

Guy Topham

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"I support your intention to reduce the number of councillors from 46 to 30. According to the Shepway District Council website there are 82514 voters in Shepway which divided by 30 equals 2750 voters per councillor. At present Lympne and Stanford has 1580 voters. I suggest that Sellindge Parish, with 1297 voters, is added to our ward giving 2877 voters. The reasons for this are as follows;

1. They are an adjoining parishes.
2. No new boundaries needed.
3. Residents of Lympne use the following facilities in Sellindge; doctors surgery, bowls club, Co-op shop, Potton farm shops and nursery.
4. We have co-operated in the past on things like the planned recycling plant, wind turbines, excessive development, lorry park, etc.
5. Access to the Lympne Industrial Park and Port Lympne Animal Park is along the A20 which is the boundary between our two parishes and so we share traffic concerns.
6. We cannot extend our ward west as this is part of Ashford and going east would mean taking part of Hythe which is some distance away.

Although it is not part of your powers to change parish boundaries I have suggested to Lympne Parish Council that it would make sense to include in our parish, and therefore our ward, the community of West Hythe. They are presently part of Hythe yet we are the closest settlement, with facilities, to West Hythe. Members of that community are members of our parish council and the Village Hall Committee. They all receive our Parish Newsletter and I believe they feel part of our community not Hythe. They share our traffic problems of Romney Marsh residents using Lympne Hill as a short cut to the M20.

I'm not sure how many voters this would add but would guess at about 100-200 so taking our new ward to about 3000 voters, slightly above the 2750 but still reasonable.

I suggest the new ward is either called Lympne, Sellindge and Stanford (In alphabetical order!) or Kent Downs West.

I hope this helps.

Yours faithfully,

Guy Topham