

# 2017/18 Community Governance Review



Working with you, working for you

# South Norfolk Community Governance Review 2017 - 2018

- A review of all of the parishes in the South Norfolk district;
- to ensure that community governance for the district continues to be effective and convenient;
- and reflects the identities and interests of the community.

A Review can improve community engagement, build more cohesive communities, create better local democracy and more effective and convenient delivery of local services

# Why undertake a Review now?

Government guidance states that it is good practice to conduct a full Community Governance Review every 10 to 15 years. The last full Community Governance Review in South Norfolk was undertaken in 2002.

# What kind of Review has to be done?

Reviews have to take into account guidance issued under S.100(4) of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 by the Secretary of State and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in March 2010.

# From the current Government guidance:

*“A community governance review offers an opportunity to put in place strong, clearly defined boundaries, tied to firm ground features, and remove the many anomalous parish boundaries that exist in England.*

*Reviews also offer the chance to principal councils to consider the future of what may have become redundant or moribund parishes, often the result of an insufficient number of local electors within the area who are willing to serve on a parish council.”*

# The Terms of Reference

Section 81 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 requires the Council to publish a Terms of Reference document for a Community Governance Review.

This sets out:

- How the review will be conducted
- Expected timescales
- What the review will focus on
- What the key considerations should be

# The review will consider

- **Parish areas** – creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes
- The **naming of parishes** and the style of new parishes
- The **electoral arrangements for parishes** (the ordinary year of elections; council size, the number of councillors to be elected to the council, and parish warding)
- **Grouping parishes** under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes
- **Consequential matters** – e.g. the effect on existing parishes; dealing with parish assets; resolving issues relating to employees of existing parishes; setting a precept for a new Council; setting a date for the next elections and subsequent electoral cycles.

# Review Timetable (maximum duration of 12 months)

Action	Timetable	Outline of Action
Terms of Reference (TOR) are published	20 March 2017	District Council publishes TOR and notifies stakeholders, clearly defining extent of CGR
Introductory stage – submissions are invited	Three month period until 12 June 2017	District Council invites proposals from stakeholders on future arrangements under TOR
Draft proposals are prepared	7 August 2017	Draft proposals to be considered by Council's EARC by TBC
Draft proposals are published	31 August 2017	District Council publishes Draft proposals and notifies stakeholders
Consultation	Two month period until 27 October 2017	Consultation with stakeholders
Final Proposals are prepared	12 January 2018	Results of consultation considered and Final Proposals prepared
Final Recommendations are published and decision by Council	February 2018	The Council's EARC meet to consider Final Recommendations and decide on the extent to which the Council will give effect to them.
Council publishes the reorganisation order	Thereafter	District Council publishes a reorganisation order and requests the electoral Commission to approve any consequential changes.

# Consultation

Before making any recommendations or publishing final proposals, South Norfolk Council will take full account of the views of local people.

It must:

- Consult local government electors for the areas under review.
- Consult any other person or body (including a local authority), which appears to the District Council to have an interest in the Review.
- Notify and consult with the County Council.
- Take into account any representations received.

Information will be on the South Norfolk Council website, in the Council "Link" magazine, and at South Norfolk Council offices. The Council will also contact all parish councils, community or resident groups (that it is aware of) Norfolk County Council, and District or County Councillors and Members of Parliament.



# South Norfolk parishes – facts and figures

- As at 31 December 2015, there were 10,449 parishes in England, containing approximately 42% of the population (ONS).
- There are 119 parishes in South Norfolk and there are no unparished areas.
- South Norfolk parishes vary widely in size and population.
- All parishes have some form of local governance.
- Some parishes have parish councils and some have parish meetings. Some parish councils are joint parish councils.

# Joint Parish Councils

- Alpington with Yelverton
- Barford with Wrampingham
- Burgh St Peter with Wheatacre
- East Carleton with Ketteringham
- Hales with Heckingham
- Kirby Cane with Ellingham
- Rockland St Mary with Hellington
- Tivetshall St Margaret and Tivetshall St Mary

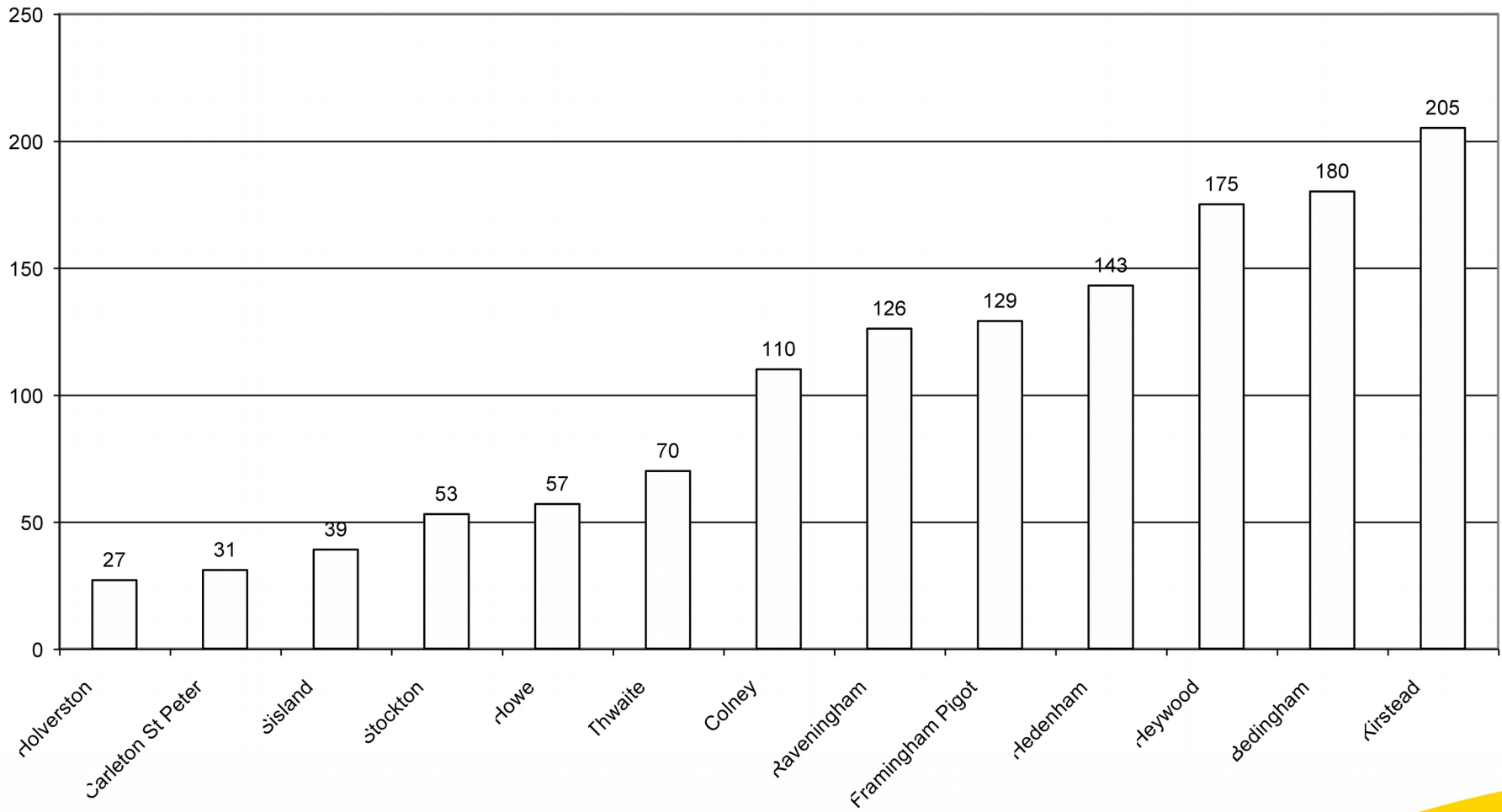
Parish Councils such as Ashwellthorpe and Fundenhall are classed as one parish Council not a joint Parish Council.

# Parish Meetings

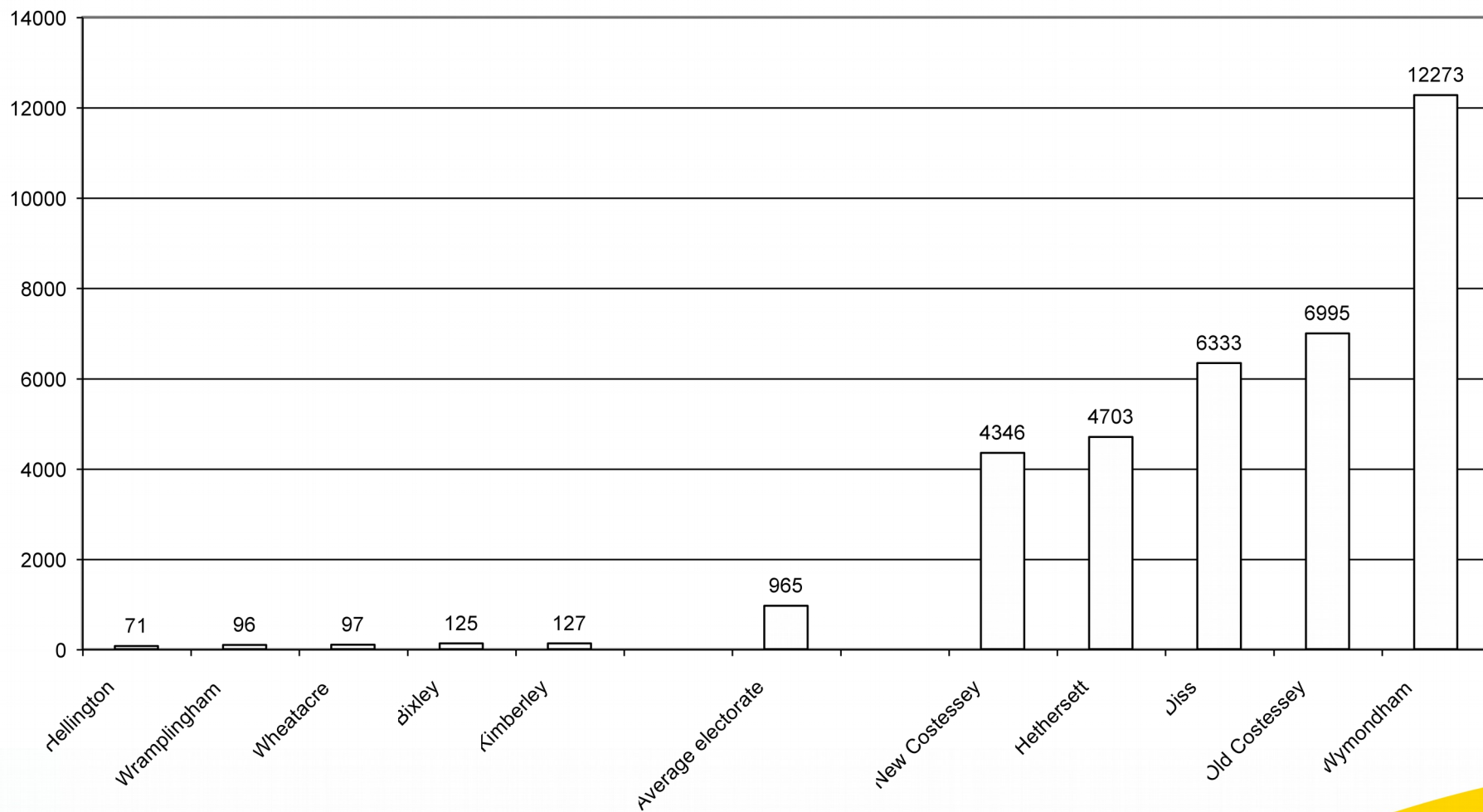
- Colney
- Framingham Pigot
- Thwaite
- Bedingham
- Carleton St Peter
- Hedenham
- Heywood

- Holverston
- Howe
- Kirstead
- Raveningham
- Sisland
- Stockton

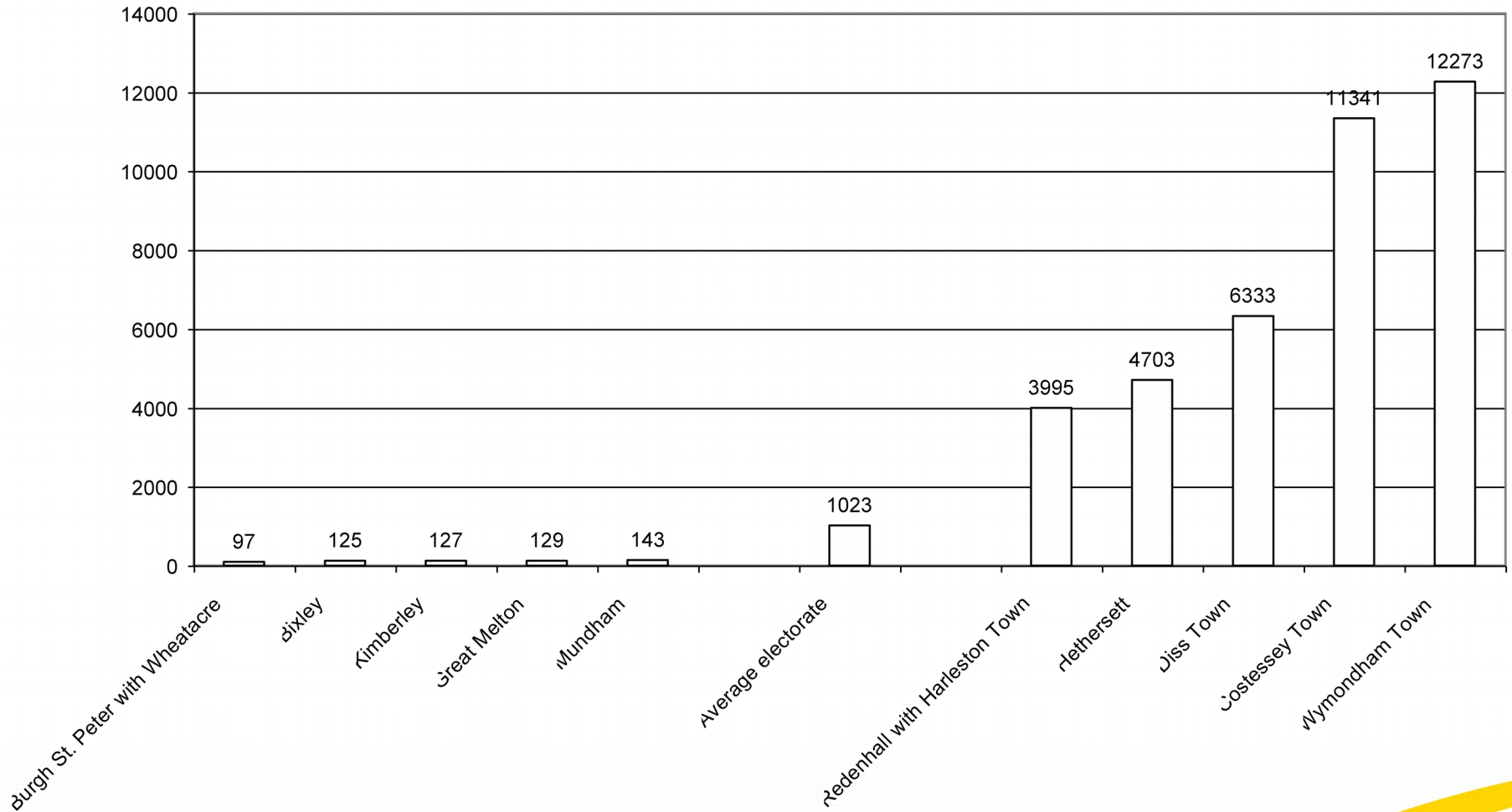
Parishes with parish meetings (by current electorate)



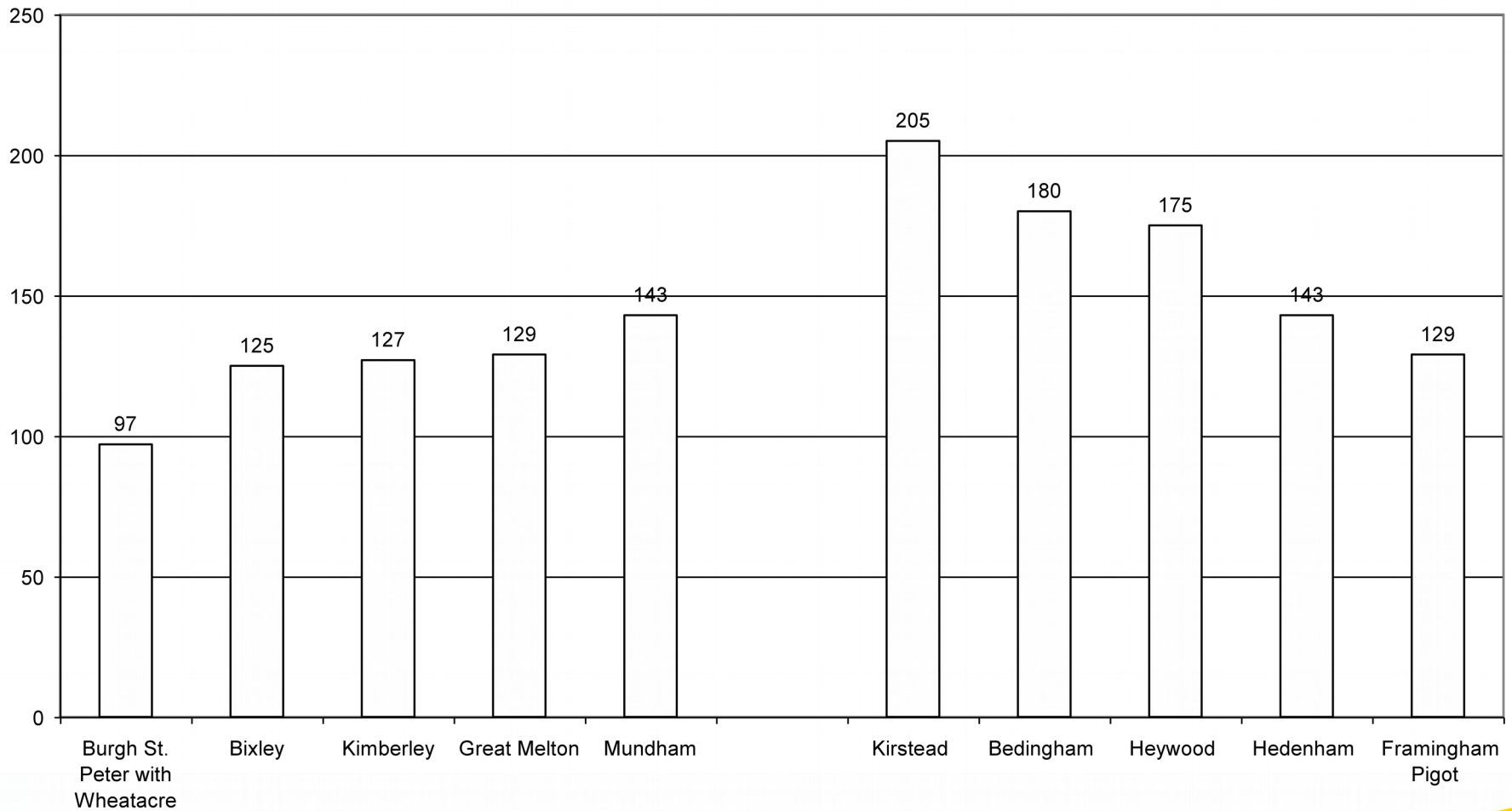
**Five smallest and five largest parishes with parish councils (by current electorate)**



Five smallest to five largest parish councils (by current electorate)



Five smallest parish councils and five largest parish meetings (by current electorate)





# Parish Council elections May 2015

- 101,063 electors and 666 parish council nominations
- 151 electors to every potential candidate





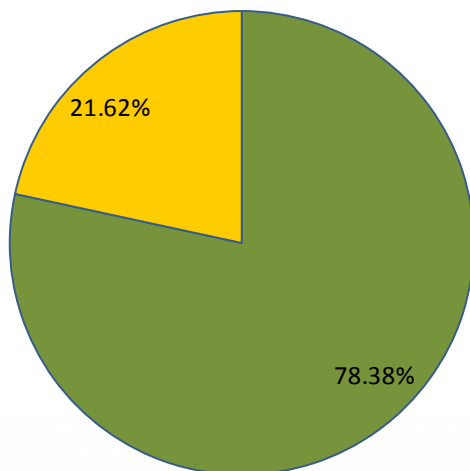
# The number of candidates standing at Parish Elections:

2011 – 769 vacant seats – 693 valid nominations received

2015 - 769 vacant seats – 666 valid nominations received

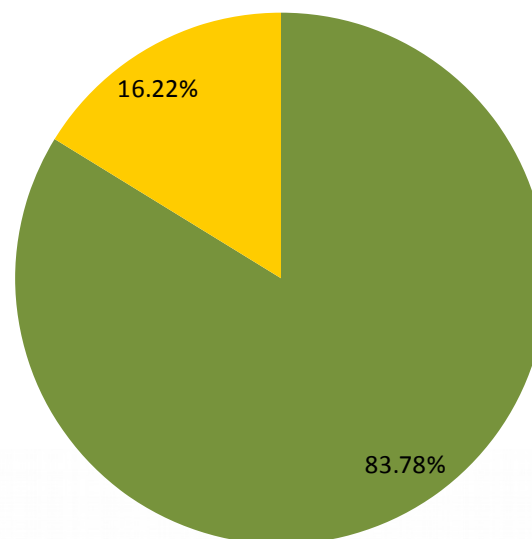
■ Uncontested

■ Contested



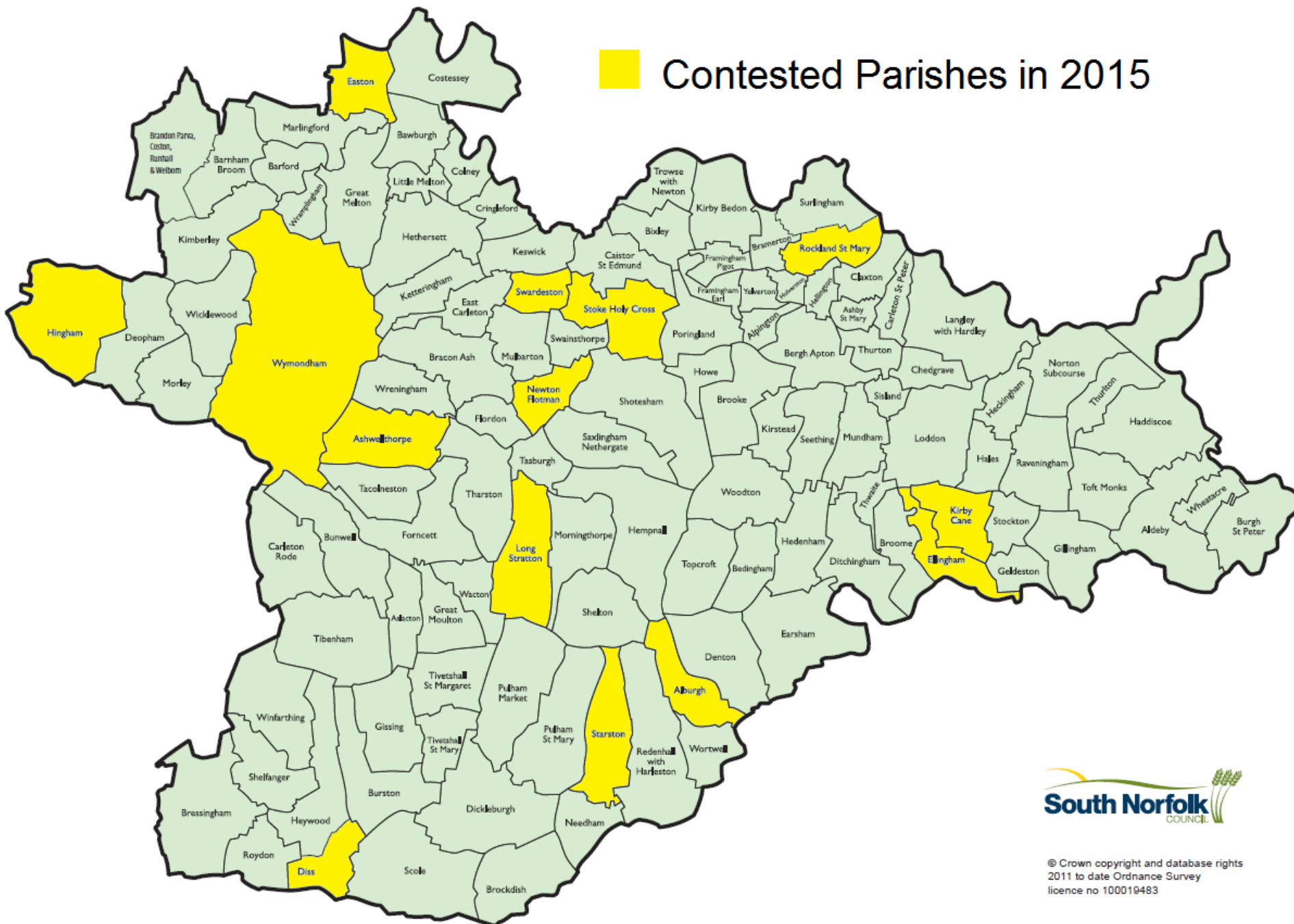
■ Uncontested

■ Contested





# Contested Parishes in 2015







# Some considerations

- ▮ What reflects your parish identity?
- ▮ What are the interests of your community?
- ▮ Are your arrangements effective and convenient?
- ▮ Does your parish have “*strong, clearly defined boundaries, tied to firm ground features*”?

# Number of Parish Councillors

(from Government guidance)

Electors	Councillors	Electors	Councillors
Up to 900	7	10,400	17
1,400	8	11,900	18
2,000	9	13,500	19
2,700	10	15,200	20
3,500	11	17,000	21
4,400	12	18,900	22
5,400	13	20,900	23
6,500	14	23,000	24
7,700	15	45,000	25
9,000	16		

# Any Questions?