

Consultation on Shepway District Council Boundary Review

Alternative Proposals developed and presented by Cllrs Rory Love and George Bunting, and supported by Cllr Sue Wallace. We understand other Councillors may also support this proposal, but this has not yet been able to be confirmed owing to the time constraints around the consultation closure.

We are restricting our comments to the proposals for the boundary review for Folkestone. We have no comment to make on the overall proposals approved by the Full Council meeting of 28th March, and are content to support those parts of the proposals relating to wards outside Folkestone.

We strongly support the proposals approved at the Council meeting for the treatment of Folkestone Harbour ward, Folkestone East ward, Folkestone Foord ward, and Folkestone Park ward. We would not wish to see any change to those proposals, as we believe in all three cases, the proposals reflect the sense of community in the localities to which they relate.

We strongly disagree with the proposed treatment of Folkestone's residential west-end, and have serious concerns about the effects of the proposals.

There is a distinct sense of community in the residential west-end, and a very strong sense of the core boundaries of the residential west end of Folkestone. This is characterised by the widely held view that "when you reach the top of Sandgate Hill, you are in Folkestone; not Sandgate." There is an equally strong sense that "when you are at the bottom of Sandgate Hill, you are in Sandgate." We regard those localities as being the core of the two separate communities. We recognise that there is some blurring of that sense of the community to which residents belong further northwards on the boundary between Folkestone and Sandgate, but even at the northern end of Coolinge Lane, the feeling remains strongly that properties are in Folkestone.

The proposed division of the residential west-end, moves 1000 electors into a ward (Sandgate) with which they have no reason to identify. Furthermore, the move is unnecessary, as we shall show in our proposal. It also conflicts with the LGBC's guidelines of looking for natural boundaries. Sandgate Hill is recognised as being such a boundary.

The division also places 2500 electors from an overwhelmingly residential area into a ward (Folkestone Central) where the predominant interest is the commercial and business interest of the Town. The only businesses in the current Harvey West ward are two restaurants, one coffee and refreshment bar, and three hotels. One car repair business operates under legacy planning rules, but would not have been permitted under the last three versions of the local plan if it were starting from scratch. The current Harvey West ward is of such a distinctive residential character that we believe it should form the basis of a new residential west-end ward, ensuring that the distinctive voice of the residential community is heard as a single and focussed voice in the Council.

Our key principles, therefore, for our submission are as follows:

1. The communities at the top of Sandgate Hill and at the bottom of Sandgate Hill are distinctly different, and should be represented in different wards.
2. The community of the core of the residential west-end (i.e. Sandgate Hill to Castle Hill Avenue) is distinctly different from that of the commercial centre of the Town, and the two should be represented in different wards.

3. The whole of the core residential west-end shares one common sense of identity and that core area should be at the heart of a residential west-end ward for Folkestone.
4. It is both justifiable and desirable to allow a greater variance from the average number of electors per councillor in the Town centre ward, with fewer electors per councillor. This is for two reasons:
 - a. The business community generate a considerable number of interactions and enquiries, and these are not reflected in the elector numbers.
 - b. Folkestone's Town centre ward has a greater level of deprivation, and this causes a higher number of interactions with councillors from the resident population.
5. Natural boundaries place natural constraints on the sense of community, and should therefore be respected wherever possible.
6. Where possible, wards should be of equal size, and ideally, in line with the Council's preference of two-member wards.

Our proposal for a revised treatment of the west of Folkestone, creates a new residential ward. To avoid confusion with the name of the Folkestone West county division, and to continue the historical association of a ward name with former Folkestone resident, Dr William Harvey whose memorial statue is situated in the south-east corner of the proposed ward, we have named the ward "Harvey Ward". We believe our proposals better meets the requirements outlined above than the scheme adopted by the Council.

Key benefits of our proposal:

- Creation of four, two-member wards.
- Clearer use made of natural boundaries, in particular, Sandgate Hill and the railway line.
- The creation of an overwhelmingly residential ward to reflect the interests of Folkestone's west-end community.
- The opportunity for acceptable electoral parity. *

* Our suggestion for the Sandgate/Cheriton & Morehall boundary at the railway line reflects the natural community boundaries. This results in a variance of -6.4% for Sandgate and +7.0% for Cheriton and Morehall. We feel that the railway line boundary is acceptable in terms of electoral parity for the over-riding reasons of reflecting the communities. However, if the LGBCE felt this was too great a variance, then an alternative is to keep the whole of FCH2 intact, and include Roman Way, etc in Sandgate. This would give variances of +0.20% and +0.44% respectively for Sandgate and Cheriton.

Our proposal, has necessarily been written against the deadline of the consultation, and in the short period since the Council's adoption of the approved scheme. We would be happy to engage in dialogue with the LGBCE on any parts of our scheme which require further investigation.

Note on the attached figures:

Figures shown shaded are estimated pro-rata to the number of electors in the whole street where streets are divided, but detailed figures for a portion of the street have not been available to us in the time

allowed. We believe our estimates to be in the region of +/-10% accuracy. The potential variance overall would therefore be insignificant.

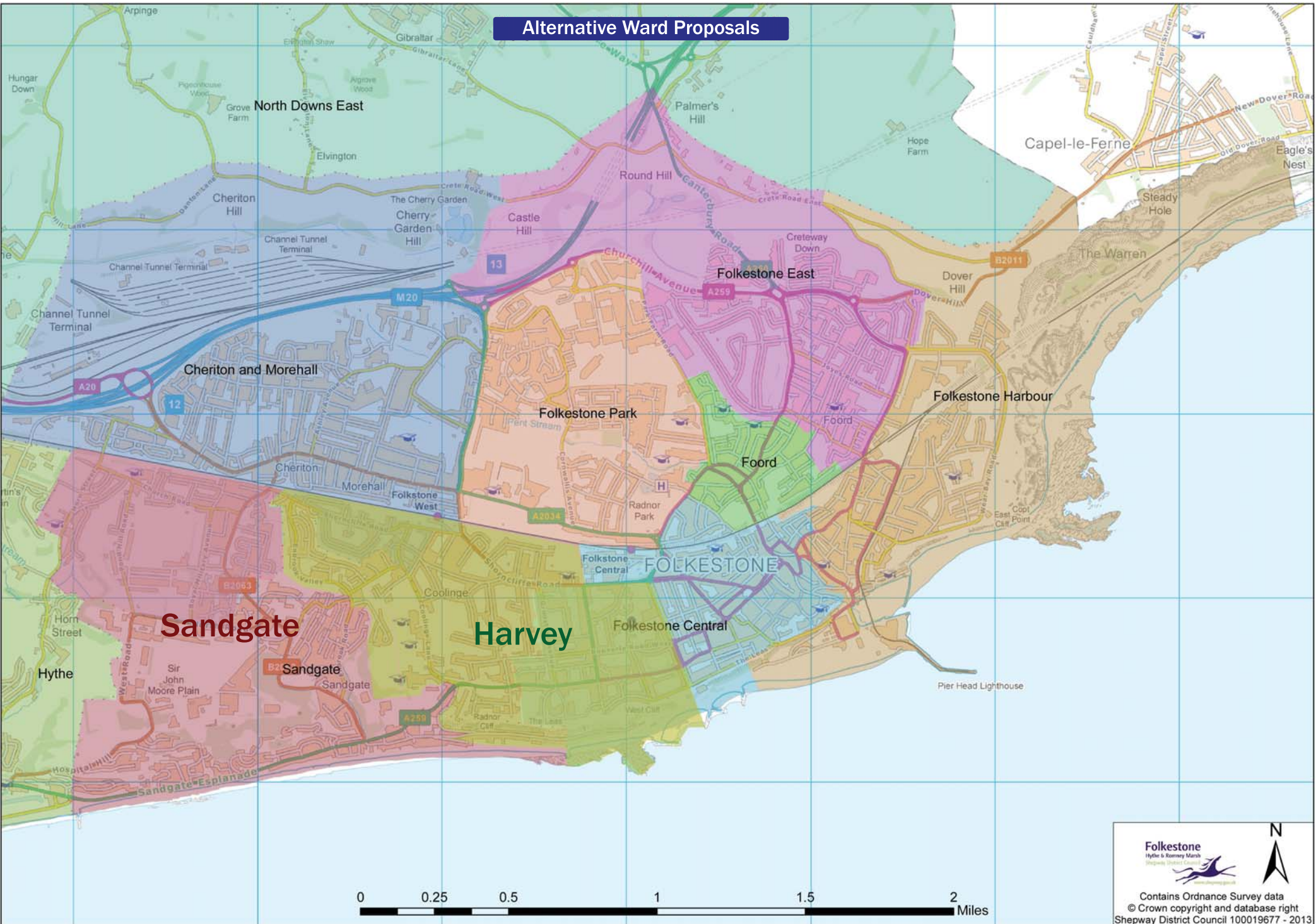
	Sandgate	Harvey	Central	Cheriton
Electors in Approved proposal	6002	0	8464	8690
Transfers (as detailed below)	-446	5826	-3044	-2336
Electors in Alternative Proposal	5556	5826	5420	6354
Seats in Alternative proposal	2	2	2	2
Variance from target electors per seat	-6.40%	-1.85%	-8.69%	7.04%
Numbers over/under	-380	-110	-516	418

Approved Proposal Ward Streets		Current PD	Electors: Moved to (ward):					
Central	Augusta Gdns (FHW1)	FHW1	43	Harvey	0	43	-43	0
Central	Bouverie Road West	FHW1	160	Harvey	0	160	-160	0
Central	Castle Hill Avenue	FHW1	46	Harvey	0	46	-46	0
Central	Clifton Crescent	FHW1	209	Harvey	0	209	-209	0
Central	Clifton Gardens	FHW1	140	Harvey	0	140	-140	0
Central	Clifton Road	FHW1	40	Harvey	0	40	-40	0
Central	Earls Avenue	FHW1	223	Harvey	0	223	-223	0
Central	Grimston Avenue	FHW1	58	Harvey	0	58	-58	0
Central	Lower Sandgate Road	FHW1	1	Harvey	0	1	-1	0
Central	Metropole Road East	FHW1	6	Harvey	0	6	-6	0
Central	Metropole Road West	FHW1	17	Harvey	0	17	-17	0
Central	Plain Road	FHW1	60	Harvey	0	60	-60	0
Central	Sandgate Road	FHW1	450	Harvey	0	450	-450	0
Central	The Leas	FHW1	155	Harvey	0	155	-155	0
Central	Trinity Crescent	FHW1	54	Harvey	0	54	-54	0
Central	Trinity Gardens	FHW1	80	Harvey	0	80	-80	0
Central	Westbourne Court	FHW1	23	Harvey	0	23	-23	0
Central	Westbourne Gardens	FHW1	109	Harvey	0	109	-109	0
Central	Westbourne Gardens	FHW1	65	Harvey	0	65	-65	0
Central	Bouverie Road West	FHW2	101	Harvey	0	101	-101	0
Central	Earls Avenue	FHW2	91	Harvey	0	91	-91	0

Central	Grimston Avenue	FHW2	127	Harvey	0	127	-127	0
Central	Grimston Gardens	FHW2	193	Harvey	0	193	-193	0
Central	Shorncliffe Road	FHW2	241	Harvey	0	241	-241	0
Central	Augusta Gdns (FHC2)	FHC2	124	Harvey	0	124	-124	0
Central	Castle Hill Avenue (FHC2)	FHC2	70	Harvey	0	70	-70	0
Central	Court Approach	FHC2	39	Harvey	0	39	-39	0
Central	Earls Avenue	FHC2	65	Harvey	0	65	-65	0
Central	Jointon Road	FHC2	24	Harvey	0	24	-24	0
Central	Kingsnorth Gardens	FHC2	130		0	0	0	0
Central	Shorncliffe Road	FHC2	30	Harvey	0	30	-30	0
Sandgate	Blenheim Place	FHW1	11	Harvey	-11	11	0	0
Sandgate	Coolinge Lane (FHW1)	FHW1	21	Harvey	-21	21	0	0
Sandgate	Cliff Road	FHW1	32	Harvey	-32	32	0	0
Sandgate	Dixwell Road	FHW1	81	Harvey	-81	81	0	0
Sandgate	Pelham Gardens	FHW1	65	Harvey	-65	65	0	0
Sandgate	Radnor Cliff Crescent	FHW1	10	Harvey	-10	10	0	0
Sandgate	Sandgate Hill	FHW1	2	Harvey	-2	2	0	0
Sandgate	Audley Road	FHW2	39	Harvey	-39	39	0	0
Sandgate	Baldric Road	FHW2	30	Harvey	-30	30	0	0
Sandgate	Bathurst Road	FHW2	76	Harvey	-76	76	0	0
Sandgate	Bodenham Road	FHW2	37	Harvey	-37	37	0	0
Sandgate	Broadfield Crescent	FHW2	17	Harvey	-17	17	0	0
Sandgate	Broadfield Road	FHW2	81	Harvey	-81	81	0	0
Sandgate	Coolinge Lane (FHW2)	FHW2	14	Harvey	-14	14	0	0
Sandgate	Godwyn Gardens	FHW2	18	Harvey	-18	18	0	0
Sandgate	Godwyn Road	FHW2	47	Harvey	-47	47	0	0
Sandgate	Hardwick Road	FHW2	47	Harvey	-47	47	0	0
Sandgate	Herdson Road	FHW2	37	Harvey	-37	37	0	0
Sandgate	Marten Road	FHW2	76	Harvey	-76	76	0	0
Sandgate	Ravenlea Road	FHW2	19	Harvey	-19	19	0	0

Sandgate	Turketel Road	FHW2	125	Harvey	-125	125	0	0
Sandgate	Wellfield Road	FHW2	40	Harvey	-40	40	0	0
Sandgate	Welson Road	FHW2	68	Harvey	-68	68	0	0
Cheriton	FM2	FM2	572	Harvey	0	572	0	-572
Cheriton	FCH2 excl following 6 Rds	FCH2	2156	Sandgate	2156	0	0	-2156
Sandgate	Canada Close		70	Cheriton & Moreh	-70	0	0	70
Sandgate	Horn St		20	Cheriton & Moreh	-20	0	0	20
Sandgate	Roman Way		190	Cheriton & Moreh	-190	0	0	190
Sandgate	Samian Crescent		56	Cheriton & Moreh	-56	0	0	56
Sandgate	Tiber Close		27	Cheriton & Moreh	-27	0	0	27
Sandgate	Tolsford Close		29	Cheriton & Moreh	-29	0	0	29
Sandgate	FS1	FS1	1081	Harvey	-1081	1081	0	0
Sandgate	Radnor Cliff Crescent	FS2	10	Harvey	-10	10	0	0
Sandgate	Radnor Cliff	FS2	126	Harvey	-126	126	0	0
Net transfers per Alternative Proposed ward:					-446	5826	-3044	-2336

Alternative Ward Proposals



Folkestone
Hythe & Romney Marsh
Shepway District Council

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