

Boundary commission (BC) review of the number of ward councillors at NNC

[Local Government Boundary Commission for England Consultation Portal \(lgbce.org.uk\)](https://lgbce.org.uk)

(This was notified by email on 29th November)

The current number of ward councillors is being reduced by 8 to 70 with effect from the 2025 elections

There is an open consultation at present about how the electorate should be divided up. It cannot look at how parishes are defined.

The decision that each ward councillor should be responsible for 4038 members of the electorate has been made by government and cannot be changed. There is 10% tolerance on this. The BC has been given current electoral numbers and a prediction of numbers at 2028 and this is the number they are working on. (It begs the question: why aren't people under 18 included – do they not need to be represented?)

The BC has not yet made any decision or declared any suggestions of how they think the wards should be created. They are asking for public views before they show their hand.

The 2028 predictions are:

Hargrave 195
Stanwick 1648
Raunds Saxon 4403
Raunds Windmill 3797
Totalling 10043 or 2.5 ward councillors

The BC wants to know why a ward should be comprised a certain way.

Suggested reasons that Hargrave Stanwick & Raunds should stay as one area:

- Historically there is a link between these 3 settlements and they share a vicar
- Geographically Hargrave is on the very edge of the county and there isn't a natural alternative area to join.
- Raunds is a service centre for Stanwick and Hargrave offering schooling and medical services
- Moving Hargrave to Higham Ferrers would have a negligible effect on the over all numbers & Stanwick residents do not have a natural affinity to Higham Ferrers

It could be suggested that Ringstead is brought in to the grouping. Their predicted electorate is 1313. This would total 11356 and be 94% of the 3 ward councillor 'allowance' of 12114. Ringstead does have links with the existing 3 parishes in that they are part of the 4 Spires Benefice and share a vicar. Children of Ringstead would attend schools in Raunds and medical services are provided in Raunds. Ringstead is categorised as a 'large freestanding village' as is Stanwick in the Local Plan part 2, thereby sharing characteristics and therefore have similar needs and issues. Ringstead is described as having 'a close functional relationship with a nearby urban area' [Raunds] in para 4.16 of the Local Plan part 2

Or councillors can suggest reasons why Stanwick should be moved to another ward.

Note: The Parish Council made a representation against the proposed changes to the parliamentary boundaries and the BC did change their recommendations.