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| Issue No. | 3. Vision 2031 Strategic Site "North-East Bury St Edmunds" |
| Area or Properties Under Review | 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). |
| Parishes | Bury St Edmunds Great Barton |
| Borough Wards | Great Barton Moreton Hall |
| County Divisions | Eastgate and Moreton Hall Thingoe North |
| Method of Consultation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to Parish and Town Councils • Emails to elected representatives (Borough, County and MP) • Letters/emails to other stakeholders (see Appendix C) • Online questionnaire available for respondents to use. |
| Projected electorate, warding arrangements and consequential impacts | <p>The Autumn 2015 electorate of Great Barton Parish was 1754. 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 2075 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 remains in Great Barton, a new parish ward could be created, with electoral arrangements based on five year electorate forecasts and revised in subsequent CGRs;</p> <p>(b) 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 (Moreton Hall or Eastgate). 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; 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> |
| Analysis | <p>There is no consensus from the consultation, with the parish and town council both feeling they are best placed to serve the new residents. However, it is worth noting that existing electors from Cattishall adjoining the growth site did not wish to be part of Bury St Edmunds.</p> <p>The Working Party will need to consider the evidence received to date and determine, for further consultation purposes, which of the above options is most likely to reflect community identity and provide the conditions for effective local government.</p> |

Summary of comments received during Phase 1

A. Response of Great Barton Parish Council

"This development was openly discussed at an extended Parish Council meeting. Residents had been informed through Parish notice boards and electronic communications that there would be the opportunity to express opinions on the above development.

At the October meeting the Parish Council of Great Barton, with reference to received correspondence and after an in depth discussion, concluded:-

The challenges this development north of the railway line needs to address, not least integration into the local community, have been recognised through many statements from higher authority Councils. Even the Developer has recognised this development will require to seek its own identity.

With these stated facts the Parish Council concluded:-

- a. The identity of this development would be best initiated and developed through a like-minded rural community. This will provide the new community, over time, a better and more effective representation when associated with an equal sized rural community.
- b. The links between the Developer and Great Barton Parish Council have already been established which can benefit this community, and will consequently facilitate a faster and more fulfilling integration into the borough of St Edmundsbury.
- c. Great Barton Parish Council with the NE area will have many common areas to be developed in the Borough (transport, amenity facilities, health services etc) and these can be resolved more productively in union.
- d. Therefore Great Barton seeks to establish a community ward for the NE development within the parish of Great Barton. This will build on links already underway, provides the new development a feeling of belonging and develops sooner a sense of well-being. Great Barton Parish is willing to undertake this challenge and responsibility to provide sound and effective governance."

Informal clarifications to the Parish Council's submission offer the following information:

- 1) Great Barton does not believe the green buffer between the new homes and the village will be a barrier. The Neighbourhood Plan (NP) (will be registered very shortly) will cover the whole of the parish to ensure specifics are identified and the outcomes from the consultation within the village and from other internal and external stakeholders are recognised and communicated. This will make for more effective communities and sooner. We already have distinct communities at East Barton and Cattishall and at the outset this area will be represented in the same manner.
- 2) Berkeley Homes and SEBC have recognised the main barrier is the railway line and there can be no merit in adopting an island approach to this development. They will be an important growing area within the village and it is prudent to act responsibly. The approach within the NP will be to treat this area as part of the village. Even if at a subsequent CGR (10-15 years) there is a different direction from those residents they will have been catered for better through equal pairing with Great Barton.
- 3) Being part of Great Barton and structuring the governance this time will allow this

area to have a significant voice. This is the best way to address a new community and then that community can decide its own future as it matures.

- 4) As the new area within the village grows there will be the necessary and desired requirement to ensure electoral balance. This is the right and appropriate approach for integration into the immediate community and to the rest of West Suffolk.
- 5) In terms of creating the conditions for effective local government, firstly, it is the appropriate electoral equality that is uppermost to ensure effective integration into the community. On the specifics of precept this would need to be democratically addressed to embrace the aims of integration. Not to do so would be against the ethos which the Parish Council has tried to outline.

B. Response of Bury St Edmunds Town Council

The Town Council considers that the growth area and green buffer should be incorporated into the parish of Bury St Edmunds for the same reasons as set out in full for the North West Bury St Edmunds growth site re community cohesion, integration, identity etc. If it was left in the parish of Gt Barton it would rob Gt Barton village residents and electors of their identity and the housing development would subsume and change the character of Gt Barton. The new electorate would naturally feel part of Bury and it is doubtful that new residents would have reason to use any Gt Barton village facilities.

In support of is statement, the Town Council also comments:

- The site is wholly within the parish of Great Barton but separated from BSE by railway line and a green buffer separating the site from Great Barton.
- Great Barton electorate 1,754: 912 households. 750 new homes planned.
- It will be adjacent to the Moreton Hall ward of BSETC.
- Appendix 9 Vision 2031 document states:

"Para 1.3

Policy CS11 of the St Edmundsbury Core Strategy identifies the area to the north-east of Bury St Edmunds for development that:

- maintains the identity and segregation of Great Barton and creates a new, high quality entrance to Bury St Edmunds; Careful regard has been paid especially to:
 - a. preventing coalescence of development with Great Barton;
 - b. improving linkages to Moreton Hall and rest of the town;

Para 1.16

The physical separation created by the railway offers opportunities for the development to create its own independent character and identity.

Para 1.17

The setting and identity of the village of Great Barton and the hamlet of Cattishall need to be protected to avoid coalescence with the town. This can be provided through the creation of effective green buffers, although the nature of those buffers will require careful treatment to ensure a balance between protecting the identity and integrity of the village and hamlet and establishing a new neighbourhood for the town. "

C. Existing Electors (Cattishall)

Two local electors from Cattishall used the online questionnaire to respond:

- (a) The first favoured no change to the current parish/town council boundaries i.e. the

new properties will be in Great Barton Parish for the reasons that this would:

1. Create a strong sense of community identity
2. Give easy access to good quality local services for new and existing residents;
3. Improve the capacity of the parish council to deliver better services and to represent the community's interests effectively

(b) The second favoured the creation of an entirely new parish council to represent this specific area on the basis this would improve the capacity of such a parish council to deliver better services and to represent the community's interests effectively.

D. Councillor Sarah Broughton (Great Barton Ward)

I am in full agreement with the Parish Council's recommendations with regards to the review of Governance. The Parish Council has consulted the residents with having the matter on its agenda at the October meeting and you have written to the residents to the south of the railway line. I have not had any comments from residents with concerns or questions. I therefore support the Parish Council's recommendations.

E. Councillor David Nettleton (Risbygate Ward and Tower Division)

Include within Bury St Edmunds. Reason: Will look like an urban rather than a rural development and is some distance from Great Barton. A footbridge over the railway line will link to the northern part of Moreton Hall and a Halt may become viable in the future.

Map Overleaf

The map below shows one suggestion for how the views of the Cattishall residents can be taken into account within a boundary which reflects the strong natural boundaries of the railway line, existing roads and field lines. Such a parish boundary would have no bearing on the planning status of the green buffer around Cattishall. However, if this was a concern, then the only option would be to use the 'internal' line of green buffer instead, which may require later adjustment in a future CGR when a clearer natural boundary emerges.

It is worth noting that this suggestion would work for either the proposal of the Parish Council, the Town Council or the creation of a new parish.

