

Starkie, Emily

From: ELPHICKE, Charlie [REDACTED]
Sent: 06 April 2018 17:47
To: reviews
Subject: Dover District warding arrangements - Charlie Elphicke MP

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to state my support for the Dover District Council (DDC) proposal to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) for the new Dover district warding arrangements. It is clear that the council officers have considered the warding arrangements very carefully and have done their utmost to build a plan focussed primarily on community cohesion.

Rural wards

The DDC proposal for the rural areas of the district is the right one.

For example, I strongly support the inclusion of the village of Elvington in the new Aylesham ward. The DDC officers have rightly concluded that this is the only way to create an Aylesham ward with acceptable electoral variance and community cohesion, based on both Aylesham and Elvington villages' mining heritage.

Dover town wards

The DDC proposals for the town of Dover are sensible and close to the best possible outcome in terms of community cohesion. I have no argument with the general shape or name of the Dover town wards as set out. In an ideal world, I would make the following minor amendments.

- The Dover Town ward:
 - To move the streets bordered by Beaconsfield Avenue, London Road, Cherry Tree Avenue and Barton Road from the St Radigunds and Buckland ward into the Dover Town ward.
 - These streets have a closer affinity to Dover Town than St Radigunds primarily as they are situated in the town centre are very much part of the town community. This area includes Aldi supermarket, as well as several other shops and cafes.
- The Maxton, Elms Vale and Tower Hamlets ward:
 - To move the streets bordered by Priory Hill, West Street, Widred Road, High Meadow and Anstee Road into the Maxton, Elms Vale and Tower Hamlets Ward.
 - These streets are part of Tower Hamlets, lying to the west of London Road and can only be accessed through Tower Hamlets Road and are very much part of the Tower Hamlets community. They are not part of the town centre. West Street includes the Carriers Arms pub which is considered the local pub for Tower Hamlets residents, rather than the town centre – moreover it is not credible to divorce West Street from Tower Hamlets Street, Ethelbert Road, Odo Road and so on, given the geography and community links.
- The Pier and Priory ward:
 - To move the streets bordered by Folkestone Road, The Abbots, Priory Hill and Priory Road into the Pier and Priory Ward.
 - The streets that would also become part of the Pier and Priory Ward are: Effingham Crescent, Effingham Street, Norman Street, Priory Place, Priory Road, Priory Street, Priory Station Approach Road and Priory Gate Road.
 - As the street names above suggest, these streets have a closer affinity to the Priory area of Dover town.

Deal town wards

The DDC proposals for the town of Deal are, as with Dover town, sensible and close to the best possible outcome in terms of community cohesion. I have no argument with the general shape or name of the Deal town wards as set out. Again, in an ideal world, I would make the following minor amendments.

- The North Deal and Sholden ward (amendment 1):
 - To move the area bordered by Mongeham Road up to the Three Horseshoes Pub and Sandwich Road up as far as Cottington Lakes from the Middle Deal ward into the North Deal and Sholden ward.
 - This area would have negligible impact on electoral variance. It is simply more aligned to the more rural Sholden than it is the built-up area of Middle Deal.

- The North Deal and Sholden ward (amendment 2):
 - To move the streets bordered by Queen Street, Broad Street, Beach Street, Oak Street, St George’s Road and the train line from the Middle Deal ward into the North Deal ward.
 - Residents who live in this area of town, with lots of high street shops, restaurants, hotels and cafés, feel a much greater affinity to North Deal than they do Middle Deal. Moreover, these streets are architecturally and characteristically the southern part of the North Deal historic quarter which connect as a community with the parts of the historic quarter of Deal that lie to the North. In particular, those who have moved to the area from outside Deal (including from London), many of whom live in Middle Street, feel very deeply that they are residents of the North Deal historic quarter.

- The Middle Deal ward:
 - To move the streets bordered by Manor Road, St Leonard’s Road, London Road, the west side of Sutherland Road, with the boundary continuing to the north and joining Middle Deal Road immediately to the east of number 85 (ie the dividing link being the footpath leading out of the north of Sutherland Road which joins to Church Path and then north to Middle Deal Road) down to the Manor Road junction – from the North Deal ward into the Middle Deal ward.
 - These streets are historically associated with the Middle Deal ward, rather than North Deal. They are residential, with few shops or cafes, in contrast to the North Deal area. Moreover, they form the northern part of a closely connected community that sits either side of London Road.

Thank you for taking the time to read my submission.

Best wishes

Charlie Elphicke, MP for Dover and Deal

Charlie Elphicke

Member of Parliament for Dover & Deal

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