

Issue No.	5. Vision 2031 Strategic Site " South 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 Nowton Rushbrooke with Rougham
Borough Wards	Horringer and Whelnetham Rougham Southgate
County Divisions	Hardwick Thingoe South
Method of Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter to Parish and Town Councils • Emails to elected representatives (Borough, County and MP) • Email to Residents' and Community Associations • 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 Nowton Parish was 142. 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 portion of the growth site currently in Nowton is included in Bury St Edmunds Parish as well it could be <i>temporarily</i> added to one of the existing Southgate town council ward. 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 split by the existing parish boundary, a new parish ward could be created for Nowton, 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>
Analysis	<p>There is complete consensus that none of the growth site should be included in Nowton Parish, and nearly all respondents favoured it all being in Bury St Edmunds parish.</p> <p>A minor change to the boundary between Nowton and Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council has also been proposed.</p>

Summary of comments received during Phase 1

A. Response of Bury St Edmunds Town Council

The Town Council considers, as regards the housing growth area, the Bury St Edmunds parish boundary should be expanded to incorporate all of this and the green buffer for the same reasons as out in full for the North West Bury St Edmunds growth site re community cohesion, integration, identity etc., including that the new electors would feel part of Bury and would neither identify with nor use the facilities of either Nowton or Rushbrooke with Rougham. The previously stated reasons about the identity of those villages electors and residents being dominated by the eventual 1250 homes are particularly relevant to the Council's submission.

In addition, the Town Council points out:

- Part of site is in BSE with a smaller part of site being in the parish of Nowton - electorate 142: 79 households - 1250 new homes planned.
- The Nowton part is separated from the BSE part by a green buffer which will be open space but the Nowton part is a long way from the community of Nowton.
- Appendix 10 Vision 2031

"Para 1.3

Policy CS11 of the Core Strategy identifies the area for development that:

- *positively uses the framework for the new development provided by the existing natural environment and character of the area, including maintaining significantly important open spaces that provide the setting of the historic centre."*
- The previous draft of the Vision 2031 document stated at para 16.31: "The key challenges...are: preventing the coalescence with Rougham and Rushbrooke."

B. Response of Nowton Parish Council

Nowton Parish Council feel (meeting held 23/9/2015) that to accept the large number of additional new houses within Nowton Parish would not provide an improved or cohesive community and Councillors felt there would be no community engagement with Nowton village; the A143 road was also considered a physical barrier.

The Council has suggested an entirely new parish council could be created on the basis that it would:

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

The Council would also have no objections to Willow House, which is situated in Rushbrooke Lane, moving into Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish, should the Parish boundaries be re-drawn. Willow House is the other side of the A134, which fits into its request that the A134 is a natural boundary to Nowton.

C. Response of Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council

The Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council approved the following Resolution on 26th October 2015: "The area between the A134, the edge of the proposed development by

Hopkins Homes and the Parish's current boundary should become part of the Parish and that the Hopkins Homes development should be totally absorbed in Bury St Edmunds Town Council."

It's submission was co-signed by Cllr Clements, Borough/County Councillor, and Cllr Mildmay-White, Borough Councillor.

The Parish Council discussed various options, but were of the opinion that the Vision 2031 Strategic Site 'South East Bury St Edmunds' has strong links to Bury St Edmunds. It has good cycle and pedestrian links to the town and therefore should be part of Bury St Edmunds Town Council.

However, the Parish Council proposed that the area south of the new Hopkin Homes development and bordered to the north by the road from Bridge Farm to the A134 and by the A134 to the west should come into the Parish.

This proposal would make the A134 the boundary between this Parish and Nowton Parish. This change would make the boundary between the two Parishes identifiable and distinct and the Parish Council has submitted written evidence that this idea is supported by Nowton Parish Council and Terry Clements, Borough Councillor for Horringer and Whelnetham and County Councillor for Thingoe South.

Only one property, Willow House, would be transferred from Nowton to Rushbrooke with Rougham as a result. The householders have always believed they were Rushbrooke residents and wish to be part of the Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish. The Parish Council supports their wish

D. Cllr Sara Mildmay-White (Rougham Ward)

Supports the Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council submission.

E. Cllr Terry Clements (Horringer and Whelnetham Ward and Thingoe South Division)

Supports the Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council submission.

F. Cllr David Nettleton (Risbygate Ward and Tower Division)

Include within Bury St Edmunds. Reason: Most of the development site is already with the Southgate Ward and Hardwick Division. If transferred to Nowton or Rushbrooke with Rougham it would swamp either.

Map

The map overleaf shows one possible scheme to reflect the phase 1 responses, assuming that a new parish is not created for the southern part of the growth site. The alternative derivation is that the new Rushbrooke with Rougham boundary follows the road from Bridge Farm to the A134 instead of the southern boundary of the growth site. However, the line shown follows an existing field boundary.

