

Issue No.	13. Vision 2031 Strategic Site "North-East Haverhill"
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	Haverhill Kedington Little Wratting
Borough Ward	Haverhill East Haverhill North Kedington Withersfield
County Divisions	Clare Haverhill Cangle Haverhill East and Kedington
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 (if applicable) • Letters to existing electors within growth site • 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 electorates of Little Wratting and Kedington Parishes were 111 and 1,451 respectively. Haverhill Parish's electorate was 18,202. The estimate for <i>additional</i> electorate in relation to the whole of the Vision 2031 site is 4,150 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 Haverhill Parish it could be <i>temporarily</i> added to one of the existing town council wards (Haverhill East). 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 Little Wratting and/or Kedington, a new parish ward(s) 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>
Analysis	This issue attracted significant comment in phase 1 of the CGR, and excellent evidence was received to assist the Council in forming recommendations. A lot of this comment also related to the planning issues involved with the development itself. The relationship between the CGR and planning matters, and other general issues raised by respondents, are explained in section 1.4 of the main report to the Working Party and not repeated here.

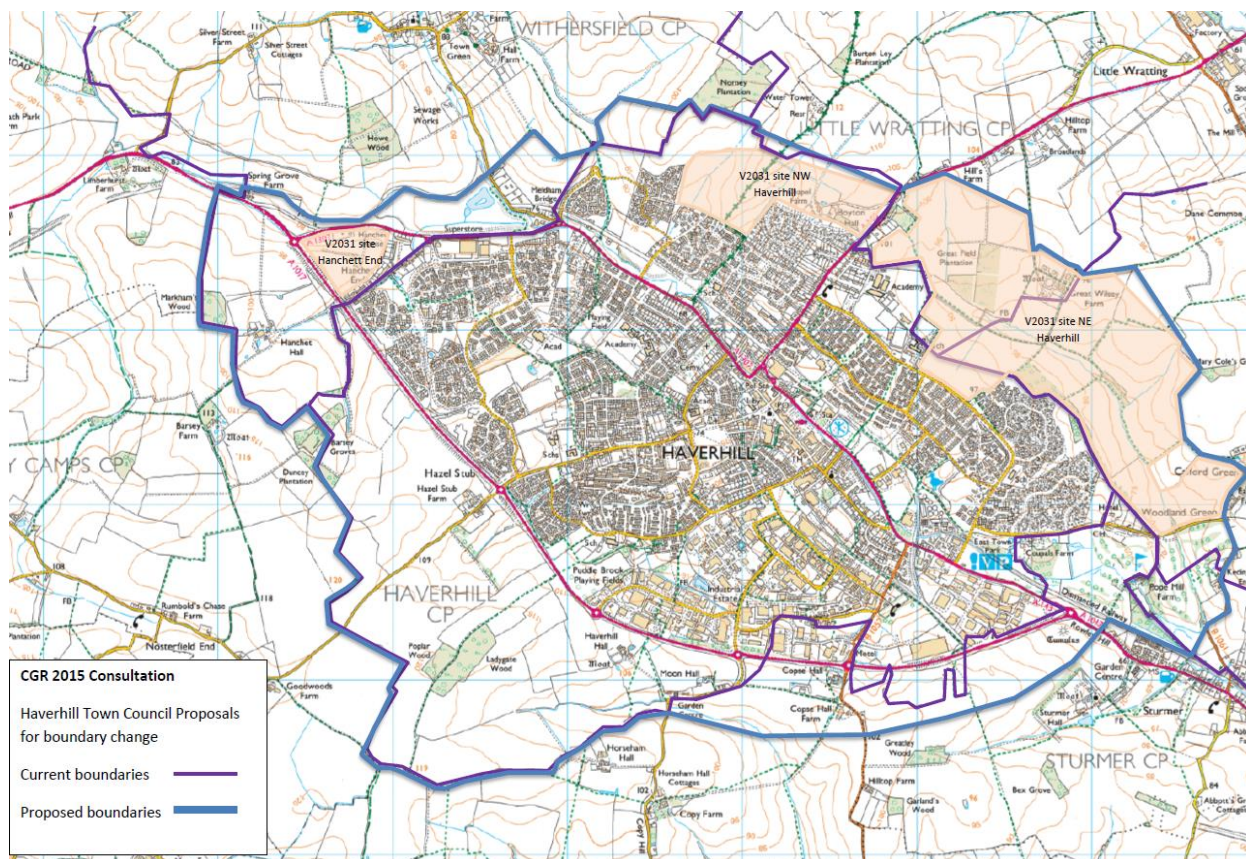
There is a consensus between the Town Council, Parish Council and Parish Meeting, and others, that the new homes should be in Haverhill Parish. Many public comments were received on this issue and, here, opinion was divided on what to do in terms of the boundary. However, there was strong consensus that the community identity of Kedington and Little Wrating needed to be protected by the CGR. The comments of many of those not wishing to see a change to the boundary also focused heavily on their objection to the new homes themselves, and their comments will be passed to the planning authority (subject to the data protection conditions under which the responses were provided).

Summary of comments received during Phase 1

A. Response of Haverhill Town Council

Haverhill Town Council has submitted one response to all of the issues affecting its parish. As it would be hard to separate out the text between all issues, and to avoid repetition, it is included in full under issue 12 and not reprinted here (other than the map below for ease of reference). However, the Council's submission must be read to gain an understanding of the full evidence base for this issue.

In summary, the Town Council supports moving its boundary to encompass this growth site.



B. Response of Kedington Parish Council

1. Impact on interests, identities and community cohesion

Kedington Parish Council finds itself in a very ambiguous position responding to the Community Governance Review and deciding whether or not existing parish governance arrangements should be amended in respect of the proposed new houses and/or

employment land included in the strategic growth site of North East Haverhill, as most of the 2,500 houses are shown as being built within the **current** Parish of Kedington and Little Wrating. The Masterplan for the proposed development of North East Haverhill has already been passed by St Edmundsbury Borough Council and the site included in the **Haverhill (not Rural) Vision 2031**. It was never made "transparent" by St Edmundsbury Borough Council during any public consultation of the development framework that there was the possibility of 2,500 houses being built in the Parish of Kedington and Little Wrating, as part of **Haverhill's** development. It could be said that the lack of transparency in the consultation for these new homes being built under the "guise" as being in Haverhill allows the Borough Council to "pillage and plunder" into another Parish and build houses without factual consultation with the Parish the houses are proposed to be built in. There is more than enough land within the Haverhill boundary on the other side of the bypass which could accommodate these houses and have less impact on villages and infrastructure; giving rise that no boundary review would be necessary between Haverhill and Kedington/Little Wrating.

The proposed houses will be built in the Parish of Kedington, **not Haverhill**, and this will greatly impact on the identity of Kedington and the rural hamlet of Calford Green, as there will be 2,500 "modern" houses in North East Haverhill (in an urban area) with a buffer zone between them and the 12th century "Domesday" village of Kedington, but with both settlements being in the Parish of Kedington. It would be very difficult to distinguish between community identity and interest, as one group of Parishioners would be linked to Haverhill in an urban development, whilst the other group would be linked to "village" life in Kedington, which is very different. There would be no shared sense of identity or what each group would want for their area because the two would be totally different. This would create very little community cohesion and integration between the two settlements.

Any boundary change proposals should have been put forward before the Haverhill Vision 2031 plan to build 2,500 houses went before the Inspectorate and was adopted by the Borough Council. Settlement boundaries are meant to be a planning tool for guiding, controlling and identifying limits to developments. In planning terms, there are policies for development, called settlement boundaries and development should be planned and contained within these limits. There are however, no policies for removing the urban edge of a development. If this was known to be a likely outcome of the Vision 2031 process, then such policies should have been written to protect neighbouring villages such as Kedington and the rural hamlet of Calford Green from the damaging aspects of over expansion of a town. Since there was no policy for removing the urban edge, then the proposal should reinstate and replicate the existing urban edge with new clearly defined Green Buffer, which would become the new settlement boundary of Haverhill and the final limit to the urban expanse. Landscape and visual impact are of material importance.

Policy CS1 states: "Any area outside the housing settlement boundary is considered to be countryside where there is a presumption against any further development".

Whilst a boundary may not be an obstacle to growth, it should not be necessary to push beyond the natural limit of a settlement until all other possible avenues for efficient land use have been explored. Before a site is considered outside a settlement boundary, it would be logical for all other suitable sites in Haverhill to be exhausted first and then all options for development outside the settlement boundary, but within the existing Parish/Town to be considered.

Haverhill Vision 2031 document states:

5.13 The principle of extending the town towards the north-east has already been approved in the Local Development Framework Core Strategy. This

new neighbourhood will need to integrate with the existing town and deliver a mix of uses including homes, job, community and social facilities. Careful planning is required to ensure that merging with the nearby settlements of Little Wratting and Kedington (including Calford Green) does not occur.

How can the new neighbourhood integrate with the existing town if it is part of another Parish?

Extract from Policy CS13 St Edmundsbury Core Strategy Document states:

To maintain the identity and segregation of Kedington and Little Wratting from Haverhill.

The identity and segregation of Kedington and Little Wratting will be totally overshadowed by the new neighbourhood and Kedington especially will struggle to retain its identity as a 12th century village.

2. Impact on effective and convenient governance:

A Community Governance Review seeks to best provide the conditions for effective and convenient local government in the long-term. There is no certainty that Parish Precepts will influence the consultation response from Kedington Parish Council as Councillors are divided with their views.

If the boundary of Haverhill is moved closer to Kedington, the new development will fall to governance of Haverhill Town Council, which is probably why a boundary change was requested by them in 2014. If the boundary remains unchanged, the governance for most of the new development will be in Kedington Parish and this would undoubtedly result in problems as town residents would have a "voice" as to what happens in the "Parish of Kedington" and vice-versa and this would have a serious impact because of a lack of community cohesion and integration between the two settlements.

With the proposed development at North East Haverhill, this spills over the boundary into Kedington and the Community Governance Review seeks to address this. Surely it would have been better if the Community Governance Review was done first so to limit the impact on Kedington and Little Wratting.

3. Impact on electoral arrangements:

At present, Kedington Parish Council has a complement of nine Parish Councillors. To add in a mix of 2,500 houses with a projected electorate of 4,150 in 2031 (double the electorate in Kedington) would have a dramatic impact on electoral arrangements.

SUMMARY

This review/consultation is another "tick-box" exercise by the Borough Council, when the masterplan has already been passed for the 2,500 houses at North East Haverhill, most of which will be built in the Parish of Kedington. The consultation will exclude the opinions of the less fortunate and elderly by consulting by way of an on-line survey. If electors do not have access to the internet and live in the Parish, but not directly near the boundary, they will have no access to the Community Governance Review as they probably will not know it is taking place, which is contrary to the Guidance on Community Governance Reviews Section 2 (33) and Section 3 (50).

When the last Community Governance Review took place in 2010, Kedington Parish Council's comments were that:

"plans to change boundaries should only be negotiated if planning permission for a development has already been submitted to the Borough Council; not for proposed developments. Plans for new developments should be contained within the existing boundaries"

"the principle of a community expanding into a neighbouring parish should not be allowed. In the case of Kedington, this would bring Haverhill even closer to Kedington and take away some of its rural identity"

Did these comments even get considered as part of the review? If they did, why do we now find ourselves in a situation when the masterplan for a development has been approved before the Community Governance Review had commenced.

Kedington Parish Council has by majority vote, decided that it would be in the best interest of the Parish of Kedington if the boundary were moved, but this decision reflects the conflict in what is proposed for the development of North East Haverhill. The rationale behind the decision is that the Parish Council does not want to see the houses built in the first instance, but they do not want part of Haverhill being built in Kedington Parish, so reluctantly have to concede land within their current boundary for the purpose of development.

C. Response of Little Wratting Parish Meeting

For reasons both of practicality and 'community', we have come to the following conclusions. The parish boundary to the north-west of the A143 should remain 'as is', having already been changed at the last CGR to take account of the pending North-west Haverhill development. On the southern part of the area to the south-east of the A143, there could possibly be some alterations to the boundary to take account of the 2031 document and the 'Wilsey' development. However, the more northerly section of this south-east area needs to remain as an ongoing part of the village community.

D. Local Electors

As requested, the CGR was publicised by the parishes. 7 letters/emails were received and 43 local electors responded directly to the Borough Council using the online questionnaire.

(a) Those favouring no change to the current boundaries or "other" options

In total, just under 40 electors used the consultation to object to any change in the boundaries and/or the new development taking place.

7 letters/emails were received (from 10 electors) during the consultation period expressing a preference for no change to the current boundaries or strong objections to the new development. One of the emails was from a Kedington Parish Councillor who submitted a detailed and illustrated document explaining concerns about the planning process, as well as views on the CGR. This document is included in the summary of comments below. However, as much of the document related to matters which cannot be addressed through a CGR, this has been shared with the planning team so that the planning-related comments can still be taken on board. The comments of all of these correspondents are included in the summary of issues below, alongside online respondents.

28 of the 43 electors (65%) who responded online stated a preference for no change to the current parish/town council boundaries; used the "other" option in the questionnaire to state the same preference; or used the "other" option to object to the development itself taking place (in full or part). Their reasons given for these preferences were:

- 14 felt it would create a strong sense of community identity.
- 13 felt it would improve the capacity of the parish council/meeting to deliver better services and to represent the community's interests effectively.
- 10 felt it would reflect patterns of everyday life for those living and working in the area, building upon what new and existing communities have in common.
- 9 felt it would give easy access to good quality local services for new and existing residents.
- 8 felt it would generate interest in town/parish affairs and improve participation in elections, local organisations and community activities.

Many of these electors made supporting comments which expressed concerns about the actual development itself, as well as about matters relating to community governance. The most commonly cited concern was a wish to preserve the village and community identity of Kedington. As explained in the covering report, these comments will be collated and passed to the planning team as they cannot be addressed in a CGR. However, it is important to record the strength of feeling and to attempt to summarise the many comments made in this report. A very good flavour of the planning concerns raised (and strength of feeling) can also be gained from reading the response of Kedington Parish Council on behalf of their electors. However, as a record of the issues raised directly by these electors (with a sample of some typical comments under each theme)

Mentioned over 10 times:

- Damage to village/rural character

"We are writing to object to the proposed changes to the current boundary of the parish of Kedington. After reading the proposals we feel the village life will suffer in favour of new housing in Haverhill, losing countryside and community spirit, the schools and amenities will be stretched to the limits. So therefore we strongly object to the Boundary changes to Kedington."

"More homes have to be built but not so many that the surrounding villages get swallowed and lose their charm and character which is why we live in them."

"The proposed development would bring a huge increase in traffic with noise and pollution, a pressure on local schools and services, destroying the tranquillity here in the village, the environment, wildlife, the general aspects of rural life."

"The appeal and attractiveness of Suffolk and of Suffolk living is always portrayed in terms of its villages and their character. This review proposes dissolving popular historic villages into the town of Haverhill. This would be an irrevocable step and a considerable loss."

"I choose to live in a village not a town and have no wish for the two to become any closer."

"I moved from London to Kedington in 1965. There has always been a wonderful community spirit throughout the village with a full range of clubs and organisations to satisfy everyone. I strongly object to large-scale changes to the parish boundary because if this happens the heart of our community will go and the spirit will disappear.."

○ Community identity/cohesion

"As a local resident I don't want to see the boundary of Kedington moved as I want to keep the village as it is with its identity."

"Haverhill is a town with a different set of values and way of living. Kedington is a village with a village way of life. However, diversity already exists in Kedington with residents of different ethnicity and abilities living side by side"

"These villages have strong communities, hold community events, come together at key points in the year. Haverhill, sadly, has already lost these characteristics; it is a dormitory town which was created by a similar decision to the one proposed in this review"

"I moved to Kedington, after being happy in Haverhill for 7 years, because I wanted my family to have a village rural lifestyle which I believe in under threat with this development."

"Kedington has a very good community feel and I would hate to think we may lose this by becoming a suburb of Haverhill."

"This massive increase in housing will, I believe, act against the interest of the local communities and in time, will upset historic traditions and create a different community identity."

○ Traffic concerns/pressure on highways

"On top of this, this number of houses would have a big impact on the road network. The A1307 is already bad at peak times, this will only make matters a lot worse. As someone who uses the road to get to work, the queues of traffic at Linton will get intolerable."

"No more buses to Calford Green as road is not wide enough. Verges are being crucified. HGVs use Sturmer to Kedington as a short cut to Bury/Newmarket"

"I do not want any vehicular access as this would be used as a rat run to Thurlow to Cambridge as there are no new, sustainable jobs in Haverhill."

"Parking in the village at school times is already a huge problem. Boundary changes will add to these problems causing great danger to the children. Roads in the village (which are narrow) cannot take more traffic."

○ Lack of infrastructure/jobs

"The plan is not a plan for local people, it is for housing people who are expected to take jobs in the Cambridgeshire or wider employment area. It is not therefore clear how the needs of local people for jobs will be met. New occupants will potentially threaten to take away jobs from local people."

"We already have problems trying to get GP appointments having to wait 2 weeks for appointments sometimes longer. Can you imagine 5,000 houses will mean 10,000 plus people trying to get a Doctor."

"The current infrastructure of Haverhill does not meet the requirements of another 4 - 5 thousand people"

"Haverhill cannot provide the necessary health, transport and education services for the existing population. To add to the burden will damage community cohesion."

"Where are the sustainable jobs that people will be filling in Haverhill?"

"The effect of the proposed development of North East Haverhill may well be felt in Kedington in terms of its resources, infrastructure or roads. This could apply additional pressure on the primary school in Kedington in terms of class size and places available (I already cannot get my son into the school and I live five minutes' walk away), increasing traffic and potentially the effect of quality of life on Kedington's residents."

"We are fortunate to have a doctors surgery in the village but more clients would put great pressure on it. Disabled residents who cannot easily travel to the Haverhill surgeries would find it even more difficult to get appointments"

Mentioned over 5 times

- Too many houses being built

"No more houses".

"Not to have the size of the current proposal to re size back to the original plan of 1,000 home only"

"This development where the boundary changes is far too big and needs to be either reduced or stopped"

"Just don't build 2500 homes here, and another 1500, with no infrastructure improvements, no employment opportunities locally, no planned improvements on the A1307 which is already classed as a dangerous route".

"I do not agree that careful consideration has been given to the building of 4000 houses in Haverhill"

- Need for buffer/barrier between town and village/encroachment on village

"I would also like to see a natural barrier separating the town and village."

"Clear large (250/500m) boundaries of mixed woodland that have TPO on them need to be planted to stop any more encroachment, look after wildlife and stop any easy access between the development and us."

"As a resident of Kedington I don't want this village to be a part of Haverhill."

"Without proper replication of the existing urban edge, and in light of ignoring the planning Inspector's concerns that the proposed development should maintain segregation to protect Kedington from the impact of development, stipulating that development should not impact upon the ridge, with the development proposals going up to the ridge, it has not been made clear how the Character of either Haverhill or Kedington will be protected. The planting of the existing green buffer was designed to emphasize the topography and contain the town visually within the valley. Any new proposal will need to replicate this. Currently the proposed extent of development is incongruous, does not form a clearly defined extent."

Mentioned up to 5 times

- Town will get benefits (s106,CIL, precepts and rates, etc)

"Would the extra rates generated from the houses within the existing Kedington boundaries come to Kedington? Probably not."

"If the boundary is moved and the development goes ahead the benefits will only be felt in Haverhill. Kedington parish council will not benefit from any of the Community Infrastructure Levy which would be lined to this large development. The levy is applied by St Edmundsbury Borough Council and its intention is to fund the required infrastructure improvements. In addition a sum equal to either 15% or 25% of the levy will go to the parish or town council in which the new development resides. Plus up to £100 per dwelling per year would be given to that parish or town council to spend on local projects - Kedington will see none of this. Also, Kedington would not receive any of the council tax from the proposed new development, despite it having a large impact on the village."

○ Boundary change will create precedent for more growth

"There is no trust that St. Edmundsbury Council will not in future renege again on buffer zones around Calford Green and Kedington and that our village life and identity will be subsumed into Haverhill."

○ CGR is being used to enable development/Premature/Too Late

"St. Edmundsbury Council has instigated a Community Governance Review in order to get the boundaries changed to enable the building of some 2500 dwellings against the will of local residents and parish councils."

"Proposing to move parish boundaries, when the very matter of the construction of the houses themselves is still in dispute is premature and irresponsible."

"I believe that local people wish the Borough Council governance should take into account the views of local people. Do the matters under review and the way this review is being conducted reflect the main purpose of a Community Governance Review?"

"When considering parish ward boundaries the Borough Council should consider the desirability of fixing boundaries which are, and will remain, easily identifiable, as well as taking into account any local ties. Since the Parish of Kedington and the Parish boundary of Kedington already exists, if they are intended to remain and be easily identifiable, then what is this all about? It would have been useful if the Borough Council would have considered informing Kedington Parish Council of its intention to plan to build in parish land, to potentially extend the Parish or move such boundaries prior to Kedington Parish Councils implementation of its plan to building its new Parish Council office building, designed to accommodate the projected number of Parish Councillors and visiting Parishioners, as required to fulfil its function."

"Since the Vision documents clearly state that the Haverhill NE site will not come forward before 2021, a review of this boundary and community Governance should therefore be postponed until the full uptake of housing in the proposed area is known, since it is very unlikely that any change in population is likely to occur in the next 5-10 years."

○ Loss of open space/farmland/natural habitat

"The addition of 2500 homes will be a huge loss of open space which is enjoyed by many of this parish and residents of Haverhill. I believe the development is

unsustainable, and it will have a negative impact on Kedington, Haverhill and surrounding villages."

"I think it would be very bad for area to lose the farmland that this proposal would destroy, and encroaches too close to Kedington, which would lose its identity."

○ Wrong side of Haverhill

"Enlarging Haverhill's parish towards the east and north east is moving Haverhill the wrong way. The majority of people wish to live to the west of Haverhill due to work and business in Cambridge, Addenbrookes and local business parks present and future. There makes no sense in including parkland and fields into Haverhill, whilst this area is supposed to remain 'rural' and non urban."

"A location to the south of Haverhill is far more appropriate as no village will be impacted by the expansion of Haverhill."

○ Not in Vision 2031/Lack of or incorrect consultation on new development

"As these houses were not in the Vision 2031 for Kedington as the 3 submitted plans were pushed through even with justified objections submitted for these houses."

"These houses are being built without the proper consultation with the people of Kedington. Issues regarding local infrastructure, e.g. capacity of the A1307 to handle 4000 more households, have not been properly addressed. In addition, provision of adequate numbers of school places, waste disposal, provision of Doctor's surgeries have not been properly addressed."

"Land between Haverhill and Kedington (which does not exist), it can be either one or the other, traverses administrative boundaries so care needs to be taken to ensure assessments on either side of administrative boundaries match up. Since no care has been taken, it is clear that further work is required."

"According to Town and Country Planning Association in its document "The Future of Planning and Place-Making" 2015:

- *the Local Plan has the potential to direct the right development to the right place in a fair and transparent way, informed by the imperative of sustainable development.*
- *Participation can reduce conflict and promote social cohesion, by promoting a shared understanding of issues such as local housing need.*
- *the adopted definition of sustainable development must return to the internationally accepted definition articulated in the 2005 UK Sustainable Development Strategy."*

○ Loss of property value

"All the residents of Kedington would get is a reduction in the value of their homes. People who buy homes in villages do so because they wish to live IN A VILLAGE."

○ Parish Council

"The present parish council serves our village extremely well. We want to keep it exactly as it is. Please do not destroy our village and community."

○ Impact on existing property within growth site

"I should like all of my house to be within the boundary. I think the boundary passes through my bedroom together with small paddocks on both sides. This would make all my retained fields by the house in more parish - much easier for DEFRA"

In addition to the concerns about the development and impact on community life, two respondents complained about the consultation process adopted by the Council for the CGR. Key points made were:

"An important aspect to the CGR is ensuring that local people have a say in the way their neighbourhoods are managed, with an effective parish level organisation able to do that on their behalf. The Borough Council structure cannot even effectively take into account what people (including Borough Councillors) say about the way they want their neighbourhoods developed, so how does it expect local people to believe anything will change?"

"There is no point in having a shared sense of what people want for their area, with effective and inclusive participation, representation and leadership in Parish Councils representing communities, if local views are not welcome or effective at Borough level. The making of local decisions in the Borough and relevant policy should secure the public interest of people who reside in the parishes."

"...with an ageing population and a less than satisfactory access to the internet, there will again be a significant number of individuals who will not be consulted. Who is going to tell them that they can instead respond in writing to the Council? You state that you will consult directly with any existing electors or businesses affected by the boundary proposals. The only reason I am aware of this review is because I have received a letter from the chairman of our parish council. Without the newsletter this review would have slipped through largely unnoticed. All residents will be affected by the outcome of this review. Why have these electors not received official notification and been given longer to reply?.... I would like to know whether St. Edmundsbury Council considers that it is conducting this review in a fair and democratic manner, according to the mandate placed upon it?"

The first evidence gathering phase of consultation ran from September to November and, as this comment and the good level of response to this issue illustrates, parishes were asked to promote it (and did) and respondents were able (and did) respond by a variety of means. The approach the Council has taken to consultation is explained in the covering report and Appendix B. Further consultation will take place in 2016 on any recommendation.

(b) Those favouring moving the Haverhill Parish Boundary

One local elector emailed the Council to comment:

"As a resident of Haverhill I believe that to be just and fair the parish Boundary for Haverhill should be expanded to include all areas where new developments are taking place, or about to take place or planned to take place. In fact it would be much fairer on the villages that border Haverhill for them to be brought into an expanded Haverhill as they would then have a say in all things concerning our town."

15 of the 43 electors who responded online (including one town councillor) supported moving the town council boundary outwards so all of the new properties are in the Haverhill parish (i.e. Haverhill Town Council)

- 9 felt it would improve the capacity of the town council to deliver better services and to represent the community's interests effectively.
- 8 felt it would create a strong sense of community identity.

- 7 felt it would generate interest in town/parish affairs and improve participation in elections, local organisations and community activities.
- 6 felt it would reflect patterns of everyday life for those living and working in the area, building upon what new and existing communities have in common.
- 4 felt it would give easy access to good quality local services for new and existing residents.

In support of their preferences, six commented:

- *The development is labelled as North East Haverhill. This is a misleading title as it will be built within the current boundary of Kedington. I believe that the Kedington boundary should be moved so that the development becomes part of Haverhill as, it seems, it was originally intended. Despite the Kedington parish therefore being reduced, I feel that the existing strong village/parish community will continue to grow and prosper. If the boundary is not changed, the sense of identity for those new residents will be difficult, as they will live in the Kedington parish but be closer to Haverhill and its amenities and facilities. Kedington does not have the infrastructure to accommodate so many new residents.*
- *There are no 'natural' boundaries for these areas. There is a risk of communities losing their discrete identities as separations between the Town and the two villages encroach. Residents in the development areas will use shopping and leisure facilities in Haverhill, they ought to have influence in decisions affecting those facilities. Haverhill can absorb the residents whereas the village communities may be overwhelmed by substantial numbers of new residents. The sprawl of residents, beyond traditional village borders, will erode the character and nature of the parish communities.*
- *Already houses outside the town boundary use the town's facilities but have no say in how these are organised. These and the new houses should have representation on the town council and a say on their local area. It will add more cohesion, making these residents feel part of the town and make it easier to get facilities such as schools, access to health professionals, public transport etc. It is hoped that a large majority of these residents will become part of Haverhill and identify with the town and help it move forward to a brighter future together.*
- *These new developments need to be brought together with the existing areas of Haverhill in order that the town is able to take advantage in the extra growth in population to press for improvements to the infrastructure of the town.*
- *It would be ridiculous for neighbouring houses to be split between Kedington and Haverhill. Kedington residents want to keep their community identity so why would they want boundaries to remain the same which would effectively mean there being housing coming under the Kedington parish but situated in what residents see as Haverhill. As long as the village remains separate from Haverhill then there is no need to listen to local scaremongering!*
- *As it joins Haverhill and not Kedington it seems silly to have it in our parish as they will not be using our facilities but Haverhill's as they are better and closer.*

E. Cllr Mary Evans (Clare Division)

I support Little Wrattling Parish Meeting.

F. Cllr Jason Crooks (Haverhill South Ward)

Councillor Crooks supported moving the town council boundary outwards so all of the new properties are in the Haverhill parish (i.e. Haverhill Town Council) on the basis that this

would:

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

He commented: "The new proposed development should be within the Parish of Haverhill but I'm concerned about the existing and established community of Little Wrating. I see no reason why the existing houses that are located along the A143 and Haverhill Road Little Wrating cannot remain in the Little Wrating parish. The boundary may look a little odd but that is because it would reflect the historic nature of the community."

Map

A new boundary proposal was offered by the Town Council (see earlier map). However, consultation responses from Kedington would suggest that the edge of the *residential* (red) element of the Vision 2031 site should be the maximum extent of any enlarged Haverhill Parish.

In relation to Little Wrating, using the same principle, the Council will need to decide how it wishes to treat the properties on the A143 in relation to any recommendation. On the draft map overleaf, for discussion at the meeting, these properties are shown as being moved into Haverhill. However, as Cllr Crooks has suggested, it would be possible to retain them in Little Wrating Parish and simply follow the line of the growth site, **and the Council can use either option in its recommendation for consultation.**

