

My name is [REDACTED] I am a resident of Aylesby Park and for the last 60 years I have lived exclusively on the Willows estate, Wybers Wood, Great Coates and Aylesby Park. My Mother and Father purchased one of the first houses on Wybers and grew up here.

I have raised [REDACTED] daughters of my own. Both attended Great Coates Nursery, Wybers Wood Infants and Junior schools, and both still live on the ward, one working at the school to date.

I recall the days of Wybers having a community centre, of my children playing at the parks and on the school field, of them making life-long friends from across this very ward.

When I first read the plans to disband the Freshney Ward I was in total disbelief. Whilst I understand our council voted to remove one ward, and there will always be some upset, why us?

A few reasons I value the ward?

- 1) Its geography. When I lived in Great Coates, I would walk through the black path to the Willows to use the post office and shops, and chemist there. A lot of my family live there and we would walk there most days. I would catch the old 16 bus from the Willows and as my children grew, as teens, they did the same. Since living on Wybers and Aylesby Park, my children have walked to school. This isn't a ward that has been slung together, it's a natural fit. The ward is split by one road, Great Coates Road. On the far side of the road is Aylesby Park, Wybers Wood and, Great Coates Church, St Nicholas. On the other side is Great Coates, bordering the Willows. That road has a crossing and 2 bus stops, it's a central focal point, not a division. Its awash with flowers by our In Bloom Gold Great Coates folk, our church sits on that road, my grandparents are buried in that church and it serves our whole community- my own 2 children were christened there- why? Because its in OUR community. The houses on Ferndown in Great Coates back onto the Willows, with their fences on Cromwell Road. The factories there are where many of the residents work. My own mum used to work in the KP factory as she would cycle to work. Its because we all love our community so much we barely need to leave it. Its our ward.
- 2) Schools: Great Coates school is actually situated on the willows. Great Coates nursery is full of children from the ward who then, as my children did, go on to other schools in the ward and solidify relationships and very few people who live here in this ward, move out, we stay as the links are so strong.
- 3) Transport – there is no bus link from the willows to the west marsh- why on earth has this even been proposed as a decent fit? Its senseless. The bus I catch goes through wybers wood and then onto the willows then into the town centre. It's a lifeline. Our roads are so safe we can walk around the ward, we have a pelican crossing outside of Wybers school for children walking home to the Willows. These schools rely on this community for their intake.
- 4) Community links- I genuinely think that our ward has one of the strongest and most embedded communities in town. I typed in the three distinct areas into a search and I attach just a snap shot of things that came up- walking groups, Christmas events, the war memorial Remembrance service, services, community events, summer fetes; you name it and its happening on our ward. The Parish council does a tremendous job in Great Coates of organising events and they're attended by people from OUR ward. I
- 5) Gerrymandering- I have never taken much interest in local politics. When this came up I decided for the first time, to attend a Full Council meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> October, 24. It is well known that we as a ward have 3 Independent councillors and what a tremendous job they do. Last year, NELC announced plans to close Great Coates Nursey School without basis. Our councillors fought long and hard to stop this, exposing council lies and a totally flawed

consultation. This resulted in an independent review and the council having to back track and keep the school open. This is believe is the reward for our councillors, to try and oust the by removing a ward they have worked so hard to represent. They have opened the eyes of local people as to how these things work and they should be commented for it. I also read the report that was online and it did not appear to meet your criteria. On the 30<sup>th</sup> was appalled at what I saw! I will give my view on it below:

- a) The council asked its councillors to vote to agree for the CEO to write the report that you see, after the event- how is that democratic? Councillor Shepherd stated that Boundary commission was consulting with the public, so they didn't need to? Is that correct? Surely their response should be informed by the public and not them.
- b) The working group met just 3 times and the last time it met, it saw the proposal for Freshney and had just one hour to choose. The vote was yes-Conservatives and Liberal Democrats- no- everyone else.
- c) It was not a majority decision

The statement made by the Independent Group Leader: *Council is expected to vote to remove a ward for which no reasoning has been provided. This falls way short of the standard that we should be working to. The Boundary Review Working Group report has been produced and circulated and shared with the Boundary Commission without members of the working group being given any opportunity to comment on the report prior to its release. This is not acceptable, and only adds weight to impression that what we are seeing is a fait accompli. Freshney Ward Councillors have reached out to community groups and known community leaders. Without exception, there is complete opposition to what is proposed and members have heard the statement from Great Coates Village Council. Most residents appear to agree with us; that there is no logical reason for this and the clear inference is that this no less than political gerrymandering. Narrow party-political interests are being put before the best interests of residents. This is not just restricted to the abolition of Freshney Ward. This option 1 retains the village of Stallingborough within the Immingham Ward, when it actually sits more naturally in the enlarged Wolds Ward. A cynic might suggest that this is purely driven by the wish to improve Conservative candidates' chance of success in the Immingham Ward in the 2026 local elections. This will no doubt also be brought to the attention of the Boundary Commission. Mr Mayor, the Independent Group are working on a very detailed response to the Boundary Commission consultation using the best of our professional experience and expertise that puts the interests of communities first and foremost. We will not be part of a party-political charade. The residents of this Borough deserve better than this, much better. Other members must do as they see fit, but the Independent Group will no longer be associated with this course of action which is clearly not fit for purpose. From now on, we will work closely with residents and deal directly with the Boundary Commission.*

- d) The council leader clearly misled the public – he said  
“We can demonstrate many links across North East Lincolnshire. I could talk about the links between my ward in Waltham and New Waltham for example and Humberston, you know all kinds of interactions, and Scartho in my case. Because, you know, North East Lincolnshire does have a lot of different communities its very community spirited, there are lots of links so I don't think in that respect the different parts of the Freshney are necessarily any different to any other parts of North East Lincolnshire. But can I just say why I think that to my mind Freshney Ward is 3 distinct communities. And I will just remind members that the current Freshney ward was a 2003 construct at the last boundary review, bringing together

all sorts of other district wards as they existed before. There's 3 distinct areas of Freshney Ward. There's Wybers Wood and Aylesby Park which clearly there's a lot of links there. They're relatively new, built in the 60s, 70s and 80s, same type of housing generally all owner occupied, very similar communities, those 2 estates linked as one. We've got the Willows, geographically quite distant from Wybers Wood and Aylesby Park for example. And then we've got Great Coates which is very much a village community, again geographically quite a long way from Wybers Wood, Aylesby Park and the Willows estate and it even has its own parish council so it's a very different type of community. My experience of going out and canvassing in Freshney Ward over the years is that there are 3 very distinct communities here and they are divided by physical boundaries which the boundary commission does think is important like main roads for example and quite a geographical physical distance and so I think there's a good argument for dismantling that actual ward. It's a shame the independents have left the meeting tonight and aren't taking part in the debate but I will say one thing about their allegation of Gerrymandering, if this was Gerrymandering not only would we be dismantling the Freshney Ward, we would also be dismantling Yarborough ward as well and we are not proposing to do this so this is part of their ongoing conspiracy theories, there is no gerrymandering going on here it's just looking at the ward as it stands, the one which that appears the most appropriate to my mind as one which needs, could be, divided into 3 and I will be supporting the proposal and I have said in my view why Freshney is the ward we should be dismantling to get a credible submission to the boundary commission"

I am unsure of the leaders geography but this is not at all true, it's lies, misleading and is dangerous. Great Coates and the willows merge into one another, they're not apart? They are diverse yes but unified indeed, what does he know? He did not ask us!

Other comments of note that I have recorded are:

*"People need to feel they are well represented and using the word "dismantled" is not ok. "We know how the vote is going to go" "One of the councillors opposite said as long as you leave Park Ward alone I'd have vote for it (an amendment) as a group we are united in disbelief at the self serving proposal" "it needs to be evidenced based and what we have discussed is the evidence, will of the boundary commission has not been presented to us to allow us to make a decision and it's as simple as that" – Councillor Clough, Labour*  
*"This is pre determined, you don't have to debate or say anything, why don't you stand up and have a chat and discussion, what do you really feel? Do you really agree with it? Start doing what you should be doing" Councillor Shutt, Labour,*

*"The option to remove the Freshney seemed the most appropriate" – Lindley, member of the working group, Conservative*

*"My reason is voting for Freshney is it's a jigsaw and you start at the edges, its 3 separate areas...its easy. I see the division" Councillor Emerson. Liberal Democrat*

*"the word community is mentioned once in the report, once" "I can not support this pathetic attempt" Councillor Kazmarazch, Labour*

*"I do not support this report and I want to ensure any report the boundary commission receives makes it clear that this was not a unanimous decision and some councillors fely so incensed at the debate they actually left the meeting. We are seeing in this report a mess*

*that's not even a subtle attempt at gerrymandering, NEL has strong communities across the borough but new communities are forming and this is a review of the next 20 years plus I therefore encourage residents to put their own views forwards as I have no faith in this one and want nothing to do with this report I am thankful this is the first part of the consultation."* – **Councillor Wheatley, Labour group leader.**

*"The ward may not have the identity of our older wards. Great Coates is still regarded as avillage in its own right therefore a merge with the wolds will honour this and strengthen its community tie. Relocating the willows with the West Marsh has the river flowing through both"* **Councillor Aisthorpe, Liberal Democrat**

- e) The Independents refused to take part in the vote as it was clearly aimed at removing them and not aimed at the people of the ward. They knew it was a pre determined outcome.
  
- 6) The Local Plan- we all now know the plans to build 3500 homes in our ward, the Yarborough Ward and the Wolds Ward over the life of the local plan. This unwelcomed development will bring a new town and mass development. Whilst it grows those houses will have to be placed in a ward that makes sense. The numbers NELC have shared do not seem to have taken this into account, whilst planning has not been submitted its well known that these plans are well developed. Is the council omitting information to suits its own agenda?

When thinking of alterative, I am naturally drawn to the suggestion of Immingham. It's a standalone town seeing development. Stallingborough is not local to it, not next to it, not a part of it. Children there likely attend Healing school in the Wolds, or its own primary. If the commission needs a starting point that seems a good one.

Attachments: I had a look online for any posts that used the words "Wybers, Willows and Great Coates" on my social media. There were years and years worth of events, groups, tangible things that benefit all 3 areas. Policing, community skills, litter picking, walks, asking for help for lost pets, all falls to this brilliant community. You will see the village council has events for all. This is real tangible evidence of the community that exists and I urge the commission to listen to the many views of those who know and live in our community and not councillors who have never visited the area.



11:47

80%



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Freshney Forward Com...



26 Sept 2023 · 🌐

**Monthly meeting  
tonight at  
Bishop King  
Centre, off  
Wingate Road,  
7pm, all  
Freshney Ward  
residents  
welcome**



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Q wybers willows grea



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## Humberside Police - North East Lincolnshire



10 Sept · 🌐

Local officers covering the area of Willows, Wybers and Great Coates, have been conducting speed enforcement today in Great Coates.  
**#FreshneyWard #inyourcommunity**



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**Great Coates Village Council**



4 Apr 2021 · 🌐

Many, many thanks to all the children (and grown ups !) who took part in the Great Coates Easter Weekend of Fun and the feedback we've received has been wonderful, so thank you - it means so much to everybody involved in organising the weekend.

Thank you also to those residents from Healing, Willows and Wybers who visited to take part.

A very special thank you to Ivy who gave Bugsey & Bugsella their very own easter gift.

Bugsey and Bugsella had a fantastic time meeting everybody and they are both in their burrows sleeping ready to deliver the prizes and easter eggs



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Wybers Wood Community



11 Sept · 🌐



Collaboratives · [Follow](#)

11 Sept · 🌐

!! 📢 !! 📢 ATTENTION !! 📢 !!  
... See more



### TASTER SESSION

Calling all residents from Great Coates & surrounding villages!

We are looking at starting a weekly Social Club for over 50's in our area on a Wednesday afternoon, come & join us for a Taste Session on...

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October, 1:00pm - 3:00pm  
(St. Michael's Church, Great Coates, Grimsby, DN34 4LF)

activities including Tai Chi, Kurling, Bingo, Quizzes and so much more!





06:06

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**Wybers Wood Community**



16 Oct · 🌐

If you have children who attend whitgift or great Coates school. Even clubs at the schools or dance school and use this public footpath please go on to the council website and object to the planning of these houses

Planning Application: DM/0806/24/FUL

Dear resident,

As Freshney ward councillors, we want to make sure you are aware of a planning application close to your home.

You may already be aware of this application on the land adjacent To 9 Ashby Close and 19 Glenfield Road as shown on the drawing below. The application is for the erection of two pairs of two storey semi-detached dwellings totalling four units and includes associated tree works, hardstanding and landscaping.



If you want to raise an objection, or to support this application, you can do so on the web address below. The closing date for neighbour consultation is Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October.

<https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-applications/planning-portal/>

After opening this web page, click on the green button 'Search planning applications'

Enter the planning application number DM/0806/24/FUL

If you want to read the documents associated to the application, click the documents tab

If you want to object or support the application, click on the comments tab and fill out the relevant information.

You can also do this by emailing [planning@nelincs.gov.uk](mailto:planning@nelincs.gov.uk) quoting DM/0806/24/FUL

Or sending a letter with the reference DM/0806/24/FUL to Development Management Services – Municipal Offices, Town Hall Square, Grimsby, North East Lincolnshire, DN31 1HU



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**Lyndsey Downes** -  
**Freshney Ward**  
**Independent**



2 Jul 2023 · 🌐

The **Freshney Comrades** have been a thing for a while now.

We each keep clean a stretch of our beautiful river and flag up any big issues

Together we have all but cracked the trolley issue in our River and today we gave each other a big pat on the back and met for a drink and some picnic grub.

Thanks [REDACTED] for being the glue that holds our community together and please tag for me all the kind companies who provided the grub!



Posts

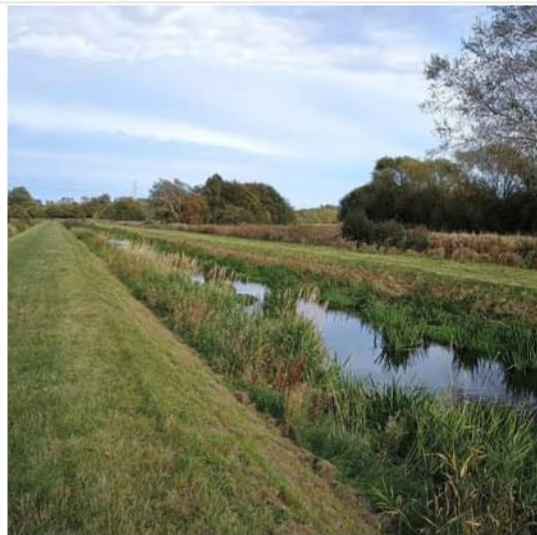
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many school commitments etc!

Today mum and I got quite a bit of litter and found some big items in the river that we have informed Jim about!! 😁

~ Comrade



29

12 comments





Posts

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Just a quick one today but managed to fill a big bag 

Found a vintage fairy liquid bottle, not sure how old but could be 70's or 80's !

Just shows how plastic doesn't go away !

Hayley 

[#litterpickinguk](#) [#riverfreshney](#)  
[#freshneycomrades](#) [#litterpicking](#)  
[#lovewhereyoulive](#) [#keepbritaintidy](#)



+8



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Freshney Comrades

6 Oct · 🌐

Nice pick walk along the town's Holt  
Up to green bridge and ba... See more



19

5 comments



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Freshney Comrades



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wybers willows great



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[Redacted]  
0 Dec 2021 ·



Celebration day on the Willows at Bishop King's special service for Christmas. Joined by two local schools Great Coates & Wybers Wood & members of the community... Well done to all organisers & [Redacted]  
Also the local farm animals which included sheep & a Donky... Great work by the Bishop king group xxx



9



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wybers willows grea

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## Hargreaves in Great Coates.

29 Jun 2020 · 🌐

Great coates to willows to wybers walk

This walk is one of a number of walks promoted by Great Coates Village Council.

These walks have been chosen, and all walked, prior to publishing to showcase the countryside, industry and what's available close to our village.

Walks have been combined with enjoying a drink, or meal at a local pub and some walks utilizing the train service from Great Coates.

Keep checking our website for further walks or like our Facebook page to obtain information when new walks are published.

[www.greatcoatesvc.com](http://www.greatcoatesvc.com)  
[www.facebook.com/greatcoatesvc](https://www.facebook.com/greatcoatesvc)

Walk 1: 0.5 miles 15 mins - Riverside Community  
 Walk 2: 1 mile 15 mins - The Freshney Wildlife Wetlands  
 Walk 3: 0.7 miles 15 mins - The Freshney Canal

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### The Freshney Wildlife & Wetlands

This 4 mile walk takes you to the River Freshney, along the bank, where you will see a variety of wildlife. Others frequent the River Freshney with The Willows. Crossing the road onto the Wybers Wood area, the walk starts you along the river where, depending on the time of the year, you'll see a variety of wildlife whether that's ducks, swans, water voles or even herons.

You will then walk along the wooded area where trees have become submerged before you reach back along the river, path through the Willows Wood, water dripping off at The Jubilee for a rest to eat and a drink at the nearby Wybers Chapel.

There are convenience stores, along by the Willows Wood for snacks or refreshments before you head back to Great Coates.

**Great Coates Village Council**  
 Community Development & Environment

### Walk To Fitness

### Walk For Fun

**The Freshney Wildlife & Wetlands**

Walk No.	Distance	Time
2	4.0 miles	1-20

## The Route

1. Leave the station turning left, from the platform, along Station Road.
2. After you pass the green, on your right, turn left down the public footpath - if you pass the village hall, turn back!
3. As you exit the cutting, turn right and follow Crumwell Road until you come away from the housing estate towards the River Freshney.
4. Don't cross the bridge over the Freshney, but turn right and follow the path of the river. This part of the walk is along the banks so keep your eyes open for the Otters.



Along this stretch, on a good day, you will see an abundance of wildlife. Swans, variety of birds together various water animals including water voles and herons.



Simply follow the path of the river walking through the sometimes overgrown wetlands, which will once a wooded area.



Instead of crossing the road, follow the path to the left towards the houses and joining Mayfair Drive East.

As you approach Wybers Way, turn left to enjoy a drink or meal at The Jubilee, great fish and chips from Wybers Chippy or the convenience stores for a snack or drink.

As you return back to Great Coates, you'll walk along Mayfair Drive West, crossing the railway crossing, turn left and continue until you come to The Avenue.

Turning right down The Avenue, you'll walk through one of the oldest parts of Great Coates before joining Station Road and turning right.

Continue along Station Road until you arrive back at the railway station.

Many thanks to Carl Blythe for providing some of the photography.



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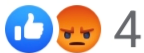


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## Wybers Wood Out of School Club • **Follow**

18 Mar 2019 •

We will be having a pop in day at the club, on 23rd April for any parents whose children will be starting school at Wybers Academy, Willows Academy or Great Coates Primary in September 2019. We will still be running our normal holiday session alongside this



1

6 comments



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## Humberside Police - North East Lincolnshire

8 Dec 2023 •



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and not in the Borough of Grimsby which is why **Great Coates** has its own separate War Memorial from Grimsby.

For only a few recent years we have held a service at this time at the War Memorial in **Great Coates** village and wreaths were laid there. For the last couple of years, unable to hold a service at the War Memorial itself, a service has been held at this time in what is **Great Coates** Parish Church with wreaths laid at the lectern which is inscribed as being in memory of those from the parish who died in the First World War.

This year children from **Wybers** Wood Academy have made poppies and wreaths in their design technology lessons and will be involved in the laying of wreaths.

2 shares



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attend with your views and concerns



6

3 comments



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**Grimsby & Louth Ramblers**



Join

A beautiful day to restart our small group walks again. A group of 5 walked around Grimsby passing through Wybers Wood, The Willows, Great Coates, Healing, Alesby and Laceby.



36

2 comments 1 share



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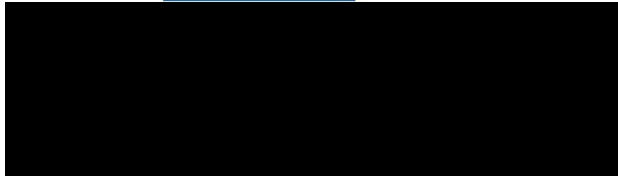
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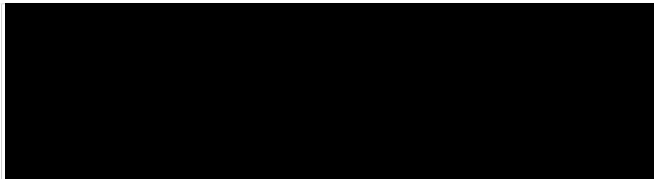
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Any friends in Great Coates/ Wybers/ Aylesby Park/ Willows, please share and keep a look out. x



\*UPDATE\* WE HAVE HIM. He still had the carrier bag aroun... See more





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PLEASE SHARE

Found near bridge between leisure centre and Great Coates Road

Firstly I wanna say that the Willows and Wybers mob are still keeping their ship tidy, and the area looks stunning for it. However, I did find this.....

One charity tin. Clearly stolen, stripped of its wares then dumped in the river.

Let's find it's owners then the charity and they will be sent £20 from my crowdfunding that you guys have donated to.

No one should be victim of mindless theft.





# North East Lincolnshire

## Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Postcode: [REDACTED]  
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

## Comment text:

See attached.

## Attached Documents:

- cp-submission-ward-boundary.docx