

From: Town Clerk <townclerk@saffronwalden.gov.uk>
Sent: 15 July 2021 11:10
To: Philip Hardy <PHardy@uttlesford.gov.uk>
Subject: [External] Community Governance Review

Hi Phil

Please find below the formal response from Saffron Walden Town Council in respect of the consultation on the Community Governance Review. The response is an extract from our minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Monday 12th July 2021 and as recorded under Min Ref FC 250-21 (extract shown in blue italics below):

Committee Governance Review (CGR)

The Town Clerk reiterated that the CGR consultation closes on 31.07.21 and notably any agreed changes (by UDC) would not be implemented until 2023; it was further noted that it was unlikely such review would take place again for another 10 years. Members therefore identified that any proposed changes must serve both the current and future needs of the Town Council and town (and until at least 2033). Members considered the following options:

- (a) To increase the number of Councillors representing Saffron Walden*
- .*
- (b) To amend the SW boundary to include the potential Radwinter Road development, which currently sits in the geographical area of Seward End Parish Council*

Following considerable discussion and debate, it was Resolved:

- (c) To request UDC to increase the number of Councillors representing Saffron Walden as a whole from 16 to 18 Councillors. This increase will accord with NALC's recommended ratios of 625 residents per Councillor.*
- (d) In order to ensure best representation, UDC is requested to reconsider the existing SW ward boundaries (for the Town Council) and to reallocate to ensure the best ratio between electorates and residents.*
- (e) To request UDC to rejoin the ward boundary of Little Walden with Castle Ward (as proposed by UDC) in order to regain both the ratio of numbers and to ensure inclusivity into SW for those in Little Walden*
- (f) To redraw the parish boundary line to incorporate the proposed development land off Radwinter Road. For the avoidance of doubt, this is the land which currently rests in the parish of Seward End Parish Council and is proposed for development by Rosconn Group for circa 240 homes. It was further noted that the Town Council maintained its strong opposition and objections to development on this site but equally wished to adopt a pragmatic approach should future planning permission be granted on this site. Council noted that whilst this development sat outside of Saffron Walden, any new residents (should*

future planning permission be granted) would likely associate more with SW than Sowards End. These residents would equally create a demand on Town Council services on the basis that residents would access the town centre, shops, services, facilities, public open spaces, community and leisure facilities.

To be clear, we do not seek any boundary change which would incorporate existing residents in Sowards End but we do seek to redraw the boundary line so that the proposed new development (should it be granted) falls into the parish of Saffron Walden rather than Sowards End; the rationale for our request is as stated above. Your colleagues in planning (Maria Shoesmith) will be able to provide specific details of the proposals for the Rosconn development as noted above.

Many thanks Phil and please let me know if you have any queries with regards to our response above.

Kind regards



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