

Issue No.	6. Vision 2031 Strategic Site "Suffolk Business Park"
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 Rushbrooke with Rougham
Borough Wards	Moreton Hall Rougham
County Divisions	Eastgate and Moreton Hall 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) • Letters to existing businesses • 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>This site is designated for employment purposes and is included in the CGR for completeness i.e. so that all of the Vision 2031 sites are considered. Therefore there should be no impact on electorate totals or a need for forecasts. The following options would however be available in terms of warding arrangements:</p> <p>(a) If the Business Park extension remains in Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish, it could be included in any new parish ward scheme the Parish Council wants to develop (see issue 6) or just remain part of the overall Parish; or</p> <p>(b) If the new parts of the Business Park are included in Bury St Edmunds Parish they could be <i>temporarily</i> added to the existing Moreton Hall 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>
Analysis	<p><i>This issue should be considered in conjunction with issues 4 and 7</i></p> <p>There is agreement between the town and parish councils that the Business Park should remain in Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish, and it has been proposed that the existing boundary be rationalised to follow Lady Miriam Way to the A14.</p>

Summary of comments received during Phase 1	
A. Response of Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council	
<p>The Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council approved the following Resolutions on 26th October 2015:</p> <p>a) That the land currently designated for industrial development within the Parish should remain within this Parish.</p> <p>b) That Rougham Industrial Estate should remain within this Parish.</p> <p>c) That the land between the current Parish boundary and West Suffolk Business Park should come into this Parish to create a distinct boundary along Lady Miriam Way.</p>	

Their submission explaining the rationale for these resolutions was also signed by Cllr Terry Clements, County Councillor, Thingoe South Division and Cllr Sara Mildmay-White, Borough Councillor, Rougham Ward

The Council's full submission, including appendices of maps and photographs, can be viewed by Borough Councillors on the Members' News section of the Council's intranet.

In summary, the Parish Council's proposal is based on the following case:

Strong association between the area and Rougham village

The most recent and important history of Rougham revolves round World War 2 and the USAAF, as the Airfield was one of their important bases. The Airfield is still used today for recreational flying i.e. lessons and gliding and other recreational pursuits. The Airfield was originally called Bury St Edmunds Airfield, but changed its name to Rougham Airfield when it became operational. The whole area under discussion, including the existing Rougham Industrial Estate and the new Suffolk Business Park, was part of the USAAF air base and has a strong historical connection to Rougham village (shown on the map at Appendix 1 of the full submission).

After the Battle of Britain, the Ministry of Defence needed to increase the number of airfields in the east of England to defend the country and construction of Rougham Airfield began in 1941. The airfield itself had a perimeter track of over three miles, but ancillary facilities covered a far wider area. The underground wiring for the airfield and the landing lights for the cross runways extended to the north of the airfield over Mount Road and the high octane fuel pipes came in from the north. The shooting butts were to the west and skeet range was near the railway line. 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. The communal site (B) was where Mouse Lane is now. Communal site (A) spread into the woods and is now the Downs; the hospital/sick bay was at the junction of Church Road and Almshouse Road (Appendix 2 of the full submission).

The airfield was handed over to the USAAF Eighth Air Force in 1942 and the 94th Bombardment Group arrived in June 1943. 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.

Rougham Airfield received visits from many prominent people including General Ira Clarence Eaker and General Henry Harley "Hap" Arnold, senior commanders of the USAAF in Britain. Others visitors included actors such as Bob Hope, Clark Gable and possibly James Stewart who was the Commander of Old Buckenham in Norfolk and other airfields in Eastern England. Appendix 3 (a-e) of the full submission has copies of relevant photographs including Bob Hope and Clark Gable when they were in Rougham.

Evidence of the runway has recently been discovered during the construction of the new Academy to the south of the area, as per the e-mail provided as Appendix 4 of the full submission.

The Rougham Tower Association also supports this submission (Appendix 5 of the full submission).

Boundary.

The current boundary between Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council and Bury St Edmunds Town Council is a straight line and crosses Lady Miriam Way in a number of places. The Parish Council has proposed to the Community Governance Review that the boundary between the Town Council and the Parish Council should be Lady Miriam Way as this is easily identifiable and distinct.

The effect of this change would be to bring into this Parish all the land up to Lady Miriam Way from the current straight line to the West Suffolk Business Park.

Community of Interest and effect on the patterns of everyday life of those living within the Parish.

The new Business Park and the Rougham Industrial Estate will continue to play an important part in the everyday life and wellbeing for both the new residents of the Taylor Wimpey development and the existing Parish residents. The expansion will create employment within walking and cycling distance for the residents of the Parish which will promote a healthier lifestyle, reduce traffic on the A14 and decrease carbon emissions.

The link with Rougham is reinforced by the agreement of the majority of the businesses on the Rougham Industrial estate to be listed in the annual Parish Directory and the fact that many advertise in the Parish magazine. The association is also supported by the continued use by Rougham Estate of agricultural buildings on the Industrial Estate, including the grain store.

The four houses in Chapmans Close (between the Rougham Industrial Estate and A14) have a strong connection to Rougham. One of the residents is the Bell Captain at St Mary's Church, Rougham and has rung the bells there for over 35 years.

Conclusion.

The majority of the land on which the Industrial Estate is to be built is currently part of the Parish and for the reasons listed the Parish Council can see no valid reason to change this.

B. Response of Bury St Edmunds Town Council

No comment as regards the Business Park, which is in the parish of Rushbrooke with Rougham.

C. Local Electors

Two local electors with "IP32 7" (i.e. Moreton Hall) postcodes submitted responses during phase 1 of the consultation. Both electors favoured moving the town council boundary outwards so the whole Business Park (existing and new) is in the Bury St Edmunds parish (i.e. Bury St Edmunds Town Council). They both felt that this would:

- 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 occupiers.

Both respondents preferred the same option under issue 4 and, under that issue, one of them 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."*

D. Cllr Sara Mildmay-White (Rougham Ward)

Supports the Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council submission.

E. Cllr Terry Clements (Thingoe South Division)

Supports the Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council submission.

F. Cllr Trevor Beckwith (Eastgate and Moreton Hall Division)

Please see responses on issues 4 and 7.

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

No firm opinion at present.

Map

No map is provided for this issue as the relevant information can be found in the report for issue 4.