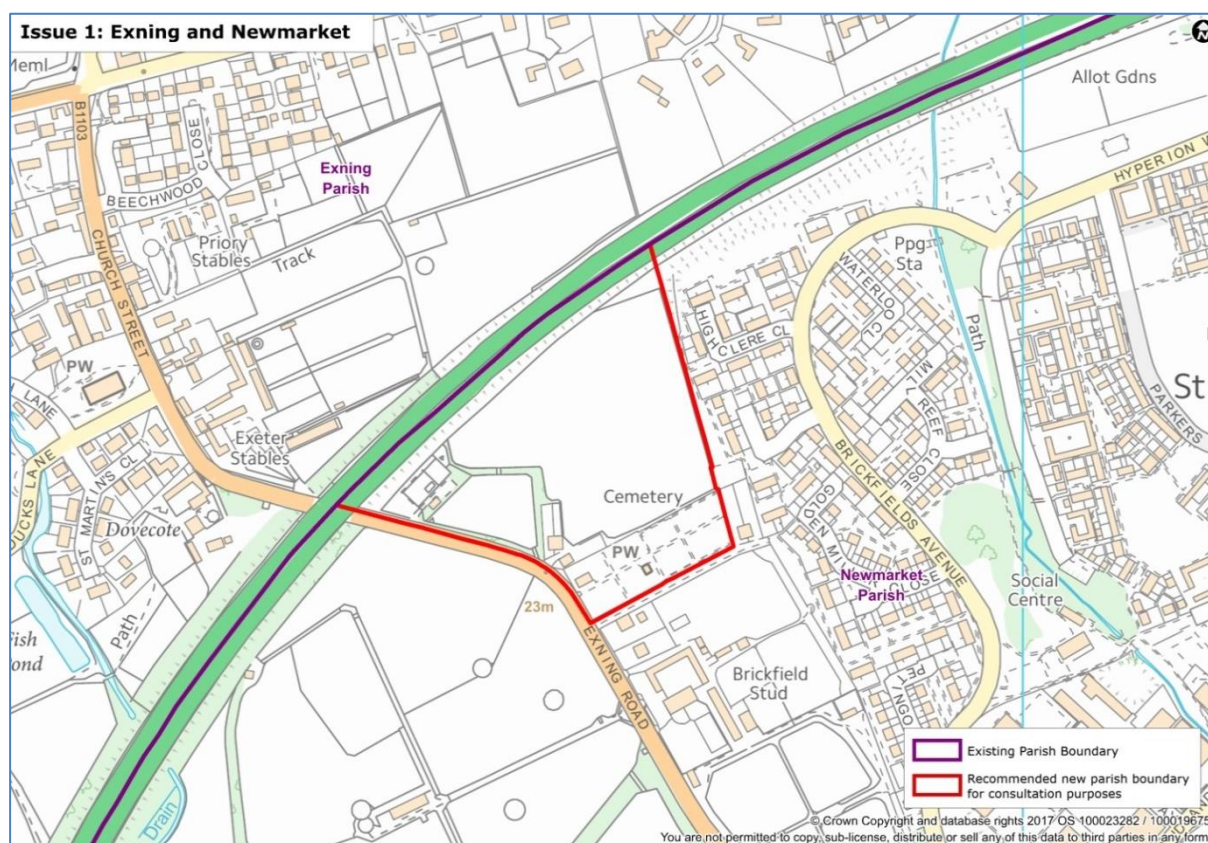


Consultation on final recommendations for Community Governance Review

No	Area or Properties Under Review	Parishes Directly Affected	Matter covered by final recommendation
1	Properties at or in the vicinity of Exning Cemetery, Exning Road	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Exning •Newmarket 	Whether or not (and how) Exning Cemetery should be transferred from Newmarket Parish to Exning Parish by way of a minor boundary change.

Final Recommendation Used for Consultation, March to May 2017

The boundary of Exning Parish be extended to include Exning Cemetery and adjoining properties, as shown on the consultation map below.



Background Information for Recommendation

The reason for the recommendation was that, subject to local preference being established through the consultation, it potentially provides more appropriate parish boundaries to reflect the identities and interests of local residents and, in particular, to recognise the significance of the Cemetery to the Exning community.

The proposal to include this matter in the CGR was made by Cllr Simon Cole, who is the FHDC ward councillor and a parish councillor in Exning. The suggestion was to review whether Exning's cemetery should be included in Exning Parish, in view of its close community connection.

The proposed new boundary is shown on the consultation map above. This option relates most strongly to ground features, including the Exning Road which is already used as a parish ward boundary in Newmarket (and provides a direct connection between the existing parish and the area in question). However, it would result in the transfer of four existing properties between the parishes, and the majority view of those electors would be critical to any final decision made in the CGR. The alternative options available to the Council are to make no change to the boundary at all or to make minor amendments to the proposed boundary change.

If adopted as a result of this CGR, this proposal would require a consequential change to district ward boundaries. There would be no consequential impact on current County Council electoral arrangements as both parishes are already in the same Division.

Electorate Information:

The recent electorates of Exning and Newmarket Parishes were 1,554 and 11,664 respectively. A five year electorate forecast is not required in this instance as the proposal involves a small and fixed number of electors (currently 7 electors in 4 existing properties), and there are no growth proposals affecting the land in question.

Summary of Consultation

The consultation has identified good support for the proposed transfer from the majority of directly affected electors and Exning Parish Council, with no objections being received, including from the Town Council. Furthermore, there were no suggested changes to the line of the amended boundary.

Responses received

A. Newmarket Town Council

The Town Council has considered the matter and raised no objections to the proposal.

B. Exning Parish Council

The Parish Council is in full support of the consultation proposing the transfer of Exning Cemetery and four adjacent properties from Newmarket Parish to Exning Parish. This is due to the close connection the cemetery has with the Parish of Exning, particularly with St Martin's Church in Exning, and that the cemetery is under the care and maintenance of Exning Parish Council. The residents of adjacent properties have a close connection with Exning Parish; their addresses being Exning.

C. Community Organisations

The War Graves Commission, Exning Primary School and the Church Parish have not commented on the proposal.

D. Affected Local Electors

Electors at four properties directly affected by the proposal were consulted. Five

electors, living in three of the properties, responded; all in support of the recommendation. This represents the support of 75% of the affected properties and 71% of the affected electors.

Two responses included the following comments:

1. "It makes good sense"
2. "We have been living at the property for over 12 years and have always considered the house to be part of Exning Village. Our 3 boys go to Exning School and we have an Exning Address. We would be delighted for the boundary to be changed to reflect this"

E. Exning Residents

A resident of Exning Parish wrote to indicate they were in full favour of the recommendation.

Options for Councillors to Consider

To assist in the conduct of the meeting, draft motions for the various options are set out below, in no order of importance/preference:

A: Adopt Recommendation

That the final recommendation for Issue 1 (Exning/Newmarket) be adopted as the outcome of this CGR, and the boundary between the two parishes be amended accordingly, as set out in the consultation map in Appendix A to this report.

Or

B: Amend the Recommendation

That the final recommendation for Issue 1 (Exning/Newmarket), as set out in Appendix A to this report, be adopted as the outcome of this CGR subject to the following amendment: [*describe amendment and reason for it – a revised map would also be included in the minutes of the meeting*]

Or

C: Reject the Recommendation (no change)

That there be no change to the current parish boundary between Exning and Newmarket parishes on the basis that [*insert reason for changing recommendation*].

No	Area or Properties Under Review	Parishes Directly Affected	Matter covered by final recommendation
2	Mildenhall Parish	Mildenhall	Whether or not (and how) the existing Parish of Mildenhall should be divided to create two parishes, each with its own parish council: a smaller Parish of Mildenhall and a new Parish of West Row.
Final Recommendation Used for Consultation, March to May 2017			
That there be no change to the current arrangements i.e. Mildenhall Parish stays as it is and a new parish for West Row is <u>not</u> created.			
Background Information for Recommendation			
<p>The proposal to include this matter in the CGR was made by the West Row Action Group which felt that West Row should have its own parish council in order to provide it with its own representation and to reflect its separate community identity.</p> <p>The reason for the CGR recommendation above is that the District Council felt that, given the significance of the change involved for all electors of Mildenhall Parish, it needed evidence of widespread local support to justify creating a new parish for West Row. Therefore, it agreed that it should be the 'status quo' position that was tested in the final stage of the review.</p> <p>However, in consulting on such a final recommendation, the Council made it clear to respondents what the alternative option and implications would be, since the Council can change its recommendation in the light of evidence received i.e. if significant support is expressed for a separate parish.</p> <p>The District Council's final recommendation for consultation would see West Row village and surrounding area (including Isleham Marina) remain within the existing Mildenhall Parish, and continue to be served by Mildenhall Parish Council. The area would continue to have its own West Row Ward within the Parish, with its own parish councillors. More information on the Parish Council can be found at: http://mildenhall.onesuffolk.net/ .</p> <p>The alternative option, as suggested by the Action Group, would be to create an entirely new and separate Parish for the West Row area, served by its own parish council. This would reduce the area of the current Mildenhall Parish, and therefore the proposal affects all electors in it.</p>			

Electorate Information

If a West Row Parish were to be created, its electorate would depend on its agreed boundaries (see next section). Furthermore, producing a five year electorate forecast ahead of adoption of a new Local Plan is not easy and any estimate must therefore be treated with caution ahead of determination of the relevant planning processes. Nonetheless, to assist respondents, **and as guidance only**, an indicative five year estimate of the electorate of the existing Parish of Mildenhall¹ would be:

Mildenhall Parish Ward(s)	Electorate forecast for 2022
Great Heath and Market	6240
West Row	1502

Alternative Option

If the recommendation is changed, and a new parish council is formed, then the District Council will need to determine:

- (a) the name of the new parish council;
- (b) the new parish boundary;
- (c) the number of councillors;
- (d) whether the new parish will be warded; and
- (e) an implementation date and election timetable thereafter (see covering report).

The minimum size of any new parish council for West Row would be 5 councillors, but 9 councillors would be consistent with several other large parishes in the District e.g. Exning with 1554 electors. By comparison, Mildenhall Parish Council currently comprises 15 councillors to represent the three wards of the Parish (and just under 7000 electors). Three of these parish councillors represent the West Row Ward (with the other two wards having six councillors each).

The boundary of any new parish would need to reflect a common community identity and support convenient and effective local government. Boundaries should also, where possible, be linked to recognisable ground features, particularly those which form natural boundaries themselves. The simplest way to create a new West Row Parish would be to use the three existing Mildenhall parish wards as 'building blocks'. This is because these are well-established and understood. This also avoids consequential changes to existing district or county arrangements. On this basis, a new West Row Parish could be formed entirely from the current West Row Ward of Mildenhall Parish. This would mean that any new parish councillors for West Row represented exactly the same area as the three existing Mildenhall parish councillors from the West Row Ward.

¹ This estimate reflects the current assessment of the five year supply of housing land in Forest Heath which was published in November 2016 and is available on the Council's website as part of the background papers for the Local Plan consultation. This indicative estimate also reflects the current impact of USVF residents on the electoral registers for Mildenhall Parish. The estimate is therefore subject to the completion of the relevant planning processes and future changes at both airbases.

Summary of Consultation

As set out in detail in the next section, opinion remains divided, albeit a large majority of the electors who responded to the consultation opposed the recommendation, and wished to see it changed so that a new parish council is formed. The Council must therefore decide if it now has enough evidence, in relation to the criteria for CGRs and local opinion, to justify a change to the current parish boundary.

No comments have been received to disagree with the suggestion (in the background information for the consultation pack) that any new parish could be coterminous with Mildenhall Parish Council's existing West Row Ward, with 9 councillors.

Responses During Consultation

As well as correspondence to elected representatives, community organisations and other stakeholders in the Parish, this issue was publicised by the Council on its website, through social media and via a press release. The Council also created an online response form which explained the two options available, with background information for each. Local publicity was also provided by those advocating the change.

In this context, responses received were as follows.

A. Mildenhall Parish Council

The formal response of the Parish Council is as follows:

Community Governance Review- Formal Consultation

Mildenhall Parish Council debated the subject at their full council meeting on 30th March 2017. Below is the collective response:

Mildenhall Parish Council has considered the proposal by some West Row Parishioners that there should be a separate Parish Council serving West Row.

The Council was of the mind that this is a decision for the residents of West Row and would not want to oppose or prevent such a move if it were demonstrably the will of a majority.

In the discussions, concern was expressed that some of the material promoting separation had given misleading information - for example about street lighting and cemetery provision - and the MPC would hope that every effort would be made to correct any misapprehensions.

The Parish Council has subsequently clarified, in light of the above, that it looks after the majority of street lights in West Row (with the County Council maintaining the rest), and pointed out that its role on planning applications is advisory to the district council, as a consultee, not the decision-taker. The cemetery is addressed in other consultation responses received, summarised below.

In addition to the Parish Council's formal response, a personal letter has been received from one of the existing parish councillors, which is included in section E below, as per the reporting protocol.

SUBMISSION FROM WEST ROW ACTION GROUP

The 'West Row Action Group' was founded in response to a planning application submitted to Forest Heath District Council by The Waters Family, Pidgeon Developments and Suffolk County Council. The application was for a housing development that we feel threatens the very nature of our rural agricultural village.

In our struggle to defend our community against this threat, some of the problems about how we are represented have become part of what we have had to deal with. Villagers attended Mildenhall Parish in order to enlist our parishes support and take the first official step in opposing the application. This meeting was much more than a disappointment to the villagers it highlighted the point that there is a gulf between the village of West Row and Mildenhall Parish. As communities, we have little in common and as things are set up our representation is so small that we are effectively just a subordinate part of another towns parish. On returning to West Row, we decided that not only regarding this application but for the very practical reason that an urban community cannot be expected to legislate for the needs of what is a diverse rural community. We need to take control of our own affairs.

We know that West Row is a natural large rural parish and for just the practical reason of how to run a parish that includes the community in an active sense this is common sense.

Looking at the proposed parish, you will see that this is exactly what you would expect of a large rural parish. A village, with a large village hall, primary school, pre-school, shops, churches, chapels and a scattered rural community. If this process is about community cohesion it would be hard to find an instance where creating a parish would have a more positive role is sustaining a community.

There are many negatives we could point to in our history with Mildenhall Parish, their name being used to define our treasure! But this is about a rural active community asking for its identity and something that we can promote in a positive sense.

In the local plan consultation, village of the year and our resistance to the developers we have already proved that there is a community here with a real passion for our village and surrounding community. The situation regarding our parish representation we maintain is unsustainable and this review is probably our best chance to tidy things up and create a rural parish for our community and let Mildenhall have its town council.

We hope that you will see this logic of this change and the positive advantages of this rural agricultural parish.

DOMESDAY RELOADED

[Home](#) | [Story of Domesday](#) | [Using Domesday](#) | [Contact Us](#)

D-block GB-564000-276000

Share this Entry

Share

Facebook

Twitter

1986

VILLAGE AND FEN-WEST ROW

WEST ROW VILLAGE IS SITUATED ON THE EDGE OF THE FENS AMIDST SOME OF THE BEST AGRICULTURAL LAND IN EAST ANGLIA.

JUST INSIDE THE SUFFOLK BORDER, IT IS SOME 2 MILES FROM MILDENHALL, 15 MILES FROM BURY ST. EDMUNDS AND 25 MILES FROM CAMBRIDGE. IT IS SEPARATED FROM ITS NEIGHBOURING VILLAGE OF BECK ROW BY THE U.S.A.F. BASE - R.A.F. MILDENHALL

THE VILLAGE IS SOMEWHAT CUT OFF FROM THE MAIN ROAD SYSTEM AND IS VERY MUCH A RURAL COMMUNITY, MANY OF ITS OLD FAMILIES HAVING DEEP LINKS WITH THE PAST.

ITS WINDING, TWISTING ROADS ARE A FEATURE OF THE VILLAGE WHILE THE ROADS INTO THE FEN, MAINLY FARM TRACKS, ARE KNOWN AS DROVES.

Map of the area

© Crown copyright and database rights
Ordnance Survey 100039117

1986



2011

Go: [North](#) | [West](#) | [South](#) | [East](#)

Search the Domesday Site

 Place

 Content

What is Domesday?

In 1986 the BBC launched an ambitious project to record a snapshot of everyday life across the UK for future generations. A million volunteers took part... [read more here](#)

In 2011 the BBC published the survey online and for six months invited updates to the photographs and text to celebrate the 25th anniversary.

Shortly afterwards the website was added to The National Archives' UK Government Web Archive.

If you are reading this via UK Government Web Archive, then the original Domesday search function and contact form will not work. This is a consequence of the archiving process. See [Using Domesday](#) for more details.

Pictures from this D-block



BLE FARMLAND - WEST ROW - 1986

THE PRIMARY SCHOOL - WEST ROW - 1986

MARKET GARDENING - WEST ROW - 1986

Written accounts from this D-block

Village And Fen-west Row	Farming - West Row
High Post Farm - West Row	Two Arable Farms - West Row
A Market Gardener-west Row	Drainage&irrigation West Row
Education - West Row	A Schoolgirl-1980-west Row
A Schoolgirl-1985-west Row	Local Government-west Row
The Post-office - West Row	The Village Shop - West Row
Farming Engineers-west Row	Morley's Coaches-west Row
Mildenhall Treasure-west Row	Archaeological Dig-west Row

DOMESDAY RELOADED

[Home](#) | [Story of Domesday](#) | [Using Domesday](#) | [Contact Us](#)

D-block GB-564000-276000

Share this Entry

Share

Facebook

Twitter

1986

VILLAGE AND FEN-WEST ROW

WEST ROW VILLAGE IS SITUATED ON THE EDGE OF THE FENS AMIDST SOME OF THE BEST AGRICULTURAL LAND IN EAST ANGLIA.

JUST INSIDE THE SUFFOLK BORDER, IT IS SOME 2 MILES FROM MILDENHALL, 15 MILES FROM BURY ST. EDMUNDS AND 25 MILES FROM CAMBRIDGE. IT IS SEPARATED FROM ITS NEIGHBOURING VILLAGE OF BECK ROW BY THE U.S.A.F. BASE - R.A.F. MILDENHALL

THE VILLAGE IS SOMEWHAT CUT OFF FROM THE MAIN ROAD SYSTEM AND IS VERY MUCH A RURAL COMMUNITY, MANY OF ITS OLD FAMILIES HAVING DEEP LINKS WITH THE PAST.

ITS WINDING, TWISTING ROADS ARE A FEATURE OF THE VILLAGE WHILE THE ROADS INTO THE FEN, MAINLY FARM TRACKS, ARE KNOWN AS DROVES.

DOMESDAY RELOADED

[Home](#) | [Story of Domesday](#) | [Using Domesday](#) | [Contact Us](#)

D-block GB-564000-276000

Share this Entry

Share

Facebook

Twitter

1986

VILLAGE LIFE - WEST ROW

"WE ARE VERY HAPPY LIVING HERE"

THIS IS THE RESPONSE ONE GETS FROM THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THIS AREA. IT IS A QUIET, FRIENDLY PLACE, WELL AWAY FROM THE MAIN HIGHWAYS BUT NOT CUT OFF FROM CIVILISATION. THERE IS A GREAT FEELING OF COMMUNITY HERE AND A PRIDE IN BELONGING. MANY OF THE FAMILIES HAVE STRONG TIES WITH THE AREA AND GO BACK FOR MANY GENERATIONS, AND THERE IS A SPIRIT OF DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE. PRESSED TO ANSWER THE QUESTION "WHAT ARE THE DISADVANTAGES OF LIVING HERE?" MOST WILL REPLY THAT THE AEROPLANES ARE NOISY BUT YOU GET USED TO THEM AND ANYWAY THEY BRING JOBS!

CLASS 8, GREAT HEATH C.P.SCHOOL,
MILDENHALL, SUFFOLK.

JULY 1985

DOMESDAY RELOADED

[Home](#) | [Story of Domesday](#) | [Using Domesday](#) | [Contact Us](#)

D-block GB-564000-276000

1986

MILDENHALL TREASURE-WEST ROW

NO SURVEY OF WEST ROW WOULD BE COMPLETE WITHOUT A REFERENCE TO THE MILDENHALL TREASURE WHICH IS HOUSED IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

IT WAS FOUND IN 1942 AT WEST ROW IN A FIELD BETWEEN WESTON DITCH AND THE GREEN. IT CONSISTS OF 34 PIECES OF VERY HIGH QUALITY SILVERWARE AND WAS PROBABLY BURIED BY ITS ROMAN OWNERS IN TROUBLED TIMES TOWARDS THE END OF THE ROMAN OCCUPATION.

THE TREASURE WAS UNEARTHED AFTER DEEP-PLOUGHING WHICH WAS INTRODUCED DURING THE WAR. IT WAS NOT UNTIL 4 YEARS AFTER ITS DISCOVERY THAT ITS VALUE WAS REALISED BY THE TWO MEN WHO FOUND IT.

DECLARED TREASURE TROVE BY AN INQUEST AT MILDENHALL IN 1946, IT WAS PUT ON PUBLIC DISPLAY THE SAME YEAR.

Share this Entry

Share

Facebook

Twitter

Ma
© C
Ord



Ge

Se

Ty

DOMESDAY RELOADED

[Home](#) | [Story of Domesday](#) | [Using Domesday](#) | [Contact Us](#)

D-block GB-564000-276000

Share this Entry

Share

Facebook

Twitter

1986

LOCAL ISSUES - WEST ROW

PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH PLANNING AND HOUSING ARE THE USUAL ISSUES WHICH LOCAL COUNCILLORS HAVE TO TACKLE ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE THEY REPRESENT. IN PARTICULAR, NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS ARE VIEWED WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CONCERN, LEST THEY SPOIL THE QUIET ATMOSPHERE OF THE VILLAGE.

IN THE PAST, VILLAGERS HAVE CAMPAIGNED FOR A 30m.p.h. SPEED LIMIT, A CENTRAL WHITE LINE ON THE ROAD TO * MILDENHALL, AND THE RESHAPING OF A DANGEROUS ROAD JUNCTION. ALL HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL.

MANY LOCAL FARMERS VIEW WITH CONCERN DETERIORATING ROAD SURFACES, ESPECIALLY IN THE FENS, WHILE IN THE VILLAGE ITSELF SOME PEOPLE, NOTABLY THE ELDERLY, REGRET THE ALMOST COMPLETE LACK OF PAVEMENTS BORDERING THE ROADS.

C. Other Local Organisations

The Council wrote to the local churches, school and other organisations as part of the consultation, and received the following response from the West Row Baptist Church:

"Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal to create a new local government Parish for West Row.

On behalf of West Row Baptist Church (Chapel), I would like to say that the proposal to create a separate Parish for West Row would be very

welcome indeed and we would like to vote for it.

You may or may not know, the Baptist Church is a Christian, Independent, Baptist denomination, Church. It is run solely by the active Church Members and has no interference from any overarching body. We are affiliated to the FIEC (Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches) but they are there purely to give advice when requested.

We are pleased to say that our Church has a thriving congregation and Membership with an average weekly attendance (including mid-week clubs etc) of over 200 persons.

As the vast majority of those attending use a car, the number of cars using the Church parking area is around 20 plus for each weekday meeting and 35 plus for each Sunday service.

In 2000, the church gave notice to Forest Heath District Council and the Mildenhall Parish Council, that the existing graveyard would be closed when it reaches a certain marker. That marker has now been reached and the graveyard is now closed to all new graves. The reason for closing the graveyard was twofold:

1) to ensure there was sufficient space left to accommodate all the cars of those visiting the premises.

2) to ensure there remained sufficient space to accommodate tents, bouncy castles, Bar-B-Q and serving areas etc during village outreach days for families and young people.

We have asked on more than one occasion if Mildenhall Parish could provide a separate burial ground in West Row, all to no avail as their stock answer is: "We have a burial ground in Mildenhall".

If West Row had its own Local Government Parish, at least the members of the West Row Parish could decide if a separate community graveyard should be provided."

D. Local Electors

By the close of consultation, 39 individual local residents had submitted comments. This represents around 3% of the current electorate of the West Row parish ward of Mildenhall Parish. The proposal affects the whole Parish, and its current electorate is just under 7000 electors.

Most respondents identified themselves as local residents or 'villagers' and four also indicated that, as well as being residents, they were members of West Row Action Group (3) or West Row Football Club (1).

Five respondents submitted more than one online response form. Where this occurred, they are counted only once in the statistics, and their recorded preference (if it differed) is taken to be the last one submitted before the deadline. However, all text comments made during the consultation are recorded below for completeness.

The map at the end of this report shows how comments were distributed evenly in West Row when plotted by post-code (please note that the dots on the map indicate the centre of a post-code, not a specific property).

36 (92.3%) of the respondents did not support the recommendation and wanted a parish council to be established. This represents the opinion of around 3% of the current electorate of West Row parish ward. Where provided, the comments of those against the recommendation were as follows (verbatim):

We desperately need to be represented with our own Parish Council to make our voice heard & help to secure growth in our village amongst other issues.

It betrays democracy and self-determination of the people within their own village. Smaller councils exist and therefore should be their own elected chamber with tax raising powers to meet the needs of its facilities. I also want Mildenhall to have Independence with a Mayor. But a mayor with no political affiliation but truly representative of Mildenhall as social inclusion has been destroyed by the wealth of political groups and evidence is supported by county election turnout in 2017. Time to bring changes to promote democracy for all villages and not a political agenda that parishes have become by the failings to include non-party members as chair or committee chairs.

West Row deserves a voice of its own.

Wording of the recommendation is a bit misleading I nearly voted against WR becoming its own Parish Council Would suggest that the votes are checked against the narrative. I think we in WR can and deserve to be independent - we are thriving and active.*

(*FHDC response: This check has been carried out as a matter of course because the legislation requires consultation to be framed around a definite recommendation. For reference, the two choices offered online were:

- I support this recommendation - West Row should continue to be represented by Mildenhall Parish Council
- I do not support this recommendation - West Row should have its own parish/parish council)

It is not in the best interests of residents.

I am 80 years old and feel that it is high time West Row was allowed to make her own decisions.

We as a village do not have independence to the larger town of Mildenhall, therefore we as a village aren't not receiving an independent consideration over the town. I have been a resident of this village 36 years of my 42 living years. We do not have a funded playground area as in Mildenhall. Services are not stretched to our village with due consideration that it needs. The recent social media public mocking made by members of our local council towards other pro-active West Row potential councillors also promotes the view that West Row is a village mocked by the whole of the Mildenhall Parish/Forest Heath District Council. I'm aware I do not fully

understand the control nor the powers that be within our Parish/council and whose roles are responsible for appointed services within our community. The fact that the recommendation is already to NOT recommend West Row to have its own Parish, given by this notice, highlights to me the allocation of giving West Row its own Parish shows there is a concern within the Mildenhall Parish that there will be monies lost to themselves to be allocated to West Row as its own Parish. Seeing the published figures of allocation of monies...this will result in Mildenhall Parish losing significant funding. Funding I believe a separate Parish of West Row would allocate more productively and effectively to its OWN village. Over time, using the monies more wisely, and in benefit to West Row directly will show our residents the village is for them.

West Row is West Row. It is not Mildenhall and does not need to be represented by that group. Especially when their decisions do not always reflect the thoughts of those living here in the village. Let us govern ourselves.

I do not believe that the Mildenhall Parish, as is, fairly represents issues within West Row due to the heavy bias of councillors in the Mildenhall area. The expense of the central employees is way beyond what a normal village council would be expected to underwrite. With any new initiatives, eg LED street lighting, Mildenhall always comes first it seems. We never have a breakdown of receipts and expenditure based on the areas of Mildenhall and West Row. This level of clarity would aid this decision.

I believe West Row has grown over the years into a thriving community, that needs to have its own specific representation not lumped into Mildenhall, I have been a resident for over 40 years and have seen how my village has changed, and I think we should be able to have our own individual say in local matters.

West Row needs its own, local, representation, and a Parish Precept based on taking care of West Row, not Mildenhall's, needs. It is obvious that, with small number of residents in West Row, their needs and wishes will be subservient to those of the greater populace of Mildenhall. Also, the Parish Precept paid by residents of West Row should be the far smaller amount actually needed for West Row, not for the more expensive upkeep of Mildenhall.

I fully support West Row having its own parish council. We are a proactive, progressive village who need councillors who understand the issues faced by the village. At the moment our representatives are outnumbered and as such we have no voice on Mildenhall parish council.

As a growing community I and many people I speak to think its time like many villages to have our own parishes so that we can have more say in the future of our lovely village. And with so many organisations in our village we help to make them grow with our own funds e.g. allotments. Mildenhall takes 4, 000 pounds a year or more and not a penny spent on improvements.

I believe the interests of our village would be better met by people who are interested in the maintenance and improvement of our rural way of life. I

believe the growth of the village is better served by those who live here and understand it. I do not feel representatives at local government level have viewed the village as a lone entity but always as a suburb of Mildenhall. We do not feel this way. Those who have ably supported our views on the parish council are often undermined and looked down upon by those who do not or no longer live here yet serve ours and Mildenhall's interests.

In view of the fact that West Row is a substantial rural community with both village and fen dwellings, shops, a church ,chapels and village and church halls. It is not practical for us to be a ward of what is an urban town council. There is very little that we have in common with Mildenhall and our interests often conflict. Only being able to send three councillors to a much larger council at Mildenhall means that our community is constantly out voted. In order for our community to thrive and have a sense of its own identity and for the practical reason that a council needs to be in its own community things cannot remain as they are.

West Row only has three Parish Councillors as against seven for Mildenhall and are therefore consistently out voted by Mildenhall. West Row is a happy, settled and picturesque community which is constantly dictated to by the urban requirements of the larger town of Mildenhall and eventually by Bury St Edmunds if the latest proposals for BSE to take over full control of Forest Heath District Council goes ahead. West Suffolk Council are already dictating planning requirements on West Row that are for city developments not suited to village life so if the takeover goes ahead West Row "Village" will eventually disappear completely. So the only way we can preserve our village identity and way of life is to have our own Parish Council that will make decision in the best interests of West Row.

West Row has an active community, one which warrants being able to prove its importance and independence from Mildenhall, much like many other small villages around this town. There are active groups, organisations and people all willing to prove that this community can be responsible for certain local government issues itself.

West Row is a growing vibrant community village in and of itself. It is logical that it should have the ability to directly answer for and be responsible for aspects directly relating to its existence.

West Row Action Group are committed to ensuring the nature of our village is not dominated by large housing development and the input as a 'Stand Alone' Parish Council is vital as part of this process.

I no longer feel my views are best supported by those representatives on Mildenhall parish council. I also feel as a village we can self-govern our own issues and parish needs. As a unique rural village with an extensive history and thriving community, I feel our interests are often viewed as Mildenhall interests, and not those of a village with little interest in joining together as a suburb of the town that governs us.

West Row village has a long history with her residents playing a strong part in all local happenings. The best people to make decisions on behalf of the villagers are the villagers themselves. It is not through a hatred of the town parish council that I make this objection but through a wish for the

residents of West Row to be able to stand alone and make their own decisions about issues that relate to the village. You state that we do not have the experience to be able to run our own council but the same can be said of a country which hasn't stood alone since the early 70s but that hasn't stopped the voice of the people being heard. There are enough people in West Row with the skills needed for us to follow the example of Beck Row and build a successful council.*

(*FHDC response: this was not stated by FHDC in any of its review materials; FHDC's only position has been to seek evidence of public support for or against the recommendation and provide supporting background information to assist consultees.)

Three (7.7%) of the respondents supported the recommendation (i.e. not creating a new parish council). One made the following comment:

It adds an unnecessary local authority and will not give local people any more say on things like planning, which is what WRAG is really concerned about.

E. Local elected representatives

The following letter has been received from an existing Mildenhall parish councillor:

I have been a parish councillor for the West Row ward of Mildenhall Parish Council for 38 years, so I know how much work there is in running a council.

West Row is large enough to be a parish council on its own, but finance is a huge issue. Mildenhall Parish Council pays for over 130 street lights in West Row, it also maintains the grass at the playing field and the Church Green, and the War Memorial. It pays for the children's play equipment to be inspected every month.

A parish clerk would have to be employed and possibly a new cemetery provided.

There is a lot of financial issues which should have been discussed.

So, in my opinion, West Row is better served staying in the parish of Mildenhall.

In addition, the online response form was completed by a Lakenheath Parish Councillor, who opposed the recommendation, commenting:

"As a strong believer in localism and the devolution of political power I think if enough people in West Row want to have their own council they should be allowed to have one."

A response was also received from a Forest Heath District Councillor (representing a ward not affected by the proposal) supporting the recommendation and commenting:

"There is a lack of a clear vision or reason for creating a new parish for West Row, that cannot be fulfilled under the present arrangement."

Options for Councillors to Consider

To assist in the conduct of the meeting, draft motions for the various options are set out below, in no order of importance/preference:

A: Adopt Recommendation (status quo)

That the final recommendation for Issue 2 (Mildenhall and West Row) be adopted as the outcome of this CGR, namely that there be no change to the current arrangements i.e. Mildenhall Parish stays as it is and a new parish for West Row is not created.

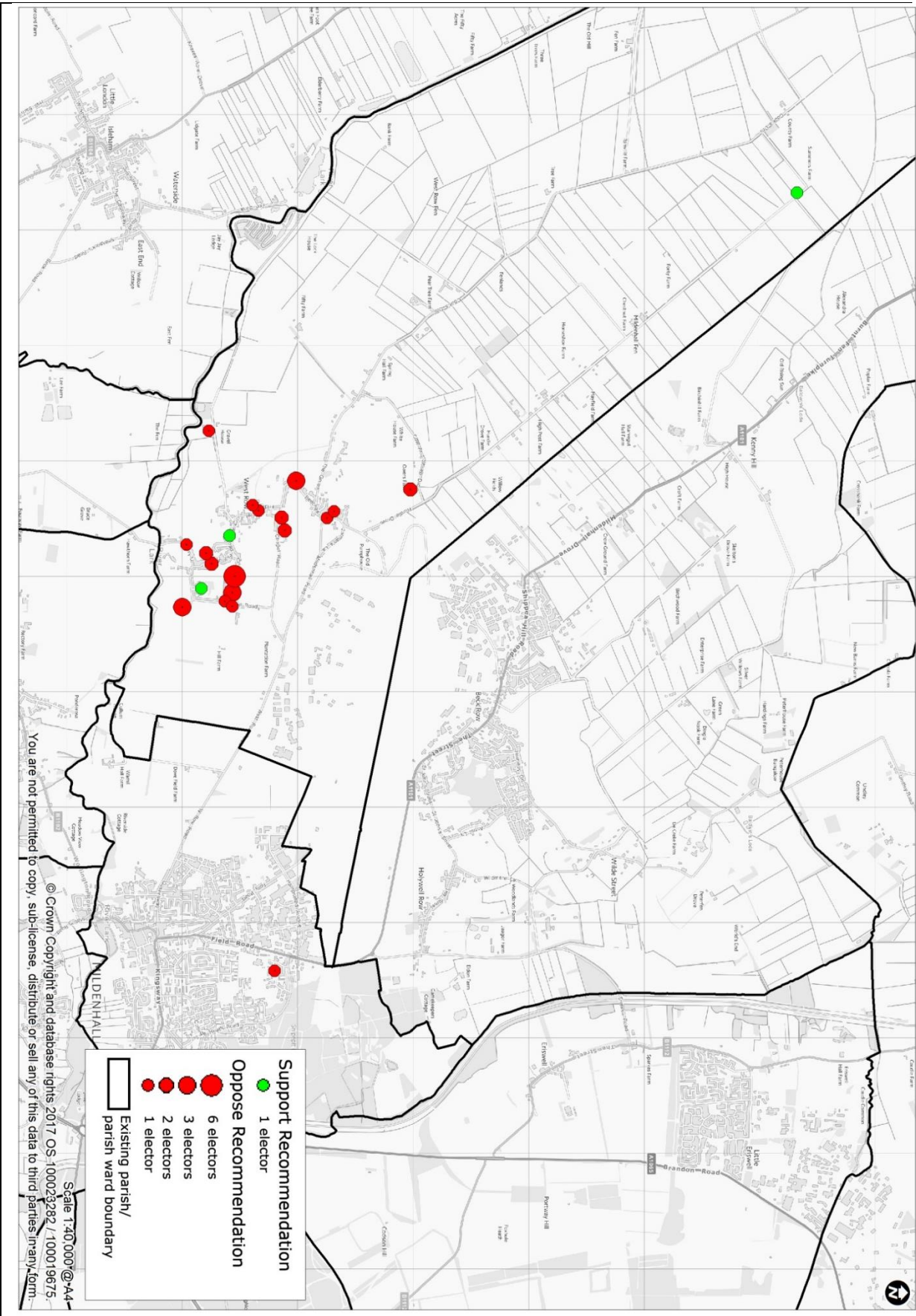
Or

B: Amend the Recommendation (create new parish council)

That, on the basis that [*insert reason for changing recommendation*], a new parish of West Row be created from the existing West Row parish ward of Mildenhall Parish, with the same boundary, and the Parish be served by a Parish Council with nine councillors and no wards.

Map of Consultation results

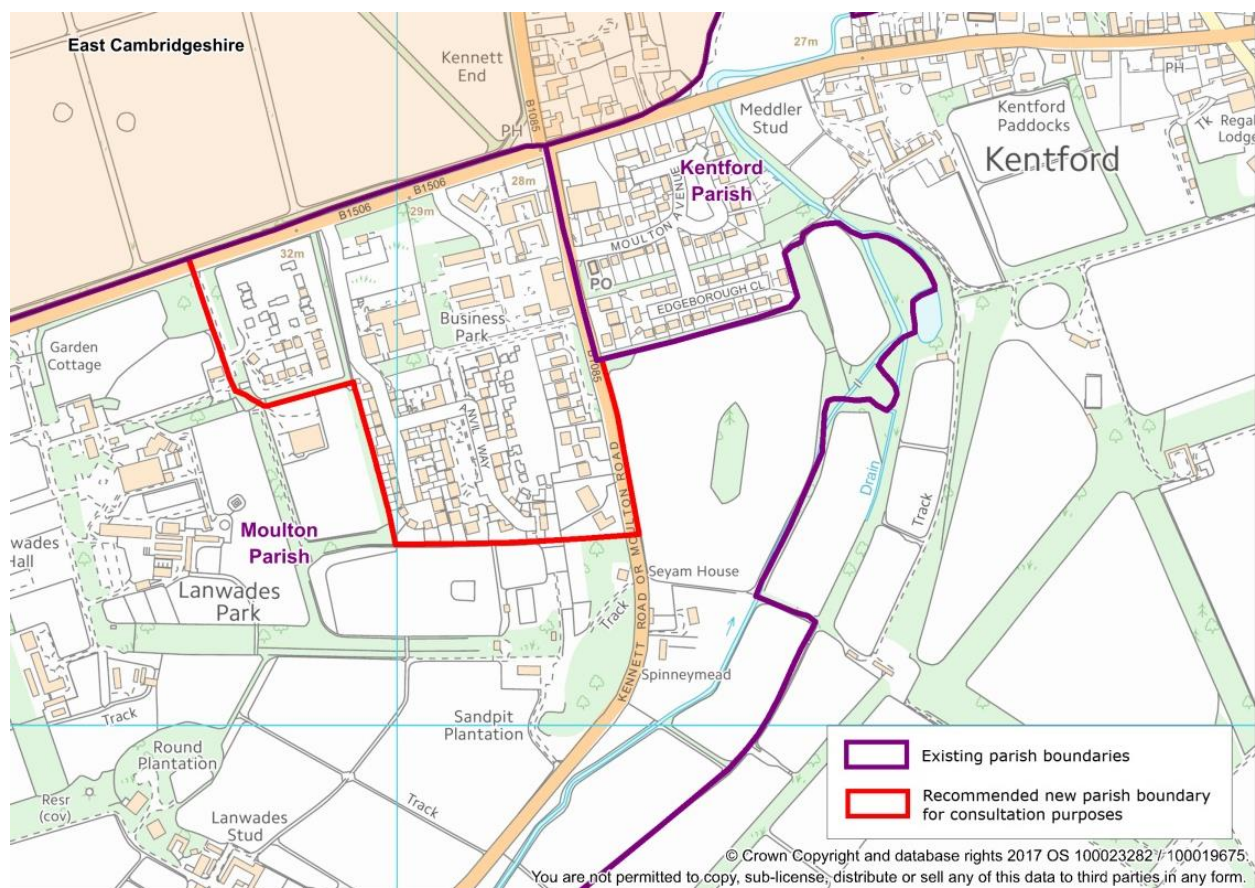
The map overleaf shows responses to the consultation by local electors by postcode (the dots show the centre of a postcode not a specific property). Red dots *opposed* the recommendation to maintain the status quo and can be read as showing support for the creation of a new parish council for West Row.



No	Area or Properties Under Review	Parishes Directly Affected	Matter covered by final recommendation
3	Properties to the north of Moulton Parish at or in the vicinity of the Farrier's Grange and Lambert Grove developments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Kentford •Moulton 	Whether or not (and how) new and existing properties to the north of Moulton Parish should be transferred to Kentford Parish.

Final Recommendation Used for Consultation, March to May 2017

The boundary of Kentford Parish be extended to include properties at or in the vicinity of the 'Farrier's Grange' and 'Lambert Grove' developments, as shown on the consultation map below.



Background Information for Recommendation

The reason for the recommendation was that, subject to local preference being established through the consultation, it potentially provides more appropriate parish boundaries and local government arrangements to reflect the identities and interests of local residents.

The proposal to include this matter in the CGR was made by Kentford Parish Council. Kentford Parish Council and Moulton Parish Council have both indicated that it should be for residents to decide which parish their properties should be in.

The proposed new boundary is shown on the consultation map above. This option simply seeks to transfer the two recent housing developments from Moulton Parish to Kentford Parish. Therefore the views of those electors would be critical to any final decision made in the CGR.

Depending on the outcome of the review, there may be a need to review the size of

each of the parish councils i.e. number of councillors. While no change in this regard has been formally recommended by the District Council, comments on this matter were invited from respondents as part of this consultation.

There would not be any consequential impacts arising from this recommendation since both parishes are already in the same district ward and county division.

Electorate Information:

Estimating the future electorates of the two parishes is obviously dependent on the decision in this CGR regarding boundaries. Furthermore, producing a five year electorate forecast ahead of adoption of a new Local Plan is not easy and any estimate must therefore be treated with caution ahead of determination of the relevant planning processes. Nonetheless, to assist respondents, **and as guidance only**, an indicative five year estimate of the electorates of the two parishes² is:

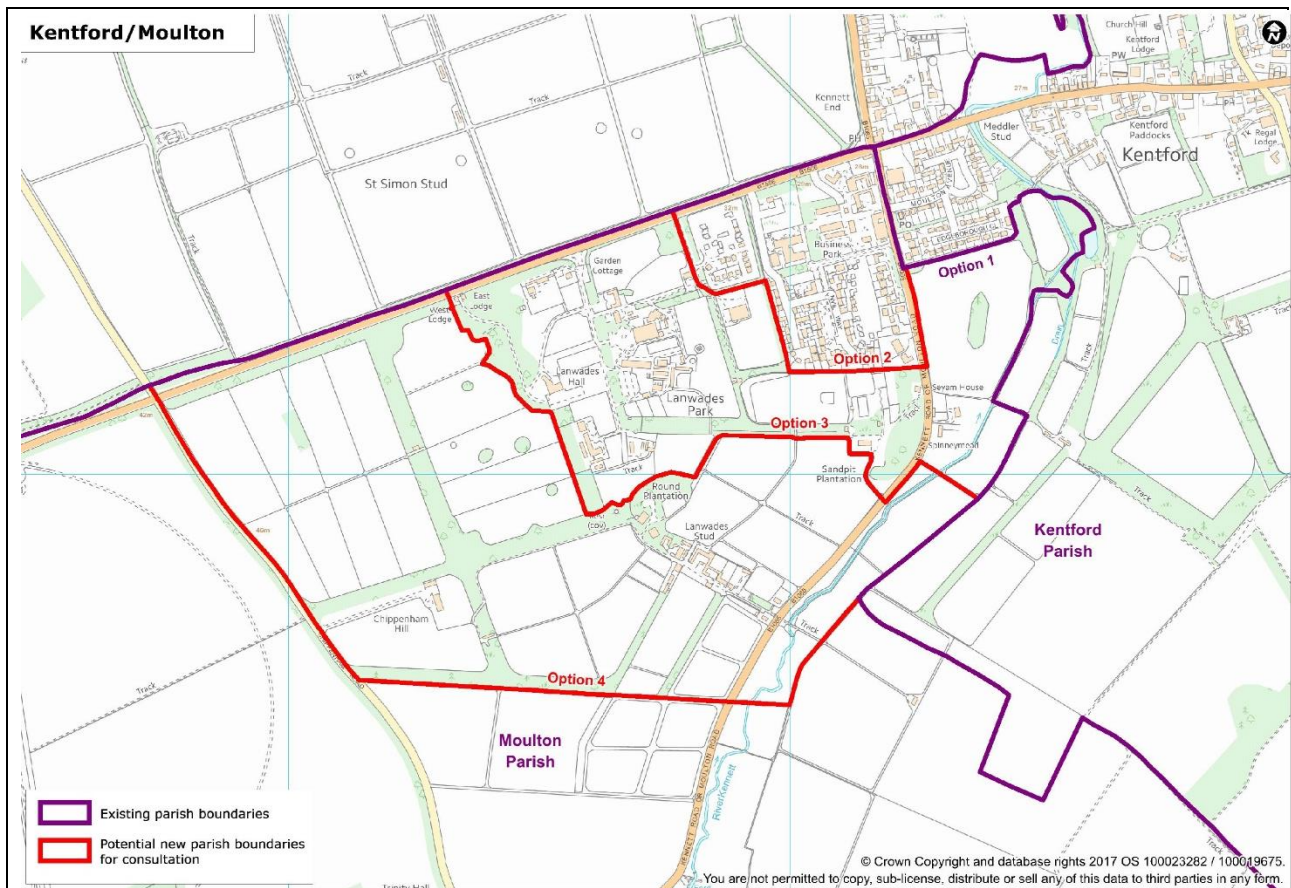
Parish	Electorate forecast for 2022: Current boundaries	Electorate forecast for 2022: Recommended change in CGR
Moulton	1121	877
Kentford	605	849

Alternative Options

The Council can change its recommendation in the light of evidence received during the consultation. Alternatives to the recommendation *include*:

1. No change i.e. the properties remain in Moulton Parish; or
2. Alternative boundary changes which allow other properties in the vicinity to be transferred to Kentford Parish as well. When the Council considered the terms of reference of the review earlier in the year, it looked at several possible options, some of which are referred to in consultation responses (see map overleaf). However, only one of these options (option 2) was recommended for consultation, in accordance with the CGR rules. There are clearly multiple other options possible for adjusting the boundary in the vicinity.

² This estimate reflects the current assessment of the five year supply of housing land in Forest Heath which was published in November 2016 and is available on the Council's website as part of the background papers for the Local Plan consultation. This indicative estimate also reflects the current impact of USVF residents on the two electoral registers. The estimate is therefore subject to the completion of the relevant planning processes and future changes at both airbases.



Summary of Consultation

The main objective of this CGR was to resolve the parish status of the recently built properties, and there is nothing to preclude future CGRs if locally desired. Both parish councils have indicated support for a change if this is the wish of the residents. The Council's own consultation shows majority support from directly affected residents for its own recommendation (option 2) and there is therefore evidence from the consultation to justify making this particular change.

In terms of extending the Kentford boundary further into Moulton, incorporating older existing properties, there is not a consensus. Kentford Parish Council support option 3, based on their own survey. Moulton Parish Council do not support option 3 and are of the view that the additional electors who would be affected would also oppose it. The District Council has received a response from one of those electors which strongly opposes boundary change. The Council will therefore have to decide whether there is sufficient evidence to justify amending its recommendation.

Responses during Consultation

As well as writing to the two parish councils (who were encouraged to publicise the review) and to other stakeholders, the Council wrote directly to the existing electors and businesses who were directly affected by the recommendation. Electors were provided with a response form and return envelope. In addition, electors who were not affected by the recommendation, but were living in adjacent properties (as indicated by options 3 and 4 on the map above) were sent a courtesy letter to inform them the review was taking place and what the recommendation was (in case they wished to suggest alternatives).

On this basis, responses to the consultation were as follows:

A. Moulton Parish Council

The Parish Council has advised the Council as follows:

"I understand that some of the Councillors at Kentford have had a change of heart and are now supporting Option 3. I am emailing you to confirm that Moulton PC's views remain unchanged and stand as per [the Chairman's] email dated 20th Feb. We would support either Option 1 or 2, and any changes must concur with the views of the residents.

We have been approached by several in the Option 3 area who do have strong links with Moulton village and certainly they do not wish to see any change. I believe a similar view was put to [the Chairman of Kentford PC] when he visited some of these residents."

B. Kentford Parish Council

In supporting "Option 3", Kentford Parish Council has advised as follows:

"At the Parish Meeting held on Thursday 11 May I summarised and counted the return of the questionnaires sent out by the Kentford Parish Council regarding the options for the boundary change at Kentford/Moulton.

The vote was overwhelming for Option 3. This is the residents' decision as well as the Parish Council.

I do hope you will seriously take into consideration the decision and wishes of the Kentford Parish Council and the residents when deliberating the boundary change."

The Parish Council has also supplied details of its own questionnaire, the text of which was as follows (excluding map, which is the same as the one earlier in this report):

Dear Local Resident,

Kentford Parish Council have requested that the boundaries of its Parish should be reconsidered to better reflect the changing face of Kentford village, enabling the better representation for the village residents.

In response, the District Council have begun a consultation. You may well have seen their paperwork (delivered to certain parts of the village) and be planning to respond.

Kentford Parish Council would like to hear your views on the matter so we can represent your collective wishes. Ultimately, if there are any changes to boundaries, it is dependent on the views of residents. We need to submit Kentford Parish Council's opinion in early May, and, to do so, we need to understand your thoughts to direct our decision. The Council have discussed the matter at length (please see map of some potential boundary options overleaf), and in summary:

Option 1 – No change to boundaries. We believe that the present boundaries mean a large part of Kentford village would remain outside the Parish of Kentford.

Option 2 – Extending Kentford Parish to include Jeddah Way/Farrier Mews area (includes Lanwades Business Park and some residences on Moulton Road – see map). This brings all the new housing developments, which are in the village of Kentford, into the parish of Kentford. This is currently the option recommended by the District Council (as it can only consult on one option under the rules).

Option 3 – Further extending to include Lanwades Park / Animal Health Trust and additional residences on Moulton Road (see map) We recognise that houses in this area do have historic links with Moulton, but their location gives them a natural connection with the village of Kentford.

Option 4 – Further extending the boundary to include outlying properties (see map). We recognise that this area is midway between the villages and is currently much more strongly linked to Moulton.

Initially, Kentford Parish Council were comfortable with the consultation using Option 2. However, on further reflection and in balance, we are minded to support Option 3, whereby all dwellings within Kentford village will be represented by Kentford Parish Council. However, it is the views of both the residents of the affected areas and the existing Parish that are important in the decision making process and we are particularly keen to hear from you, so that the correct decision is made which reflects how you feel about community identity.

Please indicate below your preferred option, feel free to add your comments below / overleaf / via email. Although not necessary, your name & address (eg Miss B, Anvil Way) may help us gauge localised opinion:-

It is understood that the form was distributed to all villagers, as well as to those in Moulton affected by the review. The Council does not know how many of the respondents also took part in its own consultation (although some overlap is likely).

The Parish Council has indicated that 21 of 29 responses to their survey (72.4%) supported them in advocating "option 3" (see earlier map).

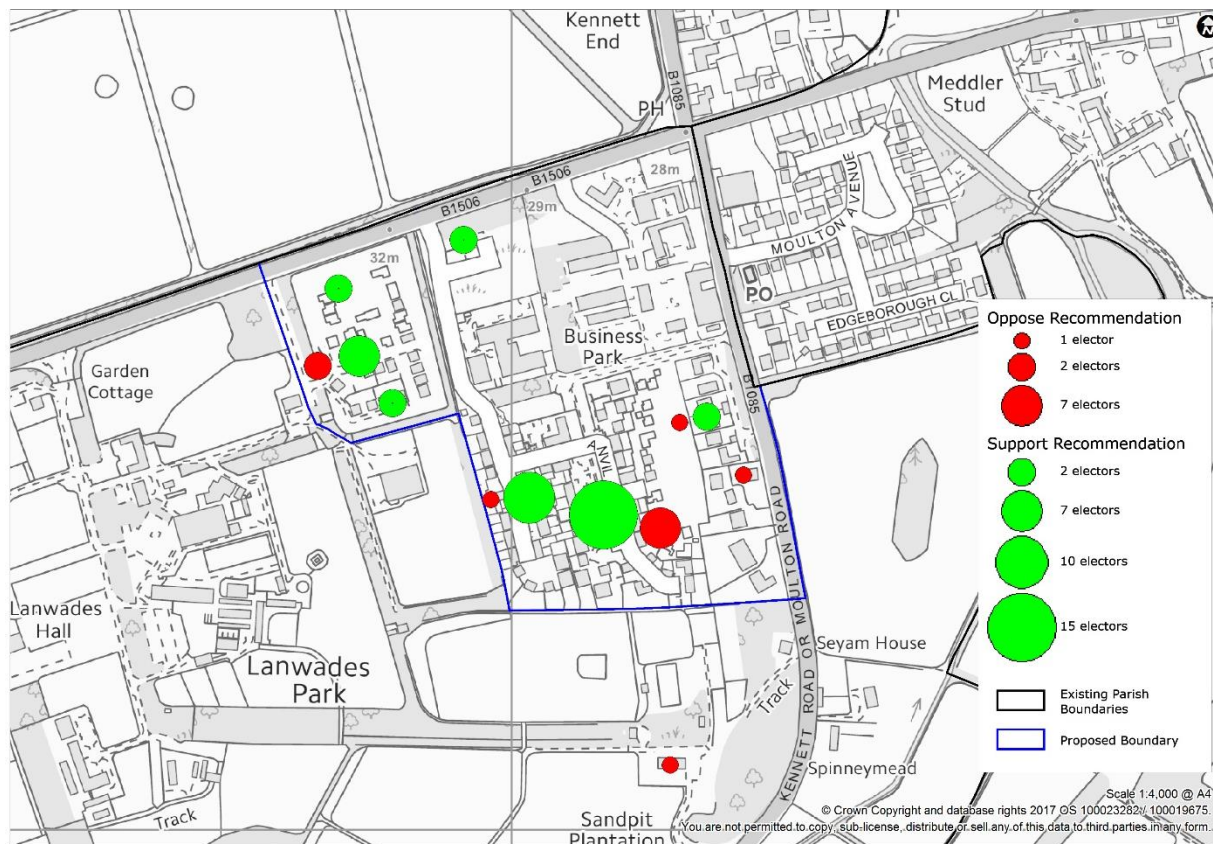
C. Local electors

Letters were sent by the Council to 190 residential properties and 44 businesses in the area covered by the original boundary options 2-4 (see map above). No businesses responded (which is not uncommon in a CGR). In this letter, a single boundary proposal (the Council's recommendation) was indicated, as per the CGR rules. However, it was made clear that other options had been considered, and how to view information on these.

The Council received responses from 53 electors to its own consultation, which represents the views of around 25% of the households directly affected by the

Council's recommended option.

The map below shows how these responses were balanced and distributed (NB the circles show the centre of a postcode, not a specific property).



40 (75.5%) respondents supported the Council's recommendation. Those that commented on their reasons, said the following:

It makes more sense for our house to be associated with Kentford than Moulton

I would also support options 3 or 4 to move the border beyond Lanwades Park as a logical decision. Additionally, the Council should consider changing our postal address from Kennett to Kentford as we are two miles from Kennett village and it would eliminate confusion from delivery drivers and visitors.

I support the principle of being part of the parish with direct paths and links to my property. However one of the considerations for living where we do was the fact that our daughter would be going to Moulton School as we live within the parish. If the boundary change will affect the chances of her obtaining a place at Moulton School then I am not in favour of the change. I also think whatever the boundary the parishes should work closely on local amenities e.g. footpaths, for the benefit of the whole area.*

[*FHDC response: This issue is raised in several responses, particularly those who opposed the recommendation. There is no evidence that CGRs affect school catchments. Specifically, the admissions policy on the website of Moulton CEVC Primary School states explicitly that: "Our catchment area covers Moulton, Gazeley, Dalham, Desningham, Higham, Needham Street, Kentford and Kennett End. We also welcome applications from those living outside the

catchment area. Suffolk Local Education Authority is responsible for admission to Moulton Primary School.”]

We believe that Farrier’s Grange should have been put in Kentford Parish Council from the start as all indicators show us to be part of Kentford and not the distant Moulton.

We have lived at this address since May 2013. We have always been confused by the parish boundaries feeling a natural and proximate relationship with the parish of Kentford. However, to vote we are required to travel to Moulton. Our nearest shop and pubs are in Kentford, the only access to Moulton is by car or bus. There is no footpath to the village we are supposed to be within. However we can easily walk to Kentford's shop and pubs.

We strongly support the recommendation as we feel part of the village of Kentford and it would be nice to have the parish boundary reflect this.

It is a logical and sensible solution.

Hopefully Kentford Parish Council would be more responsive in dealing with residents' concerns such as footpaths and unkempt areas of land on these two developments. Moulton Parish Council is no longer interested in our concerns.

When I first arrived we were or I was considered Kentford which made sense as I use Kentford roads, Kentford pub, Kentford for walks and rarely go to Moulton. Use Kentford post office. I do not have children but was told they would go to Moulton. Two years ago this all changed to paying Moulton fees which was strange as it is so far away. Bless them, Moulton people said Moulton pub was our local but how or even why you would walk to Moulton for a drink!! Let alone how dangerous the roads. Borrow a horse maybe!! I think us being part of Kentford would benefit especially in regards to the village life, village hall etc and plus our council tax would benefit a village we use rather than a village we don't use.

The Farrier’s Grange development totally lacks identity. We are divorced from and feel no sense of community with Moulton. However we are physically part of Kentford and therefore it makes perfect sense to effect the change.

As I spoke on the phone, I live in Kentford not Moulton. I stand by what I said at the meeting. Moulton had our money to finish off their hall. Great for them.

I support this because: The school on my current radius is in Moulton but no walkways are possible from Lambert Grove to Moulton. This switch would also mean having a better selection of schools for our new baby.

Larnach Drive is within walking distance of Kentford post office, the Bell Inn, The Kentford and the parish church. It is obviously part of Kentford not Moulton. When I bought this property the address was Kentford not Moulton.

Moulton is much further away from us than Kentford. We don't have a footpath to Moulton - so surely we need to be within Kentford which is the

nearest village - and where we can at home and have an identity and be involved.

13 (24.5%) respondents opposed the recommendation, although it should be noted that 4 of these 13 electors cited admission to the Moulton primary school as their main or partial reason. As explained above, the School's current admissions policy already covers Kentford as well as Moulton. Those that provided comments (some comments cover the views of more than one elector) stated:

Lanwades House stands on the crossroads at the end point of 3 villages - Kennett End, Kentford End and Moulton End. In the 19th Century Lanwades House was a farm. All land around it at Moulton End including what is now AHT was part of the farm. The farm was called Moulton End Farm. This house is the last outpost of the village of Moulton. It is Grade II Listed and of great historical significance. It must never be scooped up at a whim and placed inside a boundary purposefully made to make up the numbers. It is part of Moulton's history and has been on this site since the 16th century. We have previously objected when approached and thought this was an end to all this nonsense.

In the absence of any specific benefit I feel Moulton Parish has served us well and support matters are left as they are i.e. Alternative option 1.

I support this recommendation on the proviso that this boundary change is clearly stated and taken into consideration when all residents in the properties under consideration with current children under schooling age have to make their elections/preferences for which primary school they wish their child to go to. All residents purchased their property in the knowledge that it was in Moulton Parish Council, where most have therefore elected for their child to go to Moulton Primary School as it is in the parish. From a fairness perspective it is only fair that these residents are still considered to be in the parish of Moulton if they elect for any of their current children under school age to attend Moulton Primary School, especially as most of their older friends living in the same area will be at Moulton Primary School.

Moulton Parish Council are trying to gain funding to put a footpath onto the B1085 between our estate and Moulton School which our children along with many from the estate attend. This road is dangerously busy to walk or cycle along, something we would like to do. Moulton Parish are committed to maintaining pressure on FHDC to allocate funds to achieve this. I would prefer to maintain our connection with Moulton as a result of this.

Prefer to remain in Moulton Parish

A major factor in moving to the area was to be part of the Moulton school catchment. Thus enabling both our children to have a good chance of our preferred school. Primary school places are difficult in the areas and unfortunately the good schools are not in abundance.

I'm not sure I can agree that changes to the boundaries would reflect the identities and interests of local residents or what this actually means. I certainly can't agree that is makes for a good reason to alter existing and established boundaries. I also question the accuracy of the electorate

forecasts given for 2022. With two new large developments in the Kentford Parish (that we are already aware of) and none in the Moulton Parish. I can't see how these figures have been calculated. For these reasons I believe it would be misguided to move the Parish boundaries from their current locations.

Would love to stay as Moulton as my daughter in the school and use Moulton more than Kentford. Plus use local Moulton hall.

A resident of Kentford village wrote to the Council separately as follows:

"I would like to formally register my preference for Option 4 with regard to the Kentford/Moulton CGR. The AHT associates with Kentford and it would therefore make sense to bring the majority of the AHT site within the parish. Second preference is for Option 3. Finally Option 2. It would seem illogical to persist the current situation of developments within the village boundary 'belonging' to a different parish (namely Farriers Grange and Kings Chase)."

Options for Councillors to Consider

To assist in the conduct of the meeting, draft motions for the various options are set out below, in no order of importance/preference:

A: Adopt Recommendation ("Option 2" in the terms of reference report)

That the final recommendation for Issue 3 (Kentford/Moulton) be adopted as the outcome of this CGR, namely the boundary of Kentford Parish be extended to include properties at or in the vicinity of the 'Farrier's Grange' and 'Lambert Grove' developments, as set out in the main consultation map in Appendix A to this report.

Or

B: Amend the Recommendation ("Option 3", "Option 4" or an alternative boundary change)

That the final recommendation for Issue 3 (Kentford/Moulton), as set out in Appendix A to this report, be adopted as the outcome of this CGR subject to the following amendment: the new boundary of Kentford Parish be further extended to follow the line of "Option [*insert number*]" as set out on the map contained in Council paper COU/FH/17/006 (22 February 2017) on the basis that [*insert reason for changing recommendation*].

[NB: A revised map would also be included in the minutes of the meeting]

Or

C: Reject the Recommendation (no change or original "Option 1")

That there be no change to the current parish boundary between Kentford and Moulton parishes on the basis that [*insert reason for changing recommendation*].