

No	Area or Properties Under Review	Parishes Directly Affected	Matter covered by the final recommendation
4	Lark Grange housing development <b>This issue should be read in conjunction with issue 1 which also relates to Bury St Edmunds Town Council.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Bury St Edmunds</li> <li>•Rushbrooke with Rougham</li> </ul>	The boundary of Bury St Edmunds Parish be extended to include the Lark Grange development.

**Final recommendation**

*As resolved by St Edmundsbury Borough Council in 2016 the 2021-2022 Community Governance Review is considering the parish governance arrangements for the growth site to the east of Bury St Edmunds, which is commonly known as Lark Grange and is within the Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish area. The final recommendations are as follows:*

- (1) The external boundaries between Bury St Edmunds and Rushbrooke with Rougham Parishes be amended as shown on the map overleaf.**
- (2) The area transferred to Bury St Edmunds parish be included as part of the Bury St Edmunds (Moreton Hall) Town Ward.**
- (3) The parish warding arrangement for Rushbrooke with Rougham be removed and the number of councillors reduced to 7.**
- (4) The Local Government Boundary Commission for England be asked to amend the Moreton Hall district ward boundary so that it is coterminous with the Bury St Edmunds parish boundary.**

The reasons for the recommendation include:

1. local preference;
2. it potentially provides parish boundaries to reflect the identities and interests of local residents (current and future) and offers them more effective and convenient local government
3. it reflects, in community identity terms, the barrier created by the Rougham airfield.

Allocation of councillors

The latest estimate of electorate change relating to Lark Grange will be used to allocate town councillors to the Bury St Edmunds (Moreton Hall) Town Ward. The electorate forecast is only a guide figure and is produced using the councils 5-year housing land supply document.

Town Ward	Number of town councillors	Projected electors per Councillor in 2026
Bury St Edmunds (Moreton Hall)	3	2064

## Responses During Phase 2 Consultation

### A. Parish/Town Council

Bury St Edmunds Town Council responded to support the recommendation to extend the boundary of Bury St Edmunds Parish to include the Lark Grange development.

Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council opposed the recommendations as they wish to retain both the Parish's current identity and its current boundaries. Their response is included in full at appendix D1 and D2.

### B. District Councillor

Cllr Birgitte Mager responded to make the following comments on the recommendation:

"As the aim of the changes is to secure the long-term alignment of the characteristics of the area, point 3 and 4 does not make sense. I believe the area should all be Moreton Hall up until Sow Lane as is currently the district boundary. I.e. the Parish Council boundary should be expanded up until Sow lane.

This area is down for further development, incubator units built by the Council itself, and potentially the Airfield. We need to take a long term view that is being developed by this expanding and thriving community all using the Moreton Hall facilities (supermarkets, coffee shop, butcher and community hall."

### C. Residents Association

Moreton Hall Residents Association responded to support the inclusion of Lark Grange in the Bury St Edmunds parish area but to request that the boundary be extended to Sow Lane, which is the current Moreton Hall District Ward boundary. Their response is included in full at appendix D3.

### D. Local resident

48 local residents responded to the consultation. Of those residents 43 responded to support the recommendation and five responded that did not agree with the recommendation.

The following comments were made by those local residents that supported the recommendation:

"I feel part of the Moreton Hall community."

"Makes more sense that we are included in the proposed zoning as it fits with the rest of Moreton Hall"

"There is no affiliation with Rougham parish, Lark Grange is attached to moreton hall and Bury st Edmunds. It makes no sense either commercial or geographical to stay under Rougham Parish"

"Due to the location of the development all local amenities i use are in bury st edmunds. My children will go to the schools in walking distance, which are all in morton hall and the title of the house puts us in bury st edmunds. Once finished we will also represent part of an

uninterrupted residential area with a large space between us and rougham. It makes far more sense for us to be part of bury st edmunds and morton hall. "

"Taylor Wimpey were as shocked as us when we moved in and found this came under Rougham and not Moreton Hall. In my experience residents do not associate themselves with Rougham, which as a place is nowhere near Lark Grange and people associate with Moreton Hall, who's facilities, schools, amenities we love and enjoy. Lark Grange is seamless with Moreton Hall aesthetically and geographically. Time to sort this out by amending the boundary."

"We feel like we are part of Moreton Hall estate - it is housing development which has been extended from the current MH estate and not part of Rougham village which is located a lot further away."

"because I would like the new development of Lark Grange to be included in the Moreton Hall ward given that it is adjacent to it and concerns and decisions around the Moreton Hall will apply to Lark Grange too."

"Very simply, Lark Grange is part of Moreton Hall, not Rushbrooke with Rougham."

"I have lived in Lark Grange only 4 1/2 months but already I have intergrated into the BSE community and feel very much part of it - as was my intention when I chose BSE to be my new home. At no time have I felt an affiliation to Rushbrooke with Rougham, the only impact of Rougham airfield being negative. The rapefields play havoc with my allergies and the buzz of the planes are an irritant!"

"As resident of Lark Grange we feel alienated from the parish of Rougham with Rushbrooke who show little to no consideration for housing near moreton hall and cannot effectively represent our interests, instead focused on their 'traditional' areas of concern."

"As far as we are concerned Lark Grange is part of Bury St Edmunds it is a continuanie of the Moreton Hall developments. The proposal supports this and indeed provides a parish boundary that reflects the identities and interests of local people. Geographically it would recognise the barrier created by the Rougham airfield. It is our preference."

"Our address is already Bury St Edmunds. We believe it is better for our estate to be part of Bury rather than splitting the whole of "Lark Grange". What would be the point of being on the outskirts of Rougham and be disjointed from the parish. All of our facilities are local to Bury and would all be better to be a part of. We are already part of the community here."

"The area concerned is much more connected to Moreton Hall and Bury than it is Rougham. The Lark Grange estate is an extension of Moreton Hall."

"We feel it reflects what we already feel, which is that Lark Grange is part of Moreton Hall and Bury St Edmunds and so we support the recommendations"

The following comments were made by those that did not agree with the recommendation:

"I support Lark Grange houses and Sybil Andrews School becoming part of a Bury Town Council. I do not support the re drawing of the Moreton Hall Ward on West Suffolk District Boundary to coincide with The revised parish boundary. It does not make sense and the

Town Council boundary should be the same as the existing West Suffolk Boundary incorporating Suffolk Business Park and Rougham industrial Estate. The proposal Does not in my view follow LGBCE guidelines as there is no connection between Moreton Hall and Rougham and Rougham Village Centre is 3 miles away to the south of the A14"

"I would prefer the boundaries remain the same. I oppose this endless house building and I oppose the government policies which are encouraging the population growth that fuels it (i.e mass immigration, second homes, foreign buyers & the destruction of the family). My hope is that the presence of a huge suburban area in what was once a rural parish might encourage others to resist greedy developers and their government allies in the future."

"I think Bury is becoming too large and it would be better for these to remain in Rougham"

"I would support these recommendations, if as resolved by St Edmundsbury borough council recommendation 1 is dependent on the majority of residents of Lark Grange agreeing that they wish to move from Rougham Parish to Bury St Edmunds.

i.e. The Bury St Edmunds parish boundary be amended to include the Lark Grange housing development if that is supported by a majority of the residents."

"I agree with the proposal if this is the wish of the residents of Lark Grange, However I ask it to be noted. During the time I was Chairman of Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council and before the creation of West Suffolk District Council, St Edmundsbury Borough Council with agreement with the Parish Council resolved that when more than 50% of the housing being built be Taylor Wimpey at Lark Grange was occupied that there would be a referendum of the residents to ascertain whether Lark Grange would remain within the Parish of Rushbrooke with Rougham or become part of Bury St Edmunds. I understand that the residents are being asked this question. However, as I am no longer involved with the Parish Council I have no knowledge of how the question has been framed and what representations, to the residents, are being made by Bury St Edmunds/Moreton Hall and the Parish Council.If the residents of Lark Grange decide that it is their best interest to be subsumed into Bury St Edmunds then this view should be accepted, however reluctantly. One of the main arguments that has been heard over the years from Moreton Hall councillors is that the residents of Lark Grange will look to the local facilities of Moreton Hall, whilst this maybe true currently however when the Flying Fortress is reopened and the shopping precinct built then the Moreton Hall residents in what was previously Rougham will look towards Rougham for local facilities. It should be noted also that Sybil Andrews Academy and the Sports Hall are both currently within the Parish. The proposal that is also being put forward is that in the event that Lark Grange does decide to move into Bury St Edmunds then the District Council ward boundary should be redrawn to cover Lark Grange only and not the area up to Sow Lane as currently. This larger area includes Rougham Airfield, Rougham Industrial Estate i.e. areas strongly identifiable with Rougham and not Bury St Edmunds. I would strongly oppose any further incursion into the Parish as at no stage have the residents of this larger area been formally canvassed recently whether they want to change council. When the District Council boundaries were being considered every resident within that area petitioned to stay within the Parish – these results were sent to the Boundary Commission which were, along with a supporting legal opinion, ignored by the said Commission. In conclusion therefore, as the chairman of the Parish Council when the deal with St Edmundsbury was struck and as a resident of Rougham I would support the decision made by the residents of Lark Grange and whichever way that decision goes then the District Council ward boundary should be redrawn accordingly."

**Note of any changes to the draft recommendation approved by Council in March 2022.**

The Task and Finish Group considered the consultation responses received and concluded that there appeared to be no justifiable reason or evidence to support the making of any further changes than that already proposed in the draft recommendations. It was therefore agreed that no change be made to the draft recommendations as consulted on.

