benwick is half the size of Doddington but has a similar identity. Christchurch has no community ties with the Doddington / Wimblington ward and its identity ties in with Elm and Wisbech. To suggest that a councillor could service the needs of Benwick / Christchurch is unrealistic due to the mileage between the two villages of 13 miles.

Doddington Parish Council is of the view that no change is necessary to the existing ward boundary.

[REDACTED]
Clerk to Doddington Parish Council