Carleton Rode Parish Council

Chairman – Mr J. Laurie,

Electoral Services Team,
South Norfolk Council,
Cygnet Court,
Long Stratton.

October 2, 2017

Clark - Mr P. Jeffery,

Dear Electoral Services Team,

At their meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 2017, the members of Carleton Rode Parish Council agreed unanimously to oppose the proposed change to the parish boundary with Bunwell parish. The meeting was also attended by 46 members of the public and only one of them indicated support for the proposal.

Carleton Rode Parish Council was represented at Bunwell Parish Council annual parish meeting some months ago at which a much smaller adjustment to the boundary was mooted. Carleton Rode Parish Council was unaware of the new proposal until a resident brought to our attention a letter sent by South Norfolk Council to residents who would be affected by the implementation of the proposed change. Carleton Rode Parish Council was subsequently denied representation when the proposal was brought before the Community Governance Review Committee.

The Governance Reviews are primarily concerned with electoral arrangements but electoral arrangements are not at issue in this case. Carleton Rode Parish Council has had a full complement of seven parish councillors for many years. Bunwell is entitled to have nine councillors but currently has only four members and has failed to achieve a number approaching its full complement for very many years. Recently Bunwell had to defer a meeting when only two members turned up. Guidelines to the review state that size and population of parishes must be a consideration. There is no electoral or other rationale for extending a larger parish which fails to achieve anything like its full representation at the expense of a well-functioning small parish with a full complement. Indeed when a long serving member retired from Carleton Rode Parish Council early this year by reason of moving from the village, the Council had several candidates come forward seeking to fill the vacancy.

The argument for this proposal is that the existing boundary is illogical, reflecting as they often do old water courses or geographical features which are no longer apparent, and that it would be more logical for the boundary to follow the road system. However, the guidelines to the review state that it is desirable that changes do not upset historic traditions and boundaries and that the shape of parishes and any proposed changes should reflect peoples' expressed choices and should not have any impact on community cohesion.
About 13 years ago a large area of Carleton Rode parish was transferred to Bunwell parish and this new proposal requires that an even larger land area be ceded. Together those two areas would represent a transfer of around 5% of the land area of Carleton Rode to Bunwell in recent years.

Also, the resulting transfer of some 40 residents under the new proposal would be a shift of about 7% of Carleton Rode’s present adult population to Bunwell. Overwhelmingly these residents have no desire to become residents of Greater Bunwell,

The members of Carleton Rode Parish Council are emphatic in their opposition to this proposal and urge the Review Committee to reject it in its entirety.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Jeffery, Clerk, Carleton Rode Parish Council
Hi Nicola
The content is copied below:

Community Governance Review

East Carleton & Ketteringham Parish Council considered the proposals in the second phase of the above consultation at its meeting on 28th September 2017 and unanimously voted to object most strongly to the proposal to move the parish boundary removing Lower East Carleton to make it part of Swardeston.

The parish council considers Lower East Carleton as very much a part of the village. Lower East Carleton residents have expressed their desire to remain as part of East Carleton & Ketteringham and this supports the view of the parish councillors.

The number of homes that the district council has suggested would change is very understated and the loss of income from these dwellings would radically impact on the financial viability of East Carleton & Ketteringham parish council.

East Carleton & Ketteringham Parish Council respectfully requests the boundary remains unchanged.

Yours faithfully,

Carole Jowett
Clerk to East Carleton & Ketteringham Parish Council

Many thanks

Carole Jowett
Clerk to East Carleton & Ketteringham Parish Council
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On 13/10/2017, 07:48, "Nicola Tullock" wrote:

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Thank you for your email although unfortunately I am unable to open the attachment. Could you please send your message in the body of the email?

Thank you

Nicola Tullock
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South Norfolk


Sent: 12 October 2017 18:49
To: Review <Review@s-norfolk.gov.uk>