

<b>EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM 3 (b)</b>
<b>23 February 2011</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Contact Officer(s):	Helen Edwards, Solicitor to the Council Sally Crawford, Community Governance Manager	Tel: 01733 452539 Tel: 01733 452339
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**PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NAME OF STANGROUND CENTRAL WARD TO STANGROUND & FLETTON EAST WARD**

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
<b>FROM: SOLICITOR TO THE COUNCIL</b>
<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Considers the outcome of the consultation on proposals to change the name of Stanground ward to Stanground &amp; Fletton East and passes a resolution either to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Change the name of Stanground Ward to Stanground &amp; Fletton East Ward; or</li> <li>(b) Retain the current name of Stanground Ward.</li> </ol> </li> <li>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 Stanground Central ward.</li> </ol>

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

- 1.1 Stanground Central ward councillors were approached by residents to change the name of Stanground Central Ward to Stanground and Fletton East 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?	<b>NO</b>
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### 4. **CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Consultation with appropriate persons in Stanground Central 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 4,069 houses in Stanground Central ward, in total, 180 responses were received to the consultation either by return of postcards or by e-mail (4.42%). Of these 74 (1.82%) were in favour and 97 (2.38%) were against. 9 responses could not be taken into consideration as names and addresses had not been included or the response was not clear.

5.2 Residents and representatives of local community groups attending the Neighbourhood Council meeting 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 in order 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 Stanground Central will change to Stanground & Fletton East.

## **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:

- Good idea.
- What a waste of taxpayers' money!!! How much has this pointless exercise cost in terms of police or nurse hours???
- Sorry for your first letter I think I have misplaced.
- Yes to Fletton only. I have lived at 147 for 51 years and as far as I am concerned this is Fletton not Stanground, so my answer is Fletton only.
- Yes to Fletton. Drop the name of Stanground and revert to the name of Fletton ward. Stanground is to the East of the load.
- Get rid of Stagecoach and bring in a company that can do the job!
- The change of name is very appropriate, and is perfectly okay. I have no qualms about the change of name to Stanground & Fletton East ward.
- You have been elected to administer Peterborough's resources. Just do it and do not waste my council tax on totally pointless trivia.
- I want to vote at Fleet Complex as better.
- With reservations - I am in favour of the change if it means we can vote for a Peterborough M.P. I consider Stanground to be part of Peterborough but at the last general election I had to vote for North Cambs M.P. This is not fair.
- I see no problems with Stanground joining Fletton East - I assume it will all add to efficiencies?

In total, 74 consultees who responded were in favour of the proposal.

Against the proposal:

- I have lived in Stanground for over forty years and that is how it is. Stanground is Stanground and Fletton is Fletton. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.
- In this time of cuts & job losses here the council are wasting more money. Please use my money more usefully!
- In these times of economy what benefit will a name change provide?
- I think that Peterborough City Council need to look at the cost of making a change of name in the hard time we are going through.
- Any change costs money which could be better spent elsewhere ie community cares for the elderly.
- A waste of time & money!
- Have lived in Old Fletton for many years and would like to stay that. Thank you.
- At a time when local council is so poorly funded this is a waste of time and money.
- Last week you wanted to join us with Woodston, now this week Stanground. Why keep wasting money. If you have some to spend try & sort out the noisy Bridge Joint on parkway please.
- Why does Fletton have to be linked to Stanground? Can it not be a separate ward? AGAINST.
- Extra cost of printing new name, extra ink used in longer name cost of change to printed matter having new longer name. Increase in carbon footprint the name change will incur.
- Nothing to be gained.

- I do not know the implications of this change - benefits or disadvantages.
- Lived in Stanground 45 years no reason to change the ward. Save the expense.
- No because any brand name change involves extra costs ie stationery etc. Redesigning of logos and charges cost a great deal of money.
- With regard to the proposed name change of Stanground Central to Stanground and Fletton East, I would like to say that I personally am NOT in favour of any name change, simply due to the age old rule of 'if it aint broke, don't fix it!' I also believe that your democratic approach (of asking the people of Stanground for their views) is as ALL democracy is in this country - simply for show. I've every belief that you will change the name of my ward regardless of public opinion, but will insist that you're responding to majority vote. For starters, you have failed to give ANY reason for your desire to change the name of my ward, but I cannot think of any reason why such a name change would be beneficial to yourselves or the community. So why change it?
- In view of the financial crisis all over the country at the present, I would have thought that a matter of this importance would have been the last thing the council should be contemplating at this time.
- I see no logical reason to change name of ward other than a change of.....
- I wish to tick box no. I do not want the name of Stanground Central Ward to be changed to Stanground & Fletton East. Stanground is a village and it has a very strong sense of identity. In no way would the residents of Stanground village wish to have their identity confused by adding Fletton East into the description of their ward.
- Change causes confusion. Name too long and complicated.
- Why change something that has worked for many years.
- I do not think sufficient explanation has been given for the proposed name change to the very cumbersome one of Stanground and Fletton East. Why is it proposed to link Fletton with Stanground after all these years? How does this reflect the geographical area? What is the advantage? If a name change is to be considered, why cannot the old part of Stanground be called just that? Old Stanground. I suspect it may be that it is politically advantageous to someone. So my vote is an emphatic NO but I suspect it will make no difference.
- Why change for change sake? With all budget cuts how much is this going to cost us poor rate payers!??
- Leave well alone. Stanground is Stanground.
- It all right as it has been for as long as I can remember.
- I was born in Stanground and I have lived here all my life, in my opinion no good ever cam in changing names for no good reason. Look what happened to places like Rutland and all the problems they had.
- No need for this change.

In total, 97 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"><li>• Earlier this year Councillors were approached by residents to change name of wards to reflect geographical areas;</li><li>• Have to apply to boundary commission for permission for Council to approve if no significant objections;</li><li>• Would like views tonight of this meeting.</li></ul> <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>
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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.

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