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From: Jason Mockett [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 June 2022 09:25
To: reviews
Subject: Fenland Review

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Good morning

I am a councillor on Fenland District Council and Whittlesey Town Council, representing Lattersey Ward in both cases. I've lived in the Whittlesey area virtually all my life and therefore have a good knowledge of Fenland in general and of Whittlesey in particular.

As to Whittlesey, I support the initial proposals from the Commission because they achieve good electoral equality and because they respect local communities. Using the main A605 through the more urban part of Whittlesey as a strong and clear ward boundary makes sense, as everyone easily understands where they live in relation to the A605.

I live in the village of Coates, and I am pleased to see that you are recommending that neither Coates nor the neighbouring village of Eastrea should be split just to achieve electoral equality. Both Coates and Eastrea have clearly defined communities and should not be split.

I also very much support putting Benwick into a March Ward rather than leaving it in a Whittlesey Ward as it is now. Benwick has no real connection with Whittlesey, whilst March is Benwick's local Town and all of the public buses serving Benwick go from or to March - there is no public bus service between Whittlesey and Benwick.

On May 12th 2022, at Fenland District Council's meeting of Full Council, a revised proposal of Wards for the whole of Fenland was agreed by a large majority. I want to place on record my support for that District-wide scheme because it achieves good electoral equality whilst respecting communities of interest. We have two parishes in the centre of the District - Wisbech St Mary and Elm - both of which consist of a number of smaller villages. It seems to me entirely logical to put these two parishes together in a three member ward as the unusually disparate nature of those two parishes makes them very similar, they both have the A47 as the main road that connects them to the outside world and they are of almost equal size, so neither will be seen to be 'dominating' the other. They also, together, define the gap between the towns of Wisbech and March. I was pleased to see that you have agreed to the creation of an Elm & Wisbech St Mary Ward in your initial proposals - I want to record that I support that.

Parson Drove is a much smaller parish with a large agricultural hinterland, just like the parishes of Gorefield, Newton and Tydd with which it is proposed to be linked in a single ward. I therefore agree to linking these villages in a single ward, but think that "Roman Bank & Parson Drove" sounds much better than "Parson Drove & Roman Bank"!

My last point is about Christchurch. Christchurch is a very small village, stuck out on a limb. You can't travel north out of Christchurch without leaving Cambridgeshire and going into Norfolk. Christchurch has very few amenities of its own, and its main shopping facilities, secondary school and other services are located in March. I very much agree with the proposal to include Christchurch with March East in a single ward as Christchurch is much too small to form a ward of its own and March is the town within Fenland

which is closest to that village. Linking Christchurch with March East revives the recent County Council boundary in the area, under which Christchurch was included in the March East Division, so it's not novel for the LGBCE to link the two together in a single ward.

Yours faithfully,

Jason Mockett
Town & District Councillor for Lattersey Ward



Sent from my iPhone