

Woodmansey Parish Council

Formal consultation Response to the recommendations of the Community Governance Review with regard to Woodmansey Parish

Woodmansey Parish Council wishes to formally object to the recommendation to change the boundaries of the current Woodmansey Parish and transfer large parts of Victoria and Minster View Wards and the northern area of Nurseries Ward to Beveley Town Council.

Cllrs note in the Review, that the 'feeling of identity' for residents is listed as a key criterion for any change and would like to understand what evidence there is to suggest residents in the affected areas do not identify themselves with Woodmansey Parish. It is the Parish Councils understanding that only 12 residents responded to the initial consultation and we are currently unaware of what the feedback was from these residents. This may of course change with the new consultation, however at this point we would respectfully point out there is no evidence to support the assertion that residents of the above Wards do not identify themselves with Woodmansey Parish. Furthermore, even though Cllrs understand there is no legal requirement for a referendum, it is felt this would be appropriate due to the extent of the proposed changes and in light of the fact that many residents have reported to Cllrs they have had little notice in this matter and are not, for various reasons, able to engage in the consultation.

A key factor in residents identifying themselves with any Parish is what has the Parish Council done to foster this sense of belonging / identity. With this in mind Cllrs feel that the Parish Council has worked very hard to ensure all Wards benefit from projects, and community improvements. All Wards are represented by at least three Cllrs and all consciously strive to ensure all areas of the Parish are represented by the Parish Council. For instance, to improve communications, we have recently invested in a new Noticeboard on Lincoln Way and a further replacement board is on order for Normandy Way. A key project and source of major investment for the Parish Council has been improvements to Victoria Park with a considerable investment in new playground equipment and park signage. The Parish Council has worked very closely with Keldmarsh School on a variety of matters including allocation of Community Grants, Christmas activities and key event commemorative gifts. The Council has also financed cycling proficiency schemes at the school for many years, and the Parish Council has received a considerable amount of positive feedback from parents on these projects. The Parish Council has also created a new allotment site, and priority of tenancy has been given to Parish residents- a considerable number of current tenants live in the Wards which will be moved to Beverley Town Council if the recommendations are accepted. There is a question as to if their tenancy would continue if they were no longer residents of the Woodmansey Parish.

Other projects which Cllrs have consciously included the wider Parish include

- A community fund which has again benefited bodies across the Parish, again including areas which would be moved to BTC if the recommendations were accepted.
- The Parish Council has already tabled plans to create linked woodland corridors across the existing Parish which will have considerable wellbeing and recreational benefits for all residents
- The Parish Council has provided commemorative benches and other street furniture for Lincoln Way
- The Parish Council has been proactive in helping to deal with construction lorries travelling down Lincoln Way
- The Parish Council continues to support the lifting of the closure of England Springs Level Crossing and has recently written to formally oppose any renewal of the closure notice and also ask for an independent risk assessment
- A schedule of cleaning of playground equipment and bus shelters across the Parish
- Planned rollout of Christmas Lights in December, starting with Lincoln Way

In summary the Parish Council objects on two grounds:

1 There is no evidence to suggest that residents of the affected wards wish to transfer to Beverley Town Council and the basis of the recommendations of the Review appears to be based on the views of 12 residents.

2 The Parish Council has invested in and made considerable improvements in the affected wards to foster the sense of belonging for all areas of the Parish.

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