

<b>Issue No.</b>	<b>4. Vision 2031 Strategic Site "Moreton Hall"</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 Great Barton Rushbrooke with Rougham
<b>Borough Wards</b>	Great Barton Moreton Hall Rougham
<b>County Divisions</b>	Eastgate and Moreton Hall Thingoe North Thingoe South
<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 (including Moreton Hall Residents' and Community Associations)</li> <li>• Letters to existing electors within the growth site</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 electorates of Great Barton and Rushbrooke with Rougham Parishes were 1754 and 951 respectively. 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 830 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 contained within one or both of the rural parishes, a new parish ward could be created, with electoral arrangements based on five year electorate forecasts. Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council has also asked for the creation of three other wards within its Parish as part of such a change, which would need to be identified for consultation purposes in phase 2 if there is a desire to implement them as part of this CGR;</p> <p>(b) If the growth site is included in Bury St Edmunds Parish it could be <i>temporarily</i> added to the existing town council ward of Moreton Hall. 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>

<b>Analysis</b>	<p><i>This issue should be read in conjunction with issues 6, 7 and 8.</i></p> <p>There is no general consensus in respect of the community governance for the residential growth area (see issue 6 for Suffolk Business Park).</p> <p>With support from electors following local consultation, the two affected parish councils favour <u>all</u> of the new homes being in Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish, a view also supported by borough and county councillors for those rural wards/divisions, and a number of other stakeholders. There is also strong support for Lady Miriam Way being the new parish boundary.</p> <p>The Town Council, and some local electors, have supported the inclusion of the residential growth site in Bury St Edmunds Parish.</p> <p>The County Councillor and some local electors from Moreton Hall have expressed support for the creation of a new parish council for Moreton Hall, which would include the new homes.</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>
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## **Summary of comments received during Phase 1**

### **A. Response of Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council**

Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council has produced a detailed submission in relation to this issue, with lots of background information. This document is extensively summarised in this report but is also available for councillors to read in full on the Members' News section of the Council's intranet (excluding returned survey forms).

The Parish Council's submission was also signed by Cllrs Mildmay-White and Clements, as local Borough and County Councillors respectively.

#### What the Parish is seeking to achieve through the CGR

The Parish Council specifically contends in its submission that:

- All land currently within Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish should remain in the Parish.
- The residents of the new Taylor Wimpey development, the new Sybil Andrews Academy and the sports facilities would be best served by being part of Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish, rather the larger Bury St Edmunds Town.

The Parish Council advises that, in terms of community preferences and concerns, there is a strong feeling in the Parish that all land currently in the Parish should continue to be part of Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish.

70 households (approximately 15% of households in the Parish) have signed petitions or completed questionnaires supporting this view and several letters of support have been received, supplied with the submission. This support is driven by emotional, historical and practical considerations.

There is a real fear that the Parish of Rushbrooke with Rougham could be absorbed into Bury St Edmunds and therefore lose its distinctive identity and long history. The Parish

boundary was moved eastwards with the previous expansion of Moreton Hall and there is a sincere feeling that there should be no further movement. The Parish Council accepts that emotion cannot be the only reason why this land should remain within the Parish and therefore sets out in its submission why the area of Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council should not be decreased again, but rather it should be increased slightly to make the boundaries more logical.

The Parish Council's formal proposal is therefore as follows:

- a) That Lady Miriam Way should become the boundary between this Parish and Bury St Edmunds Town Council and therefore the land to the east of Lady Miriam way from the A14 to Mount Road currently within Bury St Edmunds Town Council would become part of this Parish.
- b) That the land being developed by Taylor Wimpey bordered by Mount Road to the south, the embankment adjacent to Moreton Hall to the west and the Railway line to the north, which is currently within Great Barton Parish, should become part of this Parish.
- c) That the land bordered to the west by the Taylor Wimpey development, to the north by the Railway line, to the south by Mount Road and to the east by Thurston should become part of this Parish.

In terms of electoral arrangements, the Parish Council has also suggested that, as part of the CGR, the revised Parish would be split into wards, provisionally four. The Council does not at this stage want to define boundaries as it would need to consult the residents of Rougham Green as to which ward they would identify themselves. Rushbrooke and the area north of the A14 are, however, felt to be easily identifiable.

The Parish Council's proposal is as shown on the map at the end of the summary section.

#### Consultation carried out by Parish Council to prepare its submission

The CGR was discussed at a Parish Council meeting on 26th October 2015, attended by 30 residents. Leaflets advertising the date of the meeting were circulated to the whole Parish. This information was also placed on the village website and in the Post Office. Residents were invited to sign a simple petition in the Post Office, or to complete a more detailed questionnaire.

A total of 70 households (approximately 15% of households in the Parish) have signed petitions or completed questionnaires supporting the view that all land currently in the Parish should continue to be part of Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish. In more detail, electors within the 70 households responded as follows: the petition ("No boundary changes") had 25 signatures; 59 residents completed the following survey:

*As you may be aware the boundaries of the Parish are being reviewed and in order to stop Bury St Edmunds absorbing further Parish land, the Parish Council would like your views on the following:*

- (a) *Would you agree that the land bordering the Rougham Airfield, Lady Miriam Way and Mount Road should remain in the Parish and not be absorbed into Bury St Edmunds or Moreton Hall – this land is part of the old Airfield with all its historic connections to the Parish **59 YES/ 0 NO***
- (b) *Would you agree that the land to the north of Mount Road bordering the Railway and Moreton Hall, but separated by a high bank, should become part of the Parish if Great Barton consider their boundary to be the Railway, Again this land was part of the old Airfield. **59 YES/ 0 NO***
- (c) *Would you agree that the land on which the new Industrial Estate is to be*

*built should remain within the Parish. Again this land formed part of the old Airfield. **59 YES/ 0 NO***

- (d) *Would you agree, as we will be arguing, that the Parish boundary is Lady Miriam Way, the seven properties to the west of Lady Miriam Way should 'revert' back to Bury St Edmunds. **55 YES/ 4 NO;***

The Parish Council also received support by e-mail from one resident expressing a desire to see land associated with the Airfield remain within the Parish.

The Parish has also submitted letters of support from the following:

- Great Barton Parish Council
- Sarah Broughton – Borough Councillor, Great Barton
- Beccy Hopfensperger – County Councillor, Thingoe North
- The four households to the north of Mount Road
- Rougham Tower Association
- Sybil Andrews Academy

All of these letters support the Parish Council's view that all the land currently within the Parish should remain part of Rougham and/or that the railway line should become the boundary between the Parish and Great Barton.

#### Supporting information for the Parish Council's submission

The following text is extracted from, or a summary of, the Parish's submission.

#### **Background to the Current Parish of Rushbrooke with Rougham**

Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish is one of the two largest Parishes by area in St Edmundsbury. The Parish is currently split into three main areas namely Mouse Lane/Newthorpe, Kingshall Street/Orchard Close/Smithy Close and Rushbrooke. However there are a number of other small areas such as Rougham Green, High Rougham and the vast area on the north side of the A14 including Sow Lane, Mount Road, Rougham Estate near the ruined hall, Fishwick Corner on the old A45 among others. So the Parish is widely separated with areas of high density and a significant amount of farm land along with the airfield.

The Parish has around 500 properties, with 951 electors registered, and a large variety of types of property in terms of type, size, age, price and tenure. There are thirty-eight Grade II listed buildings and both Anglican churches are Grade I listed.

Rougham currently has a Primary School, a Secondary School in the course of construction (the new Sybil Andrews Academy), a Village Shop and Post Office, one operational Public House (the Flying Fortress was the village's second public house until it closed), a Sports/Community Centre with playing fields and Children's Play Area between the two main Rougham centres and a further play area at Mouse Lane. Regular events take place at Rougham Airfield. There are numerous public footpaths and permissive paths so the countryside is open to all. The Parish also has a number of small cottage industries and the Rougham Industrial Estate with both small and large employers.

The Parish produced a Parish Plan five years ago and is investigating the possibility of preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. One of the residents wrote in response to the Parish Plan: "*The most important thing is that Rougham and Rushbrooke has a very long history; Saxon-Roman road and possible Viking - this history should be kept alive as a place without history is dead. I like living here because I have found nowhere any better. I was born here 88 years ago and have spent time in other parts of the world. The community spirit has been good centred on the shop, the pub, the Church, the Chapel and the Sports Hall.*"

The Parish Council currently has only one vacancy and the Parish Clerk has received an application to fill that vacancy which will be approved at the Parish Council meeting on 23rd November.

### **History of Rushbrooke with Rougham**

The residents of the Parish are proud of the long history of Rougham and Rushbrooke villages with some families tracing their family histories back for centuries. More background information, including maps and illustrations, is provided in the full submission and the following text is a short summary only.

People have been living in Rougham (previously Ruhham) for over 2000 years, with Iron Age, Anglo Saxon and Roman archaeology and land features, and a well-documented history featuring Vikings and the Abbey of St Edmunds. By 1086, 700 acres of ploughed land and 7 acres of meadow in Rougham were listed in the Domesday Book as belonging to the Abbey. In 1539 the Abbey was dissolved and all the land in Rougham was given to the Drury and Jermyn families.

Between 1674 and 1801 the number of inhabited houses grew to 70, and the population to 600. The Enclosure Act of 1815 put 1054 acres under private ownership. Sir James Stiff built his almshouses for non-conformist widows in 1887 and the village also had other philanthropists. Major landowning families were the Drurys, Bennetts, Johnstones and more recently the Agnews. Major buildings included Rougham Hall, built in the 1820s and destroyed by a German bomb in the 1940. By 1861, the village had a population of 988, with 210 houses. In 1872, the parish is recorded as being 4 miles from Bury St Edmunds, 3840 acres in size and as having a post office.

The most recent and important history of Rougham revolves round World War II and the USAAF as the Airfield was one of their important bases. The Airfield was originally called Bury St Edmunds Airfield, but changed its name to Rougham Airfield when it became operational. The Airfield is still used today for recreational flying i.e. lessons and gliding and other recreational pursuits.

The Parish is extremely proud of its historical connection with the World War II USAAF operations at Rougham Airfield. Construction of the Airfield by the Ministry of Defence in the Parish began in 1941. The airfield was handed over to the USAAF Eighth Air Force in 1942 and the 94th Bombardment Group arrived in June 1943, taking part in many big raids.

Rougham received many important visitors during this time, including senior US military commanders as well as entertainers. The Glen Miller band played at a concert in Hangar Number Two and Dinah Shore sang; this hangar, now used by a tea importer, is one of only four remaining hangars in the country where the band played. Many authors refer to the Eighth Airforce as the 'mighty', but Graham Smith in his book about World War two airfields refers to the 94th at Rougham as being the 'mighty ones'. In most of the relevant museums in the USA, Rougham Airfield is displayed prominently and a B17 Flying Fortress is on show in Rougham colours at RAF Museum Hendon.

The airfield itself had a perimeter track of over three miles. The ancillary facilities extended over a wide area of Rougham: the underground wiring for the airfield extended to the north of the airfield and the high octane fuel pipes came in from the north. The technical site was south east of the airfield, the area that is now Rougham Industrial Estate; the gymnasium, chapel and commanding officer's house were in the Blackthorpe area. Communal sites and the hospital were in Rougham village. The Parish Council has supplied a map in its submission to show the extent of the USAAF presence in Rougham which indicates that the whole area being discussed as part of this CGR was part of the USAAF air base.

Evidence of the runway has recently been discovered during the construction of the new Academy to the south of the area. Taylor Wimpey have sent the Parish Council an email stating that they will recommend that the streets of the new housing development are named after various US airmen who served at Rougham.

To maintain the link with the new Sybil Andrews Academy and, at their verbal request, the Parish Council has proposed a governor because of his links with the Rougham Tower Association and the Academy's expressed wish to use that facility for engineering projects. The Academy has also indicated that they are interested in including the history of the Airfield in the curriculum and in the longer term may consider an after-school flying club and model aircraft club attached to the Airfield. The Parish believes that all of this will encourage a feeling of connection to the long history of Rougham.

### **Creation of distinct boundaries**

The current boundary of this Parish with Bury St Edmunds Town Council runs in a straight line north from the A14, crossing Lady Miriam Way in a number of places. The Parish proposes that the Parish boundary should run along Lady Miriam Way (with a very small line from the roundabout near the A14 to the A14) to Mount Road. It should run along the escarpment and the 25-metre noise corridor on the edge of Moreton Hall to the railway line; this escarpment from Mount Road to the railway line will, towards the railway line, stand about five metres above the new Taylor Wimpey properties. The A14, Lady Miriam Way, the escarpment and the railway line would thus form distinct and identifiable boundaries to Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish.

As a result, there would be no arbitrary straight lines which might run through the middle of properties. This Parish does not want to see a repeat of the situation currently affecting six properties in Mortimer Road and one in Primack Road. It is imperative that these new boundaries are implemented as soon as possible, as Taylor Wimpey will shortly commence construction of properties between the Railway line and Moreton Hall and there is a risk that further anomalies might be created.

The new boundary between Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council and Great Barton Parish Council should run from the end of the Taylor Wimpey development along the railway line to the boundary with Thurston. There are four properties in this area that would then be in this Parish.

The boundary of Thurston Parish with this Parish and with Great Barton Parish is arbitrary and not distinct or identifiable as indicated by the area ringed on the map provided by the Parish Council in Appendix 5 of its submission. Although not part of this CGR, the Parish Council believes that, at some future date these cross-borough boundaries will need to be addressed.

### **Creation of distinct and recognisable communities within the area and with the Parish as a whole**

The Parish Council believes its proposals will create a distinct and recognisable community for the areas being incorporated from Great Barton Parish into Rushbrooke and Rougham Parish along with the existing Areas in this Parish under consideration. The Parish also believes that the new development will be made to feel part the existing Parish because:

- the area under consideration has an incontrovertible link with Rougham, because of the aforementioned history of the USAAF airbase at Rougham. Also as mentioned previously, Taylor Wimpey will recommend that the roads in the new development are named after US airmen who served with distinction. This will encourage a feeling of connection to the past history of the area on which the

residents reside.

- If its submission is accepted then the residents will become part of a smaller community than either Bury St Edmunds Town Council or a hypothetical new Moreton Hall Parish. This would increase democracy and empower the residents, giving them a much greater say in local affairs. Once the Taylor Wimpey development is completed by 2025/6, it is estimated that there will be around 830 new electors.
  - These electors would make up 46.6% of the electorate of Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council (830 out of a total of 1781)
  - If the development were absorbed into Bury St Edmunds Town Council, these electors would be an insignificant 2.6% of the total electorate with little or no say in local issues (830 out of 31,494; using just the current electorate and before any other new developments are taken into account)
  - If Moreton Hall became a separate Parish the new electors would make up only 13.2% of the estimated electorate of 6302.
- The detailed plans for the first 100 homes have been approved along with the outline plans for the remaining 400 homes. The plans, in Appendix 6 of the full submission, show that the only link between the Taylor Wimpey developments north of Mount Road and Moreton Hall is a pedestrian walkway/cycle path from the southern part of that part of the development. The two vehicle roads from the area north of Mount Road exit only onto Mount Road along with one of the roads on the south of Mount Road. These exits from the Taylor Wimpey Estate indicate that the traffic is directed more towards Rougham than towards Bury St Edmunds and reinforces the link to Rougham Airfield and Rougham village. The cycle paths from the Taylor Wimpey development to the new Academy run along the side of Rougham Airfield and the eastern side of Lady Miriam Way, with the safest route being the one down the side of Rougham Airfield.
- The cycle paths from the new estate link up with Cycle Route 51 on which it is possible to access the beautiful Rougham and Rushbrooke countryside in particular and Suffolk countryside in general. This Parish is particularly proud of its rural footpaths which run very close to the new development. The Parish therefore will have an enviable 'green infrastructure' which will promote walking and cycling.

### **Health and wellbeing of residents**

As well as access to green infrastructure, there will be community access to new playing fields and sports hall attached to the Academy along with the existing sports hall and playing fields in Rougham. The new development will have easy access to all these facilities. The Parish Council will also seek to establish a community centre within the new development by the time it is complete (in new or existing community facilities). The Parish would also like to see a play area for the younger children within or on the edge of the development.

Rougham CEVC Primary School has an open-air swimming pool which is available for the use of residents' families.

The new residents will have access to the large network of footpaths, including the permissive paths supported by the Rougham Estate Trust, which will help promote a healthy lifestyle.

The Rougham Estate Trust is committed to preservation and enhancement of the 4000-acre estate. The Rougham Estate Trust funds music tuition at Rougham Primary School which is becoming well known for its musical excellence. The school already attracts a number of applicants from outside the catchment area because of the excellence of the

extracurricular activities.

If this submission is accepted, the Parish Council would seek to split the Parish into wards. The Parish Councillors would represent designated wards in order to encourage greater local democracy.

All new residents would be encouraged and welcomed to participate in local activities at Rougham Airfield, Blackthorpe Barn and St Mary's Church, as well as the annual village fete.

Rougham Tower Association will have a new and attractive entrance directly from the Eastern Relief Road and the enhanced cycle links. This will provide increased leisure facilities for Rougham, linking directly the new properties and the rest of the Parish. The Tower Association will continue to forge links with the new Academy.

Thus the Parish Council will seek to encourage a sense of civic values, responsibility and pride in the new development and in Parish as a whole.

### **Access to local services**

The new development will have safe access to the new Academy, playing fields, sports centre, shops, and allotments as well as to activities on Rougham Airfield. Once the Flying Fortress is renovated, the development will have its own public house.

### **Precept**

The Parish Council does not plan to use the additional precept raised from the new Taylor Wimpey development to reduce the amount each household in the Parish would pay, and would put a significant part of this additional income aside to promote activities and civic cohesion within the development and the Parish as a whole.

### **List of appendices**

The full submission was provided with the following appendices:

- Appendix 1: Petitions/completed questionnaires from local residents (these cannot be published as they contain personal data)
- Appendix 2: Letters of support
- Appendix 3: Maps of USAAF Rougham Airfield, showing close proximity to Rougham village
- Appendix 4: email from Taylor Wimpey stating that they will recommend naming the roads in the new development after US airmen to commemorate the link
- Appendix 5: Map of existing and proposed Parish boundaries
- Appendix 6: Map of new Taylor Wimpey development showing cycle and vehicular exits
- Appendix 7: Letter of support from Samuel Ward Academy Trust emphasising the connection between the new Sybil Andrews Academy and Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish

## **B. Response of Great Barton Parish Council**

"This development was openly discussed at an extended Parish Council meeting where residents south of the railway line were all specifically counselled.

This parish area has 4 residences, and 2 fall within the strategic site (TW development). All have been written to, explaining the purposes and process of the review, with 50% of those residents responding. There is a desire by those residents to continue to have a rural identity and are serviced with a parish on their side of the railway line.

At the October meeting the Parish Council of Great Barton, with reference to

correspondence, concluded:-

Our expectation is that Rougham and Rushbrooke Parish Council will be able to deliver a closer and a more distinct identity for those residents, linking them more closely to the rest of the Rougham community which would serve them better in future than their historical allegiance to Great Barton.

There are natural borders, and the topography provides a clear identity allowing Rougham and Rushbrooke to embrace and provide an inclusive community. The new electorates will be able to build upon and more easily influence values to provide a strong Rougham and Rushbrooke community identity."

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

The Town Council considers that: "as regards the housing growth site, the Bury St Edmunds parish boundary should be expanded to incorporate this site and the green buffer land for the same reasons as set out in full for the North West Bury St Edmunds growth site re community cohesion, integration, identity etc., as the new electors are likely to feel part of the existing housing and that they live in Bury and would not identify with nor have reason to use the facilities of either Gt Barton or Rushbrooke with Rougham, both of which are a good distance away from this growth site. No comment is proposed as regards the Business Park which is in the parish of Rushbrooke with Rougham."

In support of its statement, the Town Council comments:

- The site falls in three parishes – only a very small part of the site is in BSE.
- Largest part - in Rushbrooke with Rougham - electorate 951: 515 households.
- Second largest part - in Great Barton - electorate 1,754: 912 households.
- The site is clearly attached to the existing Moreton Hall ward and electors are therefore likely to feel part of Moreton Hall rather than R with R or GB. There is a green buffer between residential and Suffolk Business Park.

### **D. Local Electors**

In addition to those recorded in the parish council submissions, eight local electors made direct responses during the consultation. Six had "IP32 7" (i.e. Moreton Hall) postcodes and two had "IP31 2" (Mount Road).

(a) **Four** of the electors favoured moving the Town Council boundary outwards so the growth site/their property would be in Bury St Edmunds for the following reasons:

- Create a strong sense of community identity (cited by 3)
- Give easy access to good quality local services for new and existing residents (cited by 3)
- Reflect patterns of everyday life for those living and working in the area, building upon what new and existing communities have in common (cited by 1).
- Generate interest in parish affairs and improve participation in elections, local organisations and community activities (cited by 1)

Supporting their preferences, these respondents commented:

- *"As one of the principal growth areas of the town, and bearing in mind proposed changes to business rate legislation, it makes sense to include the area in Moreton Hall Ward which is part of the town rather than a rural parish with limited facilities, and to reflect the reality of the growth of the Moreton*

Hall area.”

- *“The boundary should be changed such that the school and the new homes are within overall parish of Bury St Edmunds Town council. The homes and school are all marketed as being on Moreton Hall and their identity will be as a part of Moreton hall, they will not have any affinity or identity with the village of Rougham which will be several miles away the other side of the A14. The school has been planned for many years, paid for by Section 106 from Moreton Hall developments. We have seen how ludicrous the current boundary is when it put 5 houses in Rougham, whose neighbours were in Moreton Hall.”*

(b) **Three** of the electors favoured creating a new parish council to represent the specific area for the following reasons:

- Create a strong sense of community identity (cited by 2)
- Generate interest in parish affairs and improve participation in elections, local organisations and community activities (cited by 1)
- Improve the capacity of a parish council to deliver better services and to represent the community's interests effectively.

Supporting their preferences, these respondents commented:

- *“Moreton Hall now covers a greater area of Bury St Edmunds and would be better served with its own parish council, we have all the local facilities, we should have a greater say in how our area is developed and how it develops. We should have had a say in the purchase of the Flying fortress pub that has stood boarded up for over 18 months and in my view is a wasted facility. I do not think adding another flyover to the A14 will aide the traffic chaos in this area, just improve the roads to Rougham is all that is needed. We need to encourage parents to leave their cars at home and allow children to walk to school and allow all children to attend a school in their own area”*
- *“I feel strongly that Moreton Hall Ward is sadly neglected by the Town Council. As a Parish interests and funds could be directed specifically for the benefit of the Residents/Community and infrastructure of the area.”*
- *“I think that Moreton Hall should have its own Parish Council now it has grown (and is growing) to its present size. I think that the whole of the airfield, school and industrial estates (both of them) should be included in the "old" Moreton Hall to make one large and geographically concentrated Parish. My reasons are that this area will then form a natural community and be able to integrate into one Parish. This will encourage cohesion of the population in this geographically distinctive area. It will make for an active interest and participation in the new enlarged Moreton Hall Parish. The local population will feel better able to identify with the integrated area and feel better represented in a democratic way. The present Moreton Hall Community Centre and facilities will be used by those nearest geographically to it and by those with the easiest access. Hence it makes logical sense to encompass the whole local area in one Parish Council. The new secondary (senior) school will also form a natural focal point of interest for the parents of this area.”*

(c) **One** of the electors (from Mount Road) favoured retaining the properties in a rural parish on the basis this would:

- Create a strong sense of community identity; and
- Improve the capacity of a parish council to deliver better services and to represent the community's interests effectively.

### **E. Cllr Sara Mildmay-White (Rougham Ward)**

Supports leaving the Rougham Parish Boundary almost unchanged by making Lady Miriam Way the Rougham and Rushbrooke parish boundary, on the basis this will:

- Reflect patterns of everyday life for those living and working in the area, building upon what new and existing communities have in common.
- Create a strong sense of community identity.
- Generate interest in parish affairs and improve participation in elections, local organisations and community activities.

Has been fully involved in the preparation of the Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council submission, and has signed their documents indicating her complete support. In addition, makes the following points of her own:

- Believes that Rougham parish boundary should remain as close to the original as possible. In the absence of any clear physical barrier and without creating any artificial bunding or planting, Lady Miriam Way creates a good and clear division between Bury St Edmunds and Rougham parish.
- This boundary would maintain the integrity of the majority of Rougham Airfield with all the historical and emotional connections it has with the village. Taken from the railway line along Lady Miriam Way and down to the A14 would be a logical and simple boundary which everyone could recognise.
- Vision 2031 designates Rougham as a key service centre in recognition of the range of local services and facilities it has. The village has an active community and has produced a village plan. Rougham is ideally situated for access through the Rookery Crossroads on to the A14 and this gives easy access to all parts of the village including via present and future cycle links and footpaths. The village school accepts a number of children out of catchment from Bury St Edmunds and the surrounding area because parents appreciate the facilities a rural school can provide.
- Rougham Estates is integral to the wellbeing of the community and has recently become a trust to preserve and enhance the local environment of the estate. Again, the integrity of the parish boundary is so important in order to maintain the historical and physical connections of the village to the estate, whose boundary goes as far as the now demolished Eldo Farm House and cottages at Moreton Hall. The estate can trace its history back to Roman times with a tumulus and villa site, through Saxons and Vikings, ownership by the Abbey in Bury St Edmunds up to the present time. This history should be celebrated and preserved not subsumed into suburbia.
- Rougham Industrial Estate, the name speaks for itself and it is known throughout the area and should remain in the parish of Rougham thus allowing the residents of Chapmans Close to continue to play their full part in village life as they do. All new residents are welcome and encouraged to play a full part in village life be it through sport, church, school, public house or village post office etc.
- Democratic representation could easily be included within the present ward for St Edmundsbury. She currently represents a population of approximately 2340 residents, across the A14 and geographically as far as the Flying Fortress. An energetic and committed councillor could easily accommodate a modest increase of a further 500 households in one area. They could be well represented on the parish council by virtue of warding the parish.
- In conclusion, she would not like to see a further erosion of the historical parish of Rougham, maintains that the boundary as marked by Lady Miriam Way makes a good and clear division between town and parish and endorses the suggestions made by Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council.

### **F. Cllr Sarah Broughton (Great Barton Ward)**

Supports the submissions of both Rushbrooke and Rougham and Great Barton Parish Councils in respect of the CGR. Comments specifically that it is sensible for the boundary

of Rushbrooke and Rougham to be the railway line, with the six residences within Great Barton to be moved into Rushbrooke and Rougham; the railway line is a natural boundary and therefore Rushbrooke and Rougham would be able to deliver a closer and distinct identity for those residents, linking them more closely with the Rougham community.

**G. Cllr Terry Clements (Thingoe South Division)**

Signatory to Rushbrooke with Rougham submission. Confirms views expressed were supported by those that attended the recent Parish Council Meeting, which he also attended and took account of their views. Comments in particular that Lady Miriam Way is a strong natural boundary.

**H. Cllr Rebecca Hopfensperger (Thingoe North Division)**

Supports the views of Rushbrooke with Rougham and Great Barton Parish Councils, referring in particular to that fact that Lady Miriam Way is a strong natural boundary between Bury St Edmunds and Rougham and that residents support the decision. I don't believe there is any need to repeat the views of the Parish Council, who's views I fully support.

**I. Cllr Trevor Beckwith (Eastgate and Moreton Hall Division)**

Felt that the best option was to create an entirely new parish council to represent this specific area. Reasons cited:

- Reflect patterns of everyday life for those living and working in the area, building upon what new and existing communities have in common.
- Create a strong sense of community identity.
- Give easy access to good quality local services for new and existing residents.

Supporting comments: "The population of Moreton Hall is four times bigger than the borough's third town (Clare) and should have greater formal control over its own affairs. I anticipate that, irrespective of local opinion, SEBC will allocate the 500 new dwellings from Vision 2031 to the Moreton Hall ward, increasing the population beyond what is acceptable representation for even a three-member BC ward. Any division of the ward will not be acceptable if the only consideration is elector totals. Moreton Hall has a clearly defined boundary (A14 to the west and south, railway to the north and Lady Miriam Way to the east). The only exception to maintaining that boundary should be consultation with residents of The Bartons as to whether they consider themselves residents of Moreton Hall or Eastgate wards. My preference is that they remain in Moreton Hall but they should decide. The mistakes in the town centre, where boundaries were drawn inappropriately just to balance numbers, must not be repeated."

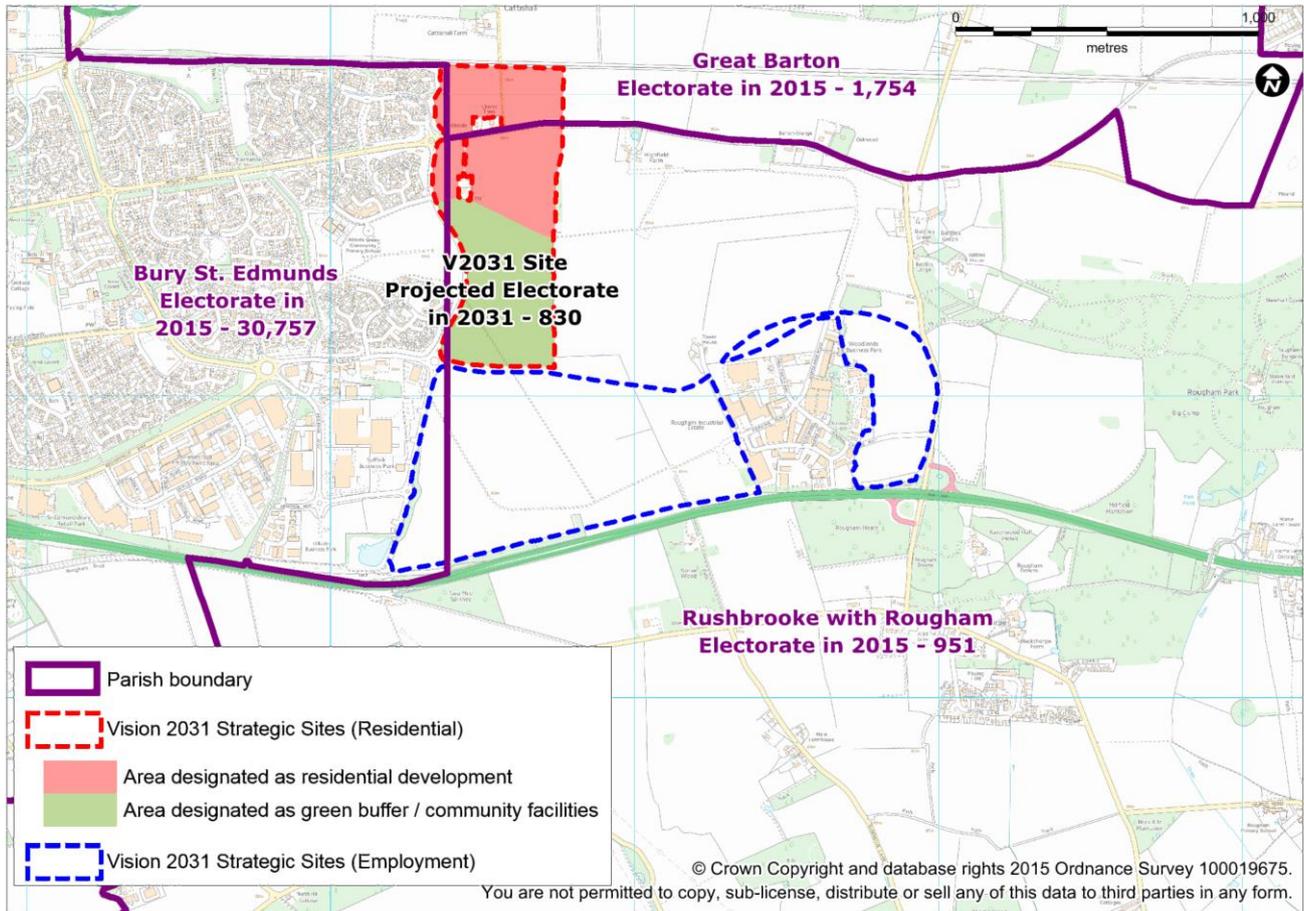
**J. Cllr David Nettleton (Risbygate Ward/Tower Division)**

Include within Rushbrooke with Rougham.

Reason: No 'buffer-zone' obligation here and given the rambling nature of this parish and its proximity to Rougham Airfield, a historic connection already exists. Run the boundary line along the middle of Lady Miriam Way.

## Map

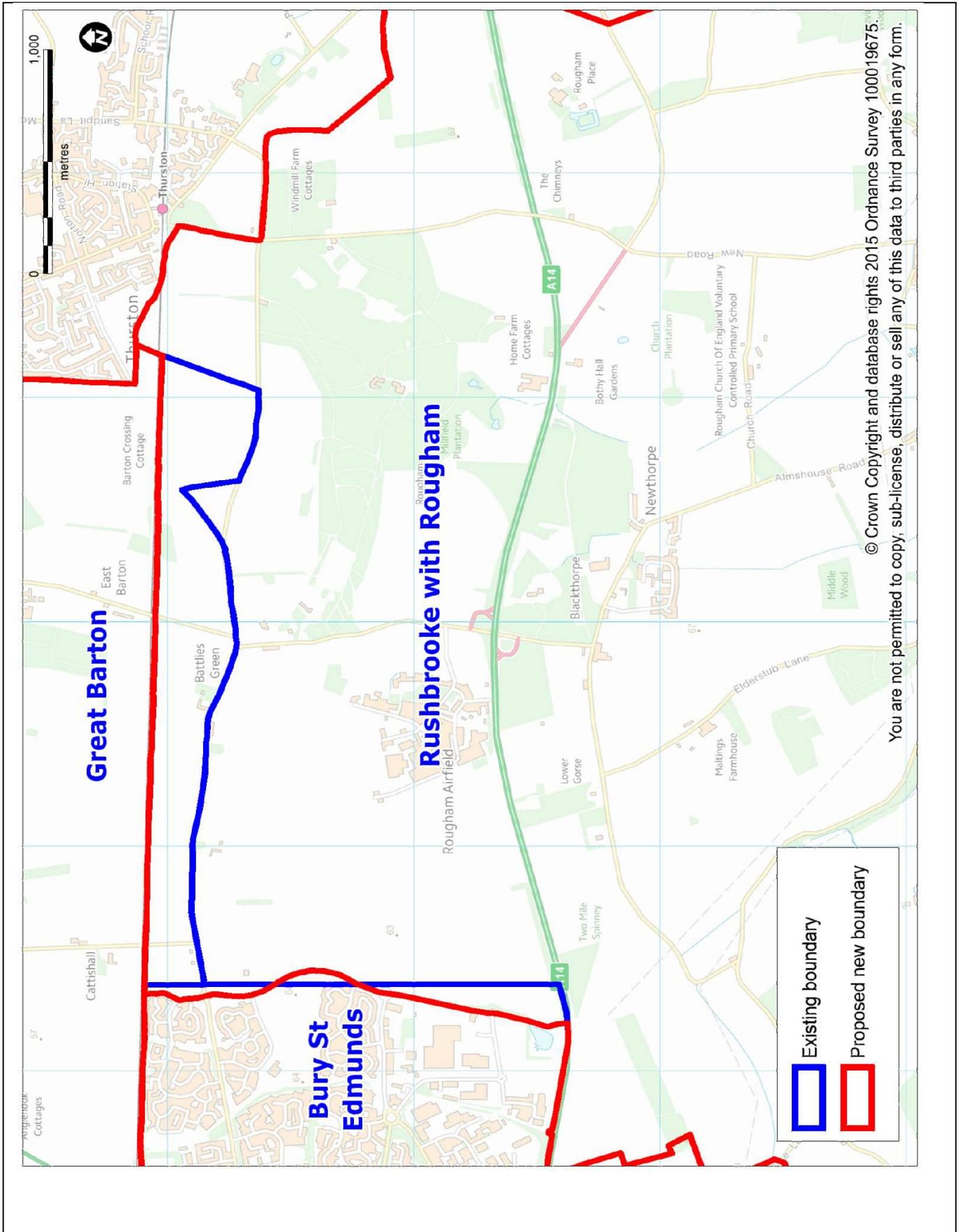
For the purpose of aiding discussion at the Working Party's meeting the original consultation map from September below is a useful reference, since it shows the extent of proposed development and current parish boundaries.



If the inclusion of the growth site in either Bury St Edmunds or a new parish for Moreton Hall is the preferred consultation option in phase 2, then there has been nothing to suggest in submitted evidence that the alteration to the existing parish boundaries should extend beyond the Vision 2031 residential site itself.

In contrast, the Parish Councils' suggestion is for the railway line to become a new natural boundary between Great Barton and Rushbrooke with Rougham, not just in relation to the growth site. This is shown on the following map, along with their proposal to use Lady Miriam Way as the new town/parish boundary.

*(Parish Council Proposal Map overleaf).*



If this option is selected, the officers would seek delegated authority to agree a draft scheme with Rushbrooke with Rougham PC to consult on its suggestion that their Parish be divided into four new parish wards.