

SWANSCOMBE AND GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL



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Review Officer (Dartford)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor Millbank Tower
Millbank, London
SW1P 4QP

22 March 2018

Dear LGBCE

**RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION ON DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DARTFORD
(DEADLINE 9 APRIL 2018).
SUBMITTED ONLINE VIA : [HTTPS://CONSULTATION.LGBCE.ORG.UK/NODE/10379](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/10379)**

Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council (The Town Council), thank you for your draft recommendations on the proposed Borough ward boundaries for Ebbsfleet, Greenhithe, Knockhall and Swanscombe.

The Town Council believe that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has achieved a forward thinking solid evaluation of reviewing all of the evidence supplied, together with the key factors of good electoral equality, historic elements to the area and existing/emerging communities.

Draft Proposals for Borough Wards.

We credit and accept your proposed ward boundaries are correct and accurate and that we would not seek to see any further changes. The Town Council therefore supports the Borough ward boundary recommendations for Ebbsfleet, Greenhithe, Knockhall and Swanscombe.

We agree three members for Ebbsfleet, three for Greenhithe & Knockhall and two for Swanscombe is the correct balance.

Your recommendations will enable stronger links for residents and will give strength to continue formally with greater support to the local community and truly reflect the needs of the growing population of the area.

Draft Proposals for Parish Wards.

We note in the report for draft proposals for Parish wards that 'under the 2009 Act you only have the power to make changes to Parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of your recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Dartford Borough Council has powers under the Local Government and Public

Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements’.

We note and understand the criteria and your proposed ward boundaries with regard to LGBCE having the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act. We welcome that you have provided the revised Parish electoral arrangements for Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council.

We are certain your proposals for the Parish boundaries are correct and accurate, as such we would not seek to see any further changes. The Town Council therefore supports the Parish ward boundary recommendations for Ebbsfleet, Greenhithe & Knockhall and Swanscombe.

Also, we agree to the Parish member numbers of seven for Ebbsfleet, seven for Greenhithe & Knockhall and six for Swanscombe.

Your recommendations will enable us to continue to build and develop the existing relationships between the new Ebbsfleet community, the almost unchanged Swanscombe community with the evolving Greenhithe & Knockhall communities. Your approach enables us to continue to build ties between the old and the new to reflect the changing needs of our whole community.

Further Observations.

We would draw your attention to the value of the combined villages into a single Town Council to the East of Dartford. Given that our area is at the heart of Dartford Borough’s population growth over the next ten years, it is essential that we have a strong Town Council that can speak for all parts of the community.

That it has the scale to meet diverse needs and the resources to provide so many of the new community facilities that will be a legacy of the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC) and its development.

As of February 2018, the tailored review of the EDC by the Department of Communities, Local Government and also Housing recommended (26), the EDC needs **“to develop a community focus and formalised programme of engagement with an appropriate skilled resources.”** We believe that there is no more effective or low cost option to achieve this than working through the Town Council.

In conclusion, we are convinced, given the rapid and demanding change our community faces, the Council’s parish boundary should remain intact and take in the wards you have identified as Ebbsfleet, Greenhithe & Knockhall and Swanscombe to maintain continuity.

Thank you for giving the Town Council the opportunity to put forward our views and in return, we are always available for further discussion.

Yours faithfully,


Councillor Ms L M Cross
Town Mayor 2017- 2018