

Subject: Unitary Councils in Suffolk

Dear Sirs,

Please find the attached as the official response of the Parish of Great Wenham to the Boundary Commission's proposals for Unitary Councils in Suffolk.

C.J.Clark
Parish Clerk.

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WENHAM MAGNA PARISH MEETING

Clerk: -

Dr. C. Clark,
Acacia Farm, Acacia Road,
Great Wenham, Colchester
CO7 6PP

Chairman: -

J.S. Laverock,
Barn House, Raydon Road,
Gt. Wenham, Colchester,
CO7 6QE.

The Boundary Commission for England,
Trevelyan House,
Great Peter Street,
London.
SW1P 2HW.

27th. August 2008.

Dear Sirs,

Re: The Boundary Commission Proposals for Unitary Councils in Suffolk.

The Chairman and the Clerk had attended a meeting where the Chief Executives of both Suffolk County Council and Ipswich Borough Council had presented their views on the current proposals. Today the Chairman & the Clerk explained the proposals and the various views to the parish for their consideration.

The parish was of the unanimous opinion that the current Parish – District Council – County Council system had worked well allowing full and fair democratic representation of parish opinions. There was no desire for any significant change to the current system and a general belief that this proposal by removing the District Council layer and making us respond to larger Unitary Council would significantly reduce our voice and representation.

It was explained to the meeting that the proposals were a government initiative to remove the District and Borough layers of administration with a reduction in expenditure. Whilst there was an understanding of the aims there was a general lack of belief in the outcome as most rationalisations end up with unforeseen difficulties requiring an increase in staff and resources to retain the previous status quo. The fact that this is a government initiative to which the County & Ipswich are directed to respond in a relatively short period of time added further to a general cynicism.

If Unitary Councils are to replace the existing local government structure then the parish was unanimous in favour of a single Suffolk Unitary Council to include Lowestoft and the other Suffolk parts of the current Waveney District. The parish did not agree with the arbitrary co-opting of the populations of rural parishes to the North Haven proposal purely so it would have enough 'numbers' to make it viable for a Unitary Council. The boundary proposed by the Commission for the North Haven Unitary divides parishes which have a long history of co-operation, common purposes and common amenities. This would be the case wherever the boundaries might be drawn. The North Haven proposal has no natural entity and would exist without care or concern for the whole of Suffolk. The North Haven proposal would allow the current Ipswich Borough Council to retain most of its current staff in the proposed Unitary Council with its pet projects of the Suffolk University College and

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regeneration of the Wet Dock and Waterfront all of which could be overseen by a single Unitary Council to the benefit of the whole County.

Finally in the worst of all solutions where we are directed to have two Unitary Councils then the parish of Great Wenham is unanimous in wishing to be in the Suffolk Rural Council to which we would have greater affinity and common purpose.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. C.J. Clark M.A. B.M. B.Ch.
Parish Clerk.