

**HASLINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
QUALITY COUNCIL**

David
Lord

Chairman
John Wheelhouse
Elizabeth Cottage
1 The Knapp
Haslingfield
CB23 1JH

Ad 20/2/13

Clerk
Janet Hendy
Highfield Farm
16 School Lne
Haslingfield
CB23 1JL

Mrs Jean Hunter
Chief Executive Officer
SCDC
Cambourne Hall
Cambourne
Cambridge CB23 6EA

13th February 2013

Dear Mrs Hunter

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW TRUMPINGTON MEADOWS

You will be aware that our Parish Council has been in discussion with your planning officers on the subject of governance of that part of Haslingfield Parish lying within the boundary of Trumpington Meadows.

A public meeting was held last autumn to judge the feeling within the existing village parishioners. The majority present urged the Parish Council to take whatever action was necessary to divorce the village from the new development. Naturally, a comprehensive formal survey will be required at some stage but your officers advised that one carried out by SCDC would suffice.

At the council meeting in October 2012, it was resolved in principle to prepare an application to SCDC for a Community Governance Review subject to clarification that the specific reasons were consistent with the guidance issued by the Local Boundary Commission for England.

At the council meeting on 11 February 2013, the Parish Council approved the wording of this letter and its submission.

In preparing this application, our guiding principle has been how best to serve the residents of both the village and the new development. It is clear to us that there are fundamental differences between the two communities that are identified as follows:

1. Residents of the new Trumpington Meadows development will have precisely the same interests and needs whether they live within the City or South Cambridgeshire areas. Although legally living within different administrative areas, they are in practice both within the same urban context. The original intention of a land swap with Cambridge City would have cemented the unity of the whole development and rendered this application unnecessary.
2. The current boundary of Haslingfield was created in 1934 when most of the parish of Trumpington was incorporated into the City. 382 acres of virtually uninhabited land were transferred to Haslingfield Parish. This was predominantly rural land created around an existing settlement and the character of our village continues to be rural. The arrangements for community support, education and transport are completely different. The creation of the Trumpington Meadows development straddling the boundary between two authorities has resulted in an anomalous situation which needs attention. Consideration should be given to moving our boundary back to its original line in the centre of the Cam.
3. According to the approved Trumpington Meadows Master Plan, there are estimated to be 600 homes and a primary school within the existing parish boundary. This number would nearly double the number currently within the village and require considerable changes in administration to the detriment of the community.
4. The differences in the two communities are emphasised by the distance between them. It seems incredible to centre governance 4.3 miles away from the development at Trumpington; with all the resultant costs involved. Particularly as the footpath & cycle path links are limited.
5. The creation of a new parish within SCDC would have sufficient population to be efficient and sustainable on its own and allow it to work jointly with residents who live within the rest of Trumpington.

Arrangements can be made to establish a shadow parish now to settle boundaries and be available for consultation without requiring to consider the opinion of Haslingfield village residents. Creation now will facilitate the earliest possible input from new residents as they begin to move in to Trumpington and encourage community cohesion.

Haslingfield Parish Council would be happy to provide representation on a reducing scale as new residents appear over time. This assumes that an un-reversible decision has been made by SCDC to create a permanent new parish as soon as appropriate.

We look forward to hearing that you will carry out a Community Governance Review and look forward to discussing proposed terms of reference, timing, procedure and formal consultation arrangements.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Wheelhouse', written in a cursive style.

John Wheelhouse

Chairman,

Haslingfield Parish Council