



Rendlesham Parish Council

'Committed to actively engage'

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Sent by email

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'reviews@lgbce.org.uk'

Dear Sir/Madam

Rendlesham Parish Council, located in the district of Suffolk Coastal, wish to make the following comments on the current boundary review:

"Rendlesham has previously been a single councillor ward which we believe reflects the slightly unique status of Rendlesham as a "new" Village which is now approaching town size.

We feel that, whilst there are shared 'facilities' with Wickham Market, Rendlesham has its own individual identity and specific needs from a district councillor.

Suffolk Coastal District Council will be well aware of the efforts that have been made on our behalf by our District Councillor over the last few years, be that in support of the Rendlesham Neighbourhood Plan or specific issues pertaining to adoption of highways or specifically challenging planning issues

Rendlesham as it has developed, and will continue to develop, has benefitted from the District Councillor's designated community fund on several occasions and we look to see such a relationship with a dedicated district councillor continue.

To that end we see that amalgamation into a two Councillor Ward stretching as far as Sweffling to the North and beyond Wickham Market to the west poses many challenges not only for ourselves but also for the other parishes who will have dramatically reduced access to their Ward Councillors.

Rendlesham accepts that it cannot continue as a single entity as has been the previous case but feels that rather than Rendlesham becoming part of a 'two councillor ward', it would be better if that proposed ward were to be split into two.

Rendlesham Parish Council therefore suggests that a split between East and West of the proposed ward be made to create two single councillor wards. Rendlesham would propose that the split effectively follow the line of the Railway.

The parishes adjacent to Rendlesham share many of our issues traffic to Bentwaters travels through Eyke, Bromeswell and/or Tunstall/ Campsea Ashe & therefore our transport issues and theirs are linked so bringing them into the ward may bring benefits when considering transport issues. Those parishes would then fall within the 'Eastern section' of our two ward proposal

Rendlesham is listed as a Key Service Centre with the intent that it supports the smaller adjacent villages such as Eyke, Tunstall, Blaxhall etc and thus we see a benefit in including these parishes to bring their common interests to a single district councillor.

We feel there will be strong similar synergies for Villages such as 'the four villages' physically closer to Wickham Market

Without knowing how the workload is shared in a two councillor ward, we fear our direct link to a district councillor and influence within the District Council will be lost.

We certainly see the workload within the proposed area for two consecutive councillors covering all the town and parish council meetings as a challenge. We therefore see two small Wards with synergies as noted as a better arrangement, which by having dedicated single councilors, will allow each parish a more direct and achievable route to have its voice heard at district level."

Thank you for taking these comments into consideration.

Yours faithfully

Heather Heelis
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