

Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Mrs P M Lamb
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Bury St Edmunds
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BY EMAIL

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Dear Sirs

Community Governance Review: Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council Community Governance Review

Having considered the above, this Parish Council believes that the CGR should result in parish arrangements, which;

- (a) reflect the identity and interest of the community in this area,
- (b) are effective and convenient for the delivery of services,
- (c) provide for a strong, inclusive community; and
- (d) reflect a sense of place

Identity

Rushbrooke with Rougham is - by land area - one of the two largest Parishes in West Suffolk. The Parish, which incorporates the villages of Blackthorpe, Newthorpe, Rougham and Rushbrooke, is basically a rural community extending SE from Moreton Hall to the boundary of Mid-Suffolk. The Parish has three churches, a four-star country hotel, a public house, various B&Bs, a village shop and post office, a sports hall and playing fields, the Rougham Airfield and 28 miles of road. The Parish also includes the Rougham Industrial Estate to the north of the A14.

Both Rougham and Rushbrooke villages are mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1085.

A recent survey of the Parish had included the question 'What is the most important thing to you about the Parish and why do you like living here?' The overwhelming response was that it is quiet, in an attractive rural location whilst being very close to Bury St Edmunds and main roads.

Effective and convenient for the delivery of services

The villages have good bus services to Bury St Edmunds and the surrounding area, with villagers using the service to get to the West Suffolk Hospital, food shopping, places of work and the town centre. With the construction of cycleways from Rougham Industrial Estate along Rougham Tower Ave, access to Bury St Edmunds town centre by bicycle has improved access and safety. With the addition of the A14 underpass to access the Moreton Hall Industrial Estate and the new cycle/walkway running parallel to the A14 to Rougham Hill, access to Bury St Edmunds is now so much easier.

Provide for a strong, inclusive community; and reflect a sense of place

Rougham enjoys the luxury of a village shop, Post Office and Public House, which, over the years, have disappeared from surrounding villages. The Sports Hall is a hub of community activities from bootcamp, Pilates, Zumba, Table Tennis and Badminton to Woodturning, Women's Institute, Youth Group and Parish Council meetings. These activities are enjoyed by many villagers and people from communities in the local area and utilised seven days a week.

To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year, groups and committees, the Parish Council and the Bennet Arms Public House have come together to plan and hold events over the period to include such events as the Lighting of the Beacon, a Jubilee Walk and the Big Jubilee Lunch.

The above examples provide evidence that Rushbrooke with Rougham is a vibrant and active community. Over the years St Edmundsbury Town Council has encroached, and eroded Rougham, by building on 'Green Field' sites adjacent to Moreton Hall; namely 'Lark Grange'. With a deal having been completed to pave the way for multi-million-pound units for new businesses to boost jobs and skills in Bury St Edmunds, West Suffolk Council has bought approximately 6.9 acres of land at Zone 3 of Suffolk Business Park, adjacent to junction 45 of the A14, from the Churchmanor Estates Company Ltd, which come within the boundaries of Rougham.

The Churchmanor Estates Co Ltd also recently submitted a planning application for a new McDonalds and a coffee shop on Suffolk Business Park; the first phase of a leisure quarter on the 57 acre park.

West Suffolk Council has also, in April, released a long-term planning map, which shows further erosion of Rougham 'Green Field' areas (including Rougham Airfield) to allocations for Mixed Use, Employment and Residential.

Rushbrooke with Rougham Parish Council wishes to retain both the Parish's current identity and its current boundaries.

Also attached to this email are relevant extracts from the previous CGR.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries regarding the abovementioned, or the attachments.

Yours faithfully
RUSHBROOKE WITH ROUGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

P M Lamb

P M LAMB (Mrs)
Parish Clerk and Legal Officer