

Fenland District Council

Personal Details:

Name:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Parson Drove Parish Council

Comment text:

I am writing on behalf of Parson Drove Parish Council to provide their response to the proposed boundary changes to the wards of Fenland District Council (FDC). We have seen sight of the submission of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council and support the submission they have made. This matter was considered and discussed at the Parish Council meeting on the 8th December 2021 where "It was proposed and agreed to write to Fenland District Council and the LGBCE expressing concerns as to the break-up of the Murrow Community with these boundary reviews with the proposed new boundaries." Parson Drove Parish Council are extremely disappointed not to have been consulted by FDC on their proposal prior to submission, as has occurred on previous reviews. It was felt that a 41-member ward scheme which would keep the existing arrangements for Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary ward would be appropriate and follow all the LGBCE criteria regarding electoral variance and community cohesion / identity. As Wisbech St Mary Parish Council have pointed out in their submission there has been close working relationship between the two Parish Councils since FDC was created in 1974, when the existing ward was also created. Parson Drove Parish Council are extremely concerned by the FDC proposal and the implication this has on the community of Murrow, which would split the community in two, which goes against the LGBCE criteria. The area affected includes Back Road, Murrow Bank, Mill Road, Silvers Lane and Seadyke Bank which is in Parson Drove Parish, but residents associate themselves with the village and community of Murrow. Therefore, Parson Drove Parish Council also request that the FDC proposal is rejected in favour of a 41-member council that would see the boundaries for the existing rural wards preserved. We do not believe that the reduction of FDC Cllrs from 42 to 41 would have an adverse effect of the operation to FDC, but the split up of the rural wards will have an adverse impact on the communities. Parson Drove Parish Council agree with the observations in the Wisbech St Mary Parish Council submission regarding community Groups and collaboration on projects which they listed as: • Royal British Legion • Murrow Book Café • Parochial Church Council • Community Speed Watch • Street Pride Groups co-operate closely • John Bends Charities operate across the Parishes • Village Hall Committees work together • Friends of the Cage • Village Voices magazine predominantly cover the Parishes of Wisbech St Mary and Parson Drove • Parson Drove Car Show has volunteers that are from both Parishes. Examples of projects between the Parish Councils include but not limited to: • Many Local Highways Initiative schemes submitted to the County Council • A drain side walkway between the villages of Parson Drove and Murrow is being developed for launch this year • Citizen Advice Bureau outreach sessions • Parish Councillors Training Sessions • Streetlighting agreements along Back Road, Murrow • Admin support between the two Parish Councils • Information sharing on various projects and schemes such as bin replacements etc.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded