

**Starkie, Emily**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 April 2018 12:18  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** Fw: Dover Distirct Council review for 9 April  
**Attachments:** boundary commission APC9b.doc

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 9, 2018 10:47 AM  
**To:** reviews@lgbce.org.uk  
**Subject:** Dover Distirct Council review for 9 April

Please delete my previous submissions, as requested in email just sent, and replace them with this one below. I have also attached it as a file. The previous file i want you to delete is APC9a.doc as opposed the one attached and below – APC9b.

Please confirm you have done this – otherwise i shall worry.

Sorry for the trouble.

Cllr Linda Keen

[REDACTED]

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**Response to the Boundary Commission Consultation process about DDC proposed ward boundaries alteration – ward 3 (Aylesham rural) and ward 5 (Eythorne) – as passed at DDC Council meeting on March 28th.**

DDC propose to add new polling district PEX3 \*new\* to Aylesham Rural – taken from Ward 5 – Eythorne PEX1.

Essentially, these streets are all located in Elvington – a (former) mining village a short way away from Eythorne village. Elvington is part of Eythorne Parish Council, and this proposed move would involve Elvington still being part of Eythorne Parish Council, but no longer part of the Eythorne DDC ward, which is clearly an undesirable situation.

**I object strongly to this proposed addition of Elvington to Aylesham ward on the following grounds.**

**1. Sufficient growth in voter numbers without this addition.**

The 1200 plus houses currently being built under the Aylesham Development Plan, (plus 30 odd shortly to be built in the Nonington part of the ward), would take it up to just short of the target new 2 Cllr voter numbers.

We in Aylesham believe that the officers have got the number of voters in 2023 for Aylesham wrong, in that they have increased the number of voters in 2017 from 4200 to 5002 in 2023 a rise of 800 voters which is approx. 450 households (see detailed critique of this below) but in the last 2 years the builders have been building a lot more houses than that, – **nearly 500 by early 2018**. They were very slow to start but rather than looking at the average over the length of time the project has been running (see detailed critique below), the officers should have considered the current rate of building. Indeed the developers have promised to complete the whole 1200 houses by 2023 or 2024 at the

latest. **1200 houses by 2023 gives a voter increase large enough for Aylesham ward – just – to stand on its own – without any additions of Elvington or Shepherdswell.**

For reasons I don't understand, the DDC/ KCC method of predicting the timing and number of houses to be built in their local plans seriously **underestimates** the real building rate of new houses actually taking place in Aylesham (currently up to 500) – and hence also underestimates the rate of increase in voters by 2023.

**The following more recent official DDC updates show clearly what is actually happening on the ground with house-building in Aylesham which you can see if you visit.**

The main application for the Aylesham Expansion was submitted in September 2007 (but everything was put on hold because of the recession, and DDC land prices problems). Permission was actually finally granted in November 2012. This was for over 1200 dwellings.

The developers submitted an application to vary the Masterplan programme in February 2013 and this then gave rise to an **amended planning permission for the Aylesham Expansion in October 2013**. The actual build process began in 2014 (infrastructure works first) and the first phase (the actual housing) was launched during 2014-2015. Since that time, approvals under the conditions attached to the permission have been applied for. The first 200 homes were completed and occupied by the end of 2016. Planning permission has been granted to both builders, Barratt Homes and Persimmon Homes, to build the next stage of the development, phase 1B, consisting of 572 more homes. The Feb 2018 DDC newsletter states that Barratt has built 230 properties with another 85 under construction, and Persimmon has built 166 with about 60 more underway - grand total of 481. These are selling really well, and there are waiting lists for some properties. **There is every indication that the house building will continue at this rate. Most properties are family houses.**

**2. The Elvington part of Eythorne Parish Council (currently both in the Eythorne DDC ward) would be split off into a separate (Aylesham) DDC ward.** Elvington village is a longstanding integral part of Eythorne PC (and hence Eythorne DDC ward) and should not be split off into another DDC ward – really important to maintain logical and rational location of Elvington in the same DDC ward as Eythorne PC is – makes for better local government. Otherwise you would have Eythorne Parish Council area split between 2 sets of DDC ward Cllrs – Aylesham and Eythorne wards – which is ridiculous.

Eythorne PC is so strongly opposed to this split that it has proposed a 3 member ward alternative which avoids splitting off Elvington from Eythorne - incorporating Shepherdswell/Coldred and several other rural areas in with Aylesham – although I am totally opposed to this suggestion on all sorts of grounds. Basically, it would be a vast ward where the geographical and community links between Aylesham and Shepherdswell and these other more remote rural areas are non-existent. But this demonstrates the strength of feeling against the DDC proposal for splitting off Elvington.

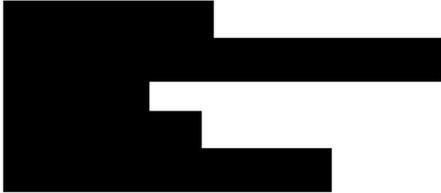
Similarly, again, to avoid the Elvington split-off, some DDC Cllrs have argued for putting part of Shepherdswell/Coldred in the Aylesham ward. Again we in Aylesham are opposed to this for the reasons given above – no geographical or social links, no shared local services at all. In addition the Coldred part of Shepherdswell/Coldred Parish Council would be split off into another ward, which is clearly undesirable.

**3. No real links between the two communities of Aylesham and Elvington**

Although there are mining heritage links between Aylesham and Elvington, the two communities are basically separate, both geographically and socially. Elvington residents' local community and local service links are overwhelmingly on nearby Eythorne – not on Aylesham - and on Dover for bigger services and shopping and secondary schools. Even the polling station for Elvington residents is actually in Eythorne. Aylesham looks partly to Dover but increasingly to Canterbury (better transport links) for leisure, shopping etc. The Primary Schools used outside Aylesham are in the Canterbury direction – at Barham and Adisham for example. There are no proper public transport links – it is 3/4 miles away by circuitous country roads from Aylesham.

**Conclusion**

**Aylesham/Nonington ward should stay as it is with no Elvington addition.** The large growth in population from the 1200 plus housing development means that in the next few years the ward population will increase to almost the number of voters per Cllr required under the DDC formula. Moreover Elvington should not be split away from its longstanding membership of Eythorne Parish Council and Eythorne Community in the current Eythorne DDC ward – it has little contact of any meaningful kind with Aylesham. This is generally what people I have spoken to in Aylesham, including the Aylesham Parish Council, and Nonington Parish Council would prefer. I also object strongly to any proposals to add Shepherdswell/Coldred to Aylesham.



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