

**PARISH REVIEW WORKING GROUP held at COUNCIL OFFICES  
LONDON ROAD SAFFRON WALDEN at 7.00 pm on 13 MARCH 2002**

Present:- Councillors Mrs C A Bayley, Mrs M A Caton, Mrs S Flack,  
A J Ketteridge and G Sell.

Officer in attendance:- P J Snow.

**PRWG1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED that Councillor A J Ketteridge be elected as Chairman of the Working Group.

**PRWG2 PARISH REVIEW**

The Electoral Services Officer presented a comprehensive report with maps and background appendices, and including detailed analysis of various proposals submitted as part of the parish review which had commenced with a formal consultation period on 31 August last year. The consultation period had been extended from the original date of 30 November 2001 to the end of January this year.

The proposals made fell into two categories. The first category concerned changes in parish boundaries, including the creation, alteration or abolition of a parish and consequential changes in electoral arrangements. Any proposals emerging from this review must be recommended to the Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions (DTLR). The second category concerned reviews of electoral arrangements in existing parishes upon which the Council could act on the outcome without recommendation to the Secretary of State.

The Working Group had been set up by the former Policy and Resources Committee on 13 February 2001 with the following terms of reference:-

“to carry out the detailed work of the parish review and to make recommendations to this committee at the draft and final recommendation stages.”

Officers had carried out a detailed evaluation of the various proposals made during the formal consultation period. The next stage was for this Working Group to agree draft recommendations for approval by the Resources Committee which would be followed by a further period of formal consultation. This would finish at the end of May and a further meeting would be needed to make recommendations to the Resources Committee for the Council's final recommendations to be agreed at the meeting on 20 June this year.

As a general principle, consultation would be carried out with all of the occupiers of residential properties directly affected by the draft proposals. Relevant parish councils and the county councillors and district councillors

elected for the areas concerned would also be consulted. Publicity would also be given to the draft recommendations in the local press and by public notice.

The detailed report to this meeting contained direct reference to all of the representations made as at the date of the preparation of the report. Since then a letter had been received from Elmdon and Wendens Lofts Parish Council in relation to draft recommendation DR1 stating that it was the unanimous conclusion of the Parish Council that the existing arrangements for that parish should remain in force. In relation to draft recommendation DR3, a letter had been received from Mr Willis of Ringers Farmhouse and also from Mr and Mrs Clark of Ringers in support of the proposal to transfer the area concerned from Newport to the parish of Widdington.

The Electoral Services Officer submitted a detailed evaluation of the survey of residents in Swards End carried out in January 2002 regarding the proposal to form a new parish council (draft recommendation DR4). He also reported the receipt of a further communication from Councillor A Dean making further proposals in relation to draft recommendations DR6 and DR9.

The Working Group gave detailed consideration to all of the proposals contained in the report and agreed the recommendations as detailed below.

RECOMMENDED that the Resources Committee agree the following draft recommendations be adopted for consultation as part of the parish review:

DR1, that, in view of the decision of the Parish Council, no further action is taken to progress a proposal to amalgamate the separate civil parishes of Elmdon and Wenden Lofts, so as to mirror the area of the existing parish council, and to make adjustments to the existing warding scheme;

DR2, that the proposal of Newport Parish Council to exchange areas of land (including two properties) either side of the M11 with the parishes of Wendens Ambo and Wicken Bonhunt is not pursued.

DR3, that the Council supports a change of boundary to transfer Ringers Farmhouse and Ringers, Debden Road, Newport from Newport to the parish of Widdington and that the occupiers of the property known as 'Greenfield' also be consulted on a possible change of boundaries;

DR 4, that the Council supports the constitution of a new parish, and parish council, of Swards End, in principle, as a draft proposal for further consultation;

(Councillors Mrs C A Bayley and A J Ketteridge declared their interest in this item as members of Saffron Walden Town Council, including the area of the proposal new parish).

DR 5, that the Council supports a change of boundary to transfer North Park Cottage, Little Walden from Little Chesterford to the parish of Saffron Walden.

DR 6, that the Council supports a change of boundaries south of Stoney Common Road, Stansted so as to place all of the residential properties at Brook View, Rochford Close and Stoney Place wholly within the parish of Stansted (the new boundary to run along the line of the northern development limit of the Rochford Nurseries site), but that any further action to adjust the boundary between Birchanger and Stansted to take account of the Rochford Nurseries site be deferred pending the occupation of a significant proportion of the new development site; at that stage the review process be reactivated and a process of full consultation carried out;

DR 7, that no change is proposed to the boundary between Takeley and Little Canfield in the vicinity of the Priors Green development site at the present time and that the matter is considered again at a suitable time when occupation of the site has taken place;

DR 8, that the suggestion of Little Canfield Parish Council to transfer an area containing 9 properties at Bacon End from Great Canfield to Little Canfield be not pursued;

DR 9, that the Council supports a realignment of boundaries in the vicinity of the existing A120 road between the M11 and the western edge of Takeley parish, affecting the parishes of Birchanger, Great Hallingbury, Hatfield Broad Oak, Stansted and Takeley, based on option 1 in the report, to include the property known as Highfields Lodge, Burton End, Stansted, and that, in principle, the option of suggesting a realignment of boundaries so as to include the whole of Stansted Airport in the parish of Stansted be supported for consultation purposes;

DR 10, that the Council supports a change of boundary to transfer Latchmore Cottage from Little Hallingbury to Great Hallingbury;

DR 11, that the Council consults upon a possible realignment of boundaries between the parishes of Great Dunmow, Little Dunmow and Stebbing in the vicinity of the existing A120;

DR 12, that the Council takes no action to pursue any change of boundaries, or any action to create a new parish, at Oakwood Park, Little Dunmow;

and that consultation be carried out on the following suggested changes to parish electoral arrangements:

PEP1, that the number of parish councillors for the parish of Chrishall remain as 9;

PEP2, that the number of parish councillors for the parish of Great Chesterford remain as 9;

PEP3, that the number of parish councillors for the parish of Widdington remain as 8 (but see PEP4 below);

PEP4, that the parishes listed in the report (with the exception of Little Dunmow) be asked, in the light of recent experience, to confirm that they consider their present number of parish councillors to be appropriate;

PEP5, that Members agree to consult on the following two options for future electoral arrangements at Quendon and Rickling:

- (i) Option 1 (the first preference) – Abolish the warding scheme altogether for the reasons set out in the report. The parish would still remain entitled to seven parish councillors and the cost of parish elections would be reduced.
- (ii) Option 2 (the second preference) – Realign the ward boundaries to run southwards along Willis Lane from the parish boundary west of Quendon Park to join with Rickling Green Road and then following the western boundary of Mistletoe Cottage and Quendon Garage to join Cambridge Road; it would then follow the centre of the road to the parish boundary with diversions to follow the boundaries of Ventnor Lodge and Broomwood. The effect of this would be:

Revised Quendon Ward: 171 electors – three councillors  
Revised Rickling ward: 262 electors – four councillors

### **PRWG3 PROPOSED EXTENSION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Electoral Services Officer stated that a report would be submitted to the Resources Committee on 21 March recommending that the terms of reference of this Working Group be extended to enable a full review of polling districts and polling places to be carried out. He advised Members that such a review was necessary as a result of the changes made to the Council's wards following the recent periodic electoral review and which would come into effect in May 2003.

### **PRWG4 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Working Group would take place on Wednesday 5 June 2002 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting ended at 9.05 pm.