

Appendix 2 – Consultation Response

Councillor comments:

1 – Copdock & Washbrook Ward

It would be more appropriate for Great and Little Wenham to either be in a ward with Capel St Mary with which the villages share a vicar and the people go to for shops and doctors etc. Or alternatively with Raydon, Holton St Mary and the other villages in that ward as they border Raydon airfield and share issues concerning Notley Enterprise Park.

2 – Hadleigh and Great Cornard Wards

It would be preferable to see these areas represented by three single-member wards rather than one three-member wards.

3 – Polstead Ward

Polstead really does not fit with the rest of this ward from either a community identity or transport access perspective. It is much more aligned with Stoke-by-Nayland and Nayland, and to a lesser extent Boxford. The rest of the ward does have a community identity, and the Wenhams also identify with it. It does seem that the electoral equality criterion has taken precedence over anything else. The following suggestions will cause some additional inequality, but it wouldn't be that great and the community benefits would negate this. The following suggestions are therefore suggested:

1. A single member ward covering Raydon, Layham, Holton, Stratford, Higham, Shelley, Great and Little Wenham (2023 electoral number: 2003, variance -13.4%). The 2023 number will be higher due to the new build that will be taking place in Raydon soon.
2. A two-member ward covering Polstead, Stoke, Nayland, Bures, Leavenheath, Assington, Newton and Little Cornard (2023 electoral number 5198, variance +12.4%). This is the biggest problem with the proposal it will work and would be better for the parishes.
3. There will also be a knock-on impact on Copdock and Washbrook, reducing it (2023 electoral number 2171, variance -6.1%). However, the 2023 number is likely to be boosted by new build.

4 – Hadleigh Ward

Three members working across the whole area would be confusing for the electorate. It would be preferable to maintain the existing two-ward split and have two councillors in Hadleigh North and one in Hadleigh South. Alternatively the boundary could be moved to reduce the size of Hadleigh North and it becoming a single member ward with Hadleigh South then having two councillors.