

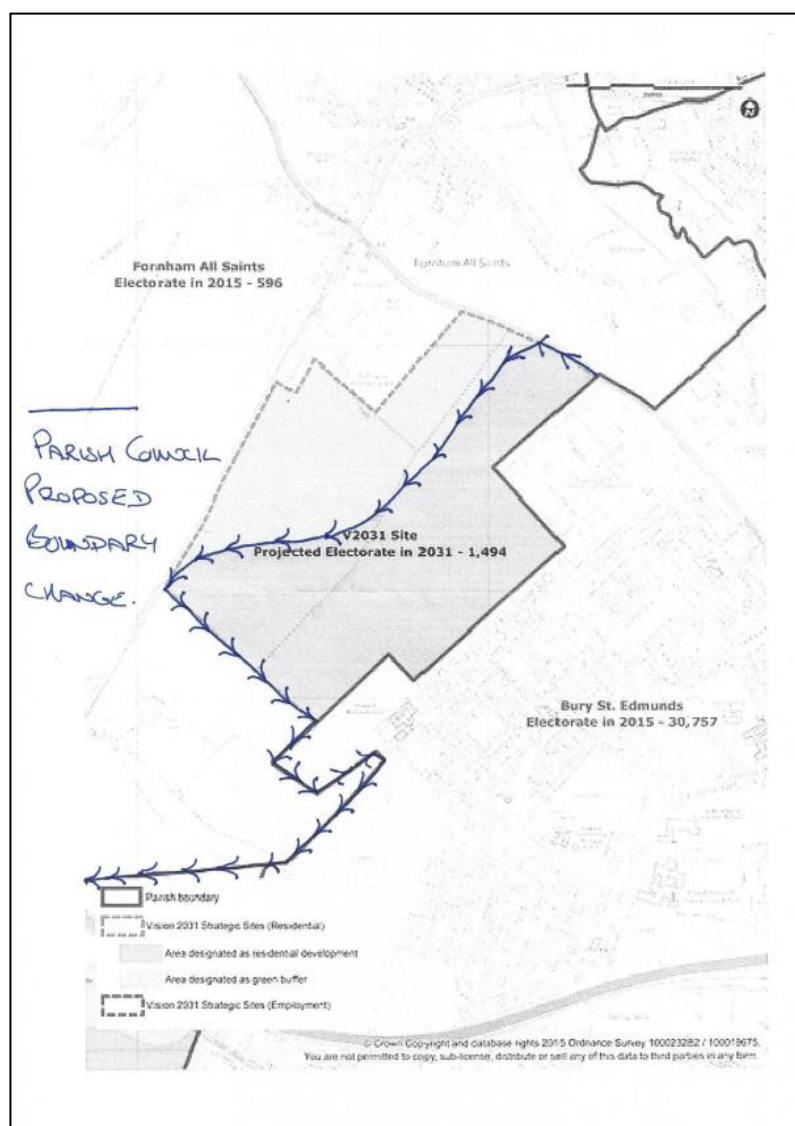
<b>Issue No.</b>	<b>1. Vision 2031 Strategic Site "North-West Bury St Edmunds"</b>
<b>Area or Properties Under Review</b>	The review will look at whether or not existing parish governance arrangements should be amended in respect of new homes and/or employment land included in the strategic growth site. If amendments are needed, this could be through changes to existing parish boundaries or wards and/or the creation of new parish(es).
<b>Parishes</b>	Bury St Edmunds Fornham All Saints
<b>Borough Wards</b>	Fornham St Olaves Northgate
<b>County Divisions</b>	Thingoe North Tower
<b>Method of Consultation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letter to Parish and Town Councils</li> <li>• Emails to elected representatives (Borough, County and MP)</li> <li>• Email to Residents' and Community Associations</li> <li>• Letters/emails to other stakeholders (see Appendix C)</li> <li>• Online questionnaire available for respondents to use</li> </ul>
<b>Projected electorate, warding arrangements and consequential impacts</b>	<p>The Autumn 2015 electorate of Fornham All Saints Parish was 596. Bury St Edmunds Parish's electorate was 30,757. The estimate for <i>additional</i> electorate in relation to the whole of the Vision 2031 site is 1494 electors i.e. when fully built. A more detailed five year electorate forecast will be prepared during phase 2 of the review relating to any recommendation made.</p> <p>See Issue 26 for commentary and advice on dealing with consequential impacts. On the basis of the approach suggested under Issue 26 for dealing with parish electoral arrangements:</p> <p>(a) If the growth site is included in Bury St Edmunds Parish it could be <i>temporarily</i> added to one of the existing town council wards (St Olaves or Northgate). A new ward structure/council size for the Town Council will then be put in place as part of the following electoral review of the Borough Council, and implemented before any elections in 2019;</p> <p>(b) If the growth site remains in Fornham All Saints, a new parish ward could be created, with electoral arrangements based on five year electorate forecasts; or</p> <p>(c) If a new parish is created, the minimum council size of five councillors could be suggested, and this increased in subsequent CGRs as the electorate grew.</p>
<b>Analysis</b>	All parties who have responded in phase 1 (see below) support the alteration of Fornham All Saints Parish to exclude the growth site, with some consensus that it should become part of Bury St Edmunds Parish. There is not complete consensus on where a new boundary for Fornham All Saints should lie.

## Summary of comments received during Phase 1

### A. Response of Fornham All Saints Parish Council

Whilst there has been informal discussion amongst Fornham All Saints Parish Councillors on this issue in the past, the Parish Council called an additional Parish Council Meeting to discuss the CGR on 3 November 2015. The Parish Council has not held discussions with any adjoining parishes about whether they would wish to accept these properties once they are built.

The Parish Council looked at the impact the addition of a potential 1494 electors will have on the Parish in terms of impact on interest, identities and community cohesion. It has concluded that its boundary should be changed to: continue along the south side of the A1101 (Bury-Mildenhall Road) to where the link road commences; then to follow the centre line of the new link road which is being proposed for the new development up to the point at which the road meets Tut Hill; and then to return across the field to the East of the Golf Course and to the follow the original boundary line. This is shown on the map below:



This proposal is supported by the Parish Council for the following reasons:

- The parish would be based on an area which reflects the community identity and interest and which is of a viable size as an administrative unit.
- The parish would help create a distinctive and recognisable boundary by retaining the Open Space feel of the surrounding area of the parish thereby providing the community with a strong 'sense of place' and identity
- The Parish Council proposed boundary would continue to reflect the common historic traditions of Fornham All Saints as a rural community with a link to the nearby Market Town of Bury St Edmunds
- The Parish Council proposed boundary would ensure that the community of Fornham All Saints would continue to have

access to a parish council which represents the community's interests effectively and thereby gives users of parish services a democratic voice in the decisions that affect them.

## **B. Response of Bury St Edmunds Town Council**

The Town Council believes that the housing growth site is a natural extension of the existing housing and the Bury St Edmunds parish boundary should be moved to incorporate the housing and green buffer. This would ensure community cohesion and the non-separation of neighbours and enable the electorate to be an integrated community and to have a shared identity and sense of place, i.e. that they live in Bury St Edmunds. Not to do so would rob Fornham All Saints village residents and electors of their identity as they would be subsumed and dominated by this new development over time.

Incorporating the site and the new electors into the parish of Bury St Edmunds will ensure that community governance arrangements continue to reflect local identities and facilitate effective and convenient local government. It avoids the situation whereby residents on either side of a parish boundary use the same facilities and have the same benefits provided, but only those in one parish pay for them; which potentially gives a sense of unfairness and injustice for those who pay the precept. It is likely that new electors would feel part of Bury St Edmunds and would not use any Fornham All Saints facilities. Also, residents who are not able to vote in the Town Council elections or join the Town Council which controls those facilities may feel that this undermines democracy and good governance.

In support of their submission, the Town Council also comment:

- While the whole site is in Fornham All Saints (FAS), it is attached to existing Bury St Edmunds (BSE) properties in St Olaves and Northgate wards (including those moved out of FAS into BSE in CGR 2010).
- There is a significant green buffer separating the site from FAS.
- FAS electorate 596: 333 households. 950 new homes planned.
- In Appendix 6 of the Vision 2031 document:-

### **"Para 1.3**

*Policy CS11 of the Core Strategy identifies the area to the north west of the Town for development that:*

- *Maintains the identity and segregation of Fornham All Saints*
- *Provides new high quality strategic open space and recreation facilities between the development and Fornham All Saints.*

### **Para 1.5**

*Careful regard has been paid especially to:*

- a. achieving integration of the development into existing residential areas on Mildenhall Road / Howard estate;*
- b. determining the nature of the buffer between the development area and Fornham All Saints village.*

### **Para 1.16**

*The setting and identity of the village of Fornham All Saints needs to be protected to avoid coalescence with the town. This can be provided through the creation of an effective green buffer, although the nature of that buffer will require careful treatment to ensure a balance between protecting the identity and integrity of the village and establishing a new neighbourhood for the town.*

### **Para 1.19**

*The vision for the growth area is to deliver a fully integrated new community with a strong sense of local identity, a vibrant local centre, an environment that encourages a healthy lifestyle and a sensitive urban edge that respects the setting of Fornham All Saints and the existing adjoining neighbourhoods."*

### C. Cllr Diane Hind (Northgate Ward)

Town council boundary should be moved outwards so any new properties are in the Bury St Edmunds parish (i.e. form part of Bury St Edmunds Town Council). Reasons given:

- Create a strong sense of community identity
- Generate interest in parish/town affairs and improve participation in elections, local organisations and community activities.
- Give easy access to good quality local services for new and existing residents.

### D. Cllr David Nettleton (Risbygate Ward and Tower Division)

Include within Bury St Edmunds. Reason: Not big enough of a development to form an urban parish, electing a councillor; contradicts the 'buffer zone' strategy to separate the site from Fornham All Saints; children will have Howard Primary in Beard Road as their catchment school.

### Map

The Map below shows a proposed new boundary based on the Parish Council's proposal. This uses (in part) the strong natural boundary offered by the new link road. The alternative would be the Town Council's suggestion of using the whole Vision 2031 site including the green buffer.

