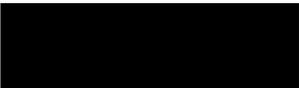
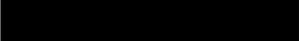


Dover District

Personal Details:

Name: Keith Single

E-mail: 

Postcode: 

Organisation Name: Dover & Deal Conservative Association

Comment text:

Dover and Deal Conservative Association recognises the rationale behind much of your draft proposals but considers that they fall short of the statutory requirements to provide convenient and effective local government and reflect community identities in one general principle and three specific locations. In too many places you have used the centre line on urban residential roads as the boundaries between wards. There are no roads in Dover District where having different councillors representing each side of the street does not fail the providing convenient and effective local government test, they are conduits and not busy enough to be considered barriers. Doing so also fails to comply with paragraph 2(3)(b)(ii) of Schedule 2 of the 2009 which recognises "the desirability of fixing boundaries so as not to break any local ties," You've created a pattern of single and two member wards apart from one anomalous three member ward which looks incongruous and inconsistent with the reasons given for not creating a three member ward in the south west corner of the District. Insufficient weight has been given to the objections from Aylesham to the inclusion of additional settlements within the same ward. Although retaining the existing Aylesham ward as a two member ward may be marginally outside the electoral equality target at the statutory date, creating a three member ward necessitates a ward pattern elsewhere that fails the community cohesion and delivering effective and convenient local government criteria to a far greater degree. In your report's recitation of the reasoning for your draft recommendations including a Capel and River ward and a Dover Downs ward it is stated on 4 occasions that alternative options are being rejected because it would involve disturbing the Aylesham Rural ward. That is taken as substantiation that you realise these two wards fall short when assessed against the statutory criteria but have fixated on the Aylesham solution to the detriment of other communities. The Eythorne Parish Council submission was pushed through its meeting by just 2-3 councillors and the only public submission in support of it came from one of those councillors. To quote from paragraph 75 of your report "We noted on our visit to the area that these parishes have good road links between them" which appears to refer to River and Capel. The only road that connects the two is a narrow country lane near St. Radigund's Abbey that no one uses for that journey because it's easier to drive out of the ward through Dover and back in again. And half of the lane would be in Dover Downs ward anyway. We note that in other reviews you have accepted the odd ward outside 10% electoral variance and propose that you do so here with a 2 member Aylesham ward including Nonington to allow a more appropriate solution in the south west. In your assessment of Dover town you've accepted submissions that Buckland and St. Radigund's are separate communities with separate characters and deserve their own wards but then inexplicably extended the St. Radigund's ward to include the Charlton community which has an infinitely more distinctive character from St. Radigund's than Buckland does. We propose that the draft St. Radigund's ward be split into two so that with other minor boundary changes a cohesive Castle Charlton ward can be created. In adding properties to Buckland ward you have drawn an artificial boundary down the middle of Lorne Road and oddly left just 6 houses in Buckland Avenue not in Buckland ward but in St. Radigund's. We propose that those 6 houses and all Lorne Road addresses north of the river be also transferred into Buckland. Buckland paper mill, Buckland church and Buckland bridge have also been left in St. Radigund's when they are isolated from the core of the ward by the railway while Buckland ward starts across the road. This area should also be transferred to Buckland. Danes Court has been left in Buckland ward with which it has no community links and under this proposal will have no internal road connection so should be included in Castle Charlton. The proposed boundary will be from Cherry Tree Avenue the rear of properties on the north side on London Road and High Street including the cul-de-sacs that only open onto them, From Ladywell the river as existing then continuing to the rear of properties facing Castle Street then up Laureston Place to the town council boundary. This involves the transfer of a number of roads in from Town and Castle ward which is otherwise above electoral equality. To avoid confusion your proposed Town & Castle ward should be renamed Town & Harbour. In Deal you have accepted submissions that there is a distinctive Mill Hill community, which there is, but then included additional areas within your proposed Mill Hill ward which are parts of other communities. Without disturbing your wider proposals this can be partly

corrected by amending the boundary between Middle Deal and Mill Hill wards. Upper Deal is a separate and distinct community which is divided by the existing and proposed political boundary but not in daily life. It has its own church, shop, pubs, hall and takeaways. The roads that are locally recognised as being Upper Deal that are in the proposed Mill Hill ward are Fiveways Rise, London Road, Manor Road and Close, Addelam Road and Close, Tormore Park and Mews, Tollgate, Patterson Close and the lower part of Rectory Road up to No 84 (even). Moving these roads from Mill Hill ward into Middle Deal ward does swing the electoral surplus from Mill Hill to Middle Deal but that could be evened out by transferring the Stockdale Gardens corner of Middle Deal ward from which it is isolated by the cemetery and the school grounds whilst being contiguous with the built area of Mill Hill ward, the other way.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF DOVER
Dover District Council

The Labour Group Response to the Draft Recommendations

Peter Wallace
Secretary

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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10th August 2018

Our Response to the Draft Recommendations

The Labour Group on Dover District Council has thoroughly discussed the draft recommendations made by the LGBCE and consulted with members of the public to understand the public's reaction to the recommendations.

As a Group we have also read through and discussed many of the 120 submissions made by councils, the MP, local residents and political groups, to see if we could improve upon on first submission and make moderate alterations to the LGBCE draft recommendations.

As part of our informal discussions with the public we followed the LGBCE guidance by asking;

1. *Are any of the proposed wards too large or small to be represented effectively?*
2. *Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?*
3. *Are there good links across your proposed wards? Is there any form of public transport?*

Following a lengthy process we believe the LGBCE draft recommendations are the best arrangements that "achieve good electoral equality, while seeking to reflect community identities and securing effective and convenient local government."

We support the LGBCE recommendations.

We also support the following LGBCE proposals.

North Deal

We support the proposal to include the area of Sholden between the railway line and the sea into the ward of North Deal.

Middle Deal

We also support the inclusion of the area of Sholden around Hyton Drive into the Middle Deal ward.

Buckland Ward

We support the proposal to include Alfred Road and Brookfield Place into the Buckland Ward.

Capel-le-Ferne & River

At the Dover District Council meeting on Wednesday 25th July the full council discussed alternative proposals for Capel-le-Ferne and River wards, and the Labour Group has since discussed the recommendations to find a balance between the need for electoral equality and community identity. Though Capel-le-Ferne and River have geographically separate identities, we believe their cultural identities are very similar; being a large concentration of housing and schools within a rural location. They are also connected by a network of roads and the combination of Capel-le-Ferne and River into one ward achieves good electoral equality. On balance we believe the LGBCE recommendation is the best possible proposal that satisfies the need to “achieve good electoral equality, while seeking to reflect community identities and securing effective and convenient local government.”

We have two suggestions for changes to the draft recommendations:

Walmer Parish Council

Historically Walmer was divided into three separate areas; Upper and Lower Walmer and Gladstone wards. This allowed each area to elect a balanced number of councillors for each ward; 7 councillors, 6 councillors and 2 councillors respectively.

The LGBCE recommendation for 13 Walmer and 2 Gladstone councillors does not provide for good electoral equality, as one area of the council has an overwhelming influence over the other. We recommend dividing the parish council wards on the previous boundaries; 7 councillors, 6 councillors and 2 councillors respectively.

As well as providing a fairer system of electoral accountability, this will also avoid strenuous difficulties on polling day if officers counting the votes have hundreds of split voting ballot papers to separate into different piles.

Maxton & Elms Vale

The ward councillors have two recommended changes to the draft proposals from members of the public.

- (a) There is a large section of land at the top of Winchelsea Road, which the owner aims to develop into a new row of houses. The only access to the land is through Winchelsea Road, though when the land is developed, the row will be part of Tower Hamlets. As there is no access to this land from Tower Hamlets, the developer has asked that the area is kept in the same ward as Winchelsea Road.
- (b) Currently Longfield Road is divided between two polling districts. Following discussions with residents in Longfield Road, the three councillors for the ward propose the inclusion of Longfield Road, Underdown Road and North Street in the new Maxton & Elms Vale ward. This will provide better electoral equality and reflect the local community identity in the area, as residents identify more closely as residents of Maxton than the Folkestone Road area.

Thank you again for your detailed work. We are available to discuss any aspect of the draft recommendations.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Peter Wallace