

Clerk's Report – Holkham Parish Council – 11 November 2025

I regret that there isn't much to tell you at present. As far as local government reorganisation goes, you have probably read everything that you need to in various newspapers, magazines etc. But just in case: The government asked all the various Councils to say what form they would like to see in the future, bearing in mind that all current Councils will eventually be abolished. They then said that there should eventually be either one, two, or three larger Councils. They were hoping for agreement, however, this hasn't happened.

Norfolk County Council believes that one Council should fulfil all functions. South Norfolk DC believes that there should be two larger Councils, based on the East and West of the County

All the other Councils – both Districts and Boroughs believe that there should be three “super-councils” based on East and West plus Norwich with expanded boundaries.

There are two opposing arguments here. The larger the eventual Council is, theoretically the cheaper it will be for Council-Tax payers. This is NCC's argument. But opposing this is the idea that the “three Council plan” will provide better representation. You can imagine that it is unlikely that you would be seeing much of Councillors if they represent any larger areas than at present. And the larger the area that each Councillor has to represent, the less likely it is that their “constituents” will be familiar with them. The result will of course be that at the polling booth we will be voting for political parties rather than people – even more than we do already!

The above is all about Norfolk. But, as you will know, there is also the question of a future link with Suffolk. The government is talking about electing a future Mayor (of a combined Norfolk and Suffolk) next May, which seems much too early to me, they haven't even decided where the Mayor should be based. Suffolk people will not want Norwich, and Norfolk people will not want Ipswich. My vote would be for Bury St Edmunds!

Keith 3/11/2025