

# WALDRINGFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Jean Potter, 21A Claverton Way, Rushmere St Andrew,  
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Our Ref: IK/JEP/10/04

17 January 2010

Unitary Structures Team,  
Dept. of Communities and Local Government,  
Zone 3/J1,  
Bressenden Place,  
London,  
SW1E 5DU

Dear Secretary of State,

## **AMENDED BOUNDARY COMMITTEE REVIEW CONSULTATION FOR SUFFOLK**

Following a meeting of our Parish Council on Tuesday 12 Jan 2010, we set out the view of Waldringfield Parish Council as follows:

Waldringfield is an attractive rural village with strong agricultural and sailing connections, and is situated in an AONB and RAMSAR international wetland site. It has little in common with Ipswich or Felixstowe. In contrast, Waldringfield has many natural ties with Woodbridge, which has historically been the centre for our services (library, healthcare, sports facilities, etc.), shares a rural ambience and is also on the River Deben. Consequently Waldringfield does not want to be included in an Ipswich/Felixstowe Unitary Authority, which would inevitably have an urban outlook and would be unlikely to share the rural concerns of the people of Waldringfield.

### Considering the options, in order of preference:

Waldringfield's preferred option is to maintain the status quo. We see no need for a unitary authority – the current County/District model works reasonably well and has the advantage that decision making is closer to the people affected than would be the case with a unitary authority. The transition would cause great disruption and expense, and we do not believe that the financial savings would be any greater than could be achieved by improving the efficiency of the current two-tier structure.

If, despite this, you decide to go for a unitary authority, we would endorse the Boundary Commission's preferred option of a One-Suffolk Unitary Authority. Although rather large and including several urban areas, a Suffolk-wide authority would still share the rural outlook of villages such as Waldringfield.

We are opposed to the Ipswich/Felixstowe (North Haven) + the Rest of Suffolk option, but if this is chosen, we would reluctantly support it if the boundaries were re-drawn to place Waldringfield (and its neighbouring villages) in the 'Rest of Suffolk' authority. It seems that the way the boundaries are currently drawn is arbitrary and takes no account of the nature of the communities. Waldringfield (and other villages on the Colneis peninsular such as Newbourne, Brightwell, Kirton and Bucklesham) are only lumped into the Ipswich/Felixstowe area because 'something has to join Ipswich with Felixstowe'. Why? Is it not possible to have them geographically separated with nothing in between? Or possibly with a very narrow connecting strip along the A14?

We are also opposed to the original IBC 'Greater Ipswich' option, which has previously been rejected and we can see no reason to change that decision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jean Potter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Jean Potter (Mrs) AIAB  
Parish Clerk to Waldringfield Parish Council