

EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM 3 (a)
23 February 2011	PUBLIC REPORT

Contact Officer(s):	Helen Edwards, Solicitor to the Council Sally Crawford, Community Governance Manager	Tel: 01733 452539 Tel: 01733 452339
---------------------	---	--

PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NAME OF FLETTON WARD TO FLETTON & WOODSTON WARD

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S
FROM: SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL
<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Considers the outcome of the consultation on proposals to change the name of Fletton ward to Fletton & Woodston and passes a resolution either to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Change the name of Fletton Ward to Fletton & Woodston; or (b) Retain the current name of Fletton Ward 2. Authorises the Solicitor to the Council to settle any administrative matters in accordance with this report and give Notice to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England should the resolution agree to change the name of Fletton ward.

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 Fletton ward councillors were approached by residents to change the name of Fletton Ward to Fletton & Woodston Ward to more accurately reflect the geographical area of the ward.
- 1.2 Under Section 59 of the Local Government & Housing Act 2007, a local authority may change the name of any of its electoral areas. If the area's name is protected, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) must first agree to the proposed change.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 On 1 April 2010 the responsibility for ward names transferred from the Electoral Commission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE).
- 2.2 The LGBCE has advised that the ward name for Fletton is protected firstly due to the Peterborough (Parish Electoral Arrangements and Electoral Changes) Order 2007 S.I. 2007/325, which altered twelve ward boundaries in Peterborough, and secondly, the required period of 5 years has not lapsed since the making of the order.

- 2.3 The resolution to change the name of an electoral area must be passed at a meeting which is specially convened for the purpose of deciding the resolution with notice of the object and by a majority of at least two thirds of the meeting.
- 2.4 The local Authority must not pass the resolution unless it has taken reasonable steps to consult such persons it considers appropriate on the proposed name.
- 2.5 The change of name does not take effect until the LGBCE has been given notice of the change.
- 2.6 This report is submitted to Council following completion of the consultation process. Council cannot pass a resolution to agree to change the name of the ward unless consent has been given by the LGBCE.
- 2.7 Consent to change the name of the ward has been requested from the LGCBE following completion of consultation with appropriate persons.
- 2.8 At the time of writing this report a response has not yet been received from the LGBCE. However, it is anticipated that a response will be received by the time of this meeting to enable Council to pass a resolution.

3. **TIMESCALE**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
---	-----------

4. **CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Consultation with appropriate persons in Fletton ward started on 1 November 2010 and ended on 7 January 2011 using the following methods:
 - ❖ A press release was sent to local media and an article placed in ‘Your Peterborough’, a magazine published by Peterborough City Council and delivered to all properties in the city;
 - ❖ a postcard was delivered to all households with freepost facility for residents to return views. A summary of responses received is attached at **Appendix A** to this report;
 - ❖ an item was presented to the Fletton, Stanground & Woodston Neighbourhood Council meeting held at a venue in the community giving local residents the opportunity to attend and present their views. The draft minute is attached at **Appendix B** to this report; and
 - ❖ Posters detailing proposals were sent to local community centres and residents’ associations.

5. **RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 There are 5,276 households in Fletton ward, in total, 345 (6.54%) responses were received to the consultation either by return of postcards or e-mail. 246 (4.66%) were in favour of changing the name, 92 (1.74%) against. 7 responses could not be taken into consideration as names and addresses had not been included or the response was not clear.

- 5.2 Two petitions in favour of the proposal to change the name were also received. One contained 41 signatures, 15 of which had also expressed their support via postcard. The second petition contained 15 signatures, 6 of these had also expressed their support via postcard.
- 5.3 Residents and representatives of local community groups attending the Fletton, Stanground and Woodston Neighbourhood Council meeting of 21 December were supportive of the proposal.

6. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 The Council must follow the legal process to change the name of its electoral areas and pass a resolution to make its decision.

7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 7.1 There are no alternative options to consider in order to change the name of an electoral area as the council must act in accordance with legislation.

8. IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 If agreed the name of the electoral area of Fletton will change to Fletton & Woodston.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)
Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM CONSULTATION.

In favour of the proposal:

- I have no objection to the change of name of the Fletton Ward.
- I can't help feeling that this is a waste of money - given the economic climate the council must have better things to spend its money on!
- It is clearly a more accurate name for the ward, but it seems a frivolous waste of taxpayers' money during such tough economic times.
- Agreed to change.
- I am in favour of the proposed change of name so that it more accurately represents the area that it covers. However I would like also to comment on the proposed change to the name of the Stanground Central Ward to Stanground and Fletton East Ward. In my opinion this change has not been fully thought through because surely this will simply lead to confusion for the residents of the Stanground and Fletton regarding which Wards they reside in. It therefore appears that the whole exercise will end with more confusion than there already is.
- Why are you wasting thousands of pounds asking me when my answer is irrelevant? Just get on with it, make a decision and use the money & time more wisely.
- During the 1930 and over the years we was always known as Old Fletton.
- Please revert to Fletton ward and drop the name of Stanground Central. Stanground is east. I always used in Fletton ward that what it should be.
- Yes, I am in favour of changing the name of Fletton ward to Fletton & Woodston ward to reflect geographical area of the ward.
- What happened to New Fletton, Old Fletton, Woodston. The post office changed then not the council.
- I am in favour of the name change. The name of a ward should reflect that ward. However, in these times of financial constraint I believe that we should not be spending out money on trivial cosmetic issues such as this.
- I think it's a good idea to change the name from Fletton ward to Fletton and Woodston ward as I have always been led to believe that the name of Woodston dates back to an Anglo Saxon settlement of that name. And therefore makes sense to include the name within that ward name.
- The name of the ward isn't a big deal. Caring for the people within the ward is of the highest importance
- I am in favour of changing the name of the ward to encompass woodston and Fletton.
- When publishing "Your Peterborough" a map defining ward boundaries would be helpful.
- Woodston - Named in early Saxon period. Named in the Domesday Survey St. Augustine's Church Woodston (Not Fletton)! Woodston is an important area to those who live in it.
- I have lived in Fletton ward previously 125 High St. Fletton 13 years and my present house 15 years in total 28 years this change of name is well overdue and reflects the fact that Woodston is part of this ward this is the right way forward.
- Change Woodston to what it was! Woodstone please. Also, at what cost to rate payers? Also will it make our road better? ie pot holes, rough patches.
- I have always used Woodston in my address, thank you.
- As long as the councillors do their job.

- New name clearly reflects geographical area covered & will help clarify things easily.
- Changing the name makes sense as it identifies the electoral area more succinctly.
- For many years I have wondered why "Woodston" did not qualify for mention.
- Please, wanted it for years.
- What about - Fletton, Woodston & Riverside?
- I am in favour of ward change.
- I never knew whether I lived Fletton or Woodston.
- As well as re-naming the ward can this area of Woodston ie. Celta Road, Belsize Ave etc, be considered for an improved bus service, please. At present time the only Bus Serving this area is the No. 46 (Huntingdon) which is hourly but at certain times during the day this service becomes 1 1/2 hours between buses. A Local link bus would be helpful.
- Just sounds more common sense to change it.
- Yes to the re-name of the Fletton ward to Fletton & Woodston ward.
- Could you tell us why this is happening. Thank you.
- In Queens Walk we have Fletton Towers & Woodston Library? Lets solve the issue! Founder of the Common Sense (Political) Party.
- I have always said it is Woodston anyway when I am asked my address.
- Having lived in the area for nigh sixty years I have always considered it to be known as Woodston and not Fletton hence my tick 7-12-10.
- As Fletton & Woodston join either side of London Road it would be best they join in being one ward. I have lived in Fletton 30 years+ and often thought it should join with Woodston in Electoral purposes.
- Two polling stations as this is a big area covering two parishes.
- I think this is a great idea, Woodston should be included in it.
- Makes complete sense. Though I'm surprised this card has come out to ask about it!
- Maybe to Woodston-Fletton.
- It has always been Woodston to me!
- It would be great for Woodston to finally be recognised.
- If some action is taken to make it work. The chaotic parking in High Street can and should be sorted once and for all. Please apply some logic and common sense. Diverting the London/Peterborough traffic from the A15 (more chaos) is choking Fletton.

In total, 345 consultees who responded were in favour of the proposal.

Against the proposal:

- Woodston & Fletton has a bad reputation and this is a nice estate. It should be called the Sugar Estate being historical or Valley Park Estate. Valley Park Estate due to NVR shopping area.
- I am NOT in favour of changing the name of Fletton ward to Fletton & Woodston ward to reflect the geographical area of the ward.
- The cost of implementation surely cannot be justified in the current financial climate! This seems to be no more than a "PC" exercise! Put the proposal "On Hold" until more affordable/better "Financial" days/times!!
- May I point out that there is no "Fletton" ward now! As since 1905 the name of this ward has been "Old Fletton". Therefore the name of this ward must be Old Fletton & Woodston ward.

- Fletton has a unique history in its own right: Clay Bricks, early importation of Italians to take hot bricks from the kilns - it was a unique addition to Peterborough's history. Do not denigrate its place in our history. I don't live in Fletton!
- I think this proposal is a crass waste of money in these financially difficult times. Are the Ortons to be changed to reflect the Longueville, Waterville, Brimbles etc etc??? Let's keep the name as it is, and save further expenditure just to satisfy someone's whim!
- From what bottomless pit of money does the expenses of this exercise come - and at what benefit do residents gain?
- I think it is best left as it has always been. With the number of new houses being built it would be too big to manage successfully, if combined.
- Do not understand reason?
- The proposal seems purely an idea of councillors. There seems to be no advantages in this proposal.
- There is no justification for this change, unless it could save thousands of pounds in administrative expenditure.
- Why are you wasting money on this petty issue?!
- I am not in favour as the change is likely to incur unnecessary expenditure for no material benefit to local residents.
- Perception is everything. Woodston does not have the same reputation as Fletton.
- I find this change absolutely unnecessary - they are two completely different areas and Fletton is closer to the town centre. I suggest we drop Fletton and this area should just be named as Peterborough. This may affect the value of our properties in this area, therefore we like to keep it as it is.
- Leave well alone. This will only make problems, if it ain't broke don't fix it is the old adage.
- I have lived in Fletton for 57 years and would like to keep the name the same thank you.
- Why can't you stop messing about with things. Change are not always best. I would like to use stronger word but I am a gentleman.
- Have you seen the state of Woodston lately?!
- As a resident of Glebe Road, Fletton, I would like to inform you that I am AGAINST the proposed ward name change, my reasons for this are I believe that each area of Peterborough has its own identity and I wish for Fletton as an area to keep its own.
- Why should it be changed after all this time. Its utter nonsense. If it ain't broke don't fix it. Stop interfering - Leave it as it is.
- There is very little attention at improvements made in Woodston and haven't been for years. The promises by previous councillors have never been implemented. If the proposed integration goes ahead I don't think Woodston will benefit.
- I have just managed to convince the water board that we live in Grove St not Bread St don't confuse them anymore.
- How much money is going to be wasted by combining the two names.
- I fail to see the logic of the boundaries and that half of Fletton High Street is a part of the Stanground Ward. I strongly suggest that when the 5 year period is up the boundaries should be re-visited and Fletton should be should not be divided between other wards. Fletton as part of Stanground is most confusing not only for the residents but also for the Council – the 1st card delivered to my house stated my house was included in the Fletton & Woodston Ward, and following my email below I received a 2nd card the very next day without explanation but advising I was part of the Stanground Ward which is correct but most unsatisfactory indeed. We have 3 councillors not one of which resides in Fletton – all 3 live in Stanground and I very much feel that my end of Fletton High Street is

forgotten in favour of Stanground. It's not the name that is an issue – it's most definitely the boundary.

- Not required. No possible advantage.
- Fletton should keep its own separate identity, separate from other areas, particularly in light of the fact that it is expanding in areas such as Cityscape etc.
- At a time when Councils are supposed to be saving money this idea would incur a lot of expense - and not popular with people who have lived here a long time!
- I doubt you will listen to my opinion as you moved the bus stop next to my house and put double yellow lines on my front so none of my family and friends can park there to visit me.
- Given the financial state of the country just leave such matters alone until another day.
- I like Fletton because it's opposite Fletton School.
- What a waste of taxpayers' money!
- The name of a brand or any institution costs too much money - re stationery etc. In the recession - don't do it.
- Why change what has always been.
- In this time of financial stringency, if you have money to waste, just reduce my council tax bill - not this!!
- Fletton has been named for years and should stay as Fletton and not joined with
- It is totally pointless. Waste of public money. We are Woodston and will remain so regardless of any decision made by the council.
- Fletton ward is a more straightforward name. I have lived here for 11 years and 9 months and would still always put just Fletton on my post.
- I see no purpose in changing the ward title, it has been Fletton for a number of years. So let us not have change for change sake.
- There would be a loss of identify for local communities. I have spoken to several neighbours, we live in Fletton not Woodston.
- Why change? We prefer it to be Fletton as it has always been for years & years.
- My address and postcode position me in the Fletton ward. In the present political doings of cut backs and prudent spending, why spend money?
- I have lived in Fletton since 1949. In the recession I would drop a project like this and save the money to a better cause like reducing the council tax?
- Why spend money on a satisfactory state of ward name? The ward will be too big to handle easily if combined with another.
- It is what it is already.
- Why waste money to make change that have worked well for many years? You have wasted enough on the fountains no-one wanted - still not working.
- In the current finical climate it does not seem appropriate to spend time and resources on the name of a ward. Living on the Sugar Way estate the proposed new name has no more resonance than the original name and I would therefore not see any point in making the change.
- Why change the names of the ward, they have been separate for as many years as I have known, and it will cost money? Which is a waste to me.
- Just want to be the same, I live in Fletton for 40 years.
- This gives me the impression of change for no good reason and lack of historical respect and another financial drain on the council tax payer.
- I live in Fletton not Woodston.

In total, 92 consultees who responded were against the proposal.

DRAFT MINUTES
Of a meeting of the
FLETTON, STANGROUND AND WOODSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD
COUNCIL
(Area South 1)
Held on Tuesday 21 December 2010 at 7.00 pm
At The Fleet, Fletton, Peterborough

ITEM 7

<p>7. Ward Name Change proposals</p>	<p>The chairman advised there would be a change in the agenda order so Ward Name Change proposals would be considered next.</p> <p>Sally Crawford addressed the meeting advising the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Earlier this year Councillors were approached by residents to change name of wards to reflect geographical areas;• Have to apply to boundary commission for permission for Council to approve if no significant objections;• Would like views tonight of this meeting. <p>Comments, questions, responses included:</p> <p>Chris York – considering the budget cuts, why and who chose names? Sally Crawford – residents approached ward councillors who approached Council.</p> <p>Cllr Rush – was Stanground and Stanground South but parts of Fletton included in Stanground Central so some Fletton residents wanted this change.</p> <p>Cllr Lee – also Woodston residents expressed interest in this as always referred to as Fletton Ward e.g. the Local List for important buildings was issued and all referred to Fletton, not to Woodston.</p> <p>Cllr Walsh – also some people did not vote as felt not reflected or included by ward names and hope this encourages more voting.</p> <p>Chris York – cost? Sally Crawford – minimal cost, only the consultation; printing of cards and responses which were delivered for free so no significant costs.</p> <p>Audrey Chalmers – It will only be electoral wards that change, not boundaries and won't affect postal addresses as some say Woodston but should be Old Fletton. Sally Crawford - no proposal to change the boundaries yet, only the name.</p> <p>Fletton resident – consider myself nothing to do with Stanground Central but</p>
--------------------------------------	--

always included in Stanground Central issues. Cllr Walsh – an example of why it should have the name change to better clarify for residents who the local ward councillors are and what issues affect their area.

Cllr Lee – need to clarify the boundaries as they have become blurred. Over next 10 years looking to address this with Boundary Commission but cannot be done yet. Look to historic boundaries for this.

Peter Slinger – changing name is right step forward at the moment.

Chair – agrees that the neighbourhood council is generally supportive of the proposed name change.

This page is intentionally left blank