



8th June 2016

Review Officer (East Sussex)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England,
14th Floor,
Millbank Tower,
London SW1P 4QP



Dear Sir,

Ref Boundary and Ward Changes for Wealden District Council

I write as one of the churchwardens at Parish Church of St Oswald's Hooe. On behalf of the Parochial Parish Council, I am writing to raise some serious concerns over the proposed changes to the boundaries and wards in Wealden District Council.

We are a small Parish in East Sussex, sharing a minister in a plurality with Ninfield, our adjoining parish to the north. We have worked as a plurality with St Mary's Church Ninfield since 1947. As the years have gone on, there have been many changes, that have affected both communities in different ways. But these changes have made the links between the villages and the parishes stronger and more dependant.

To a greater extent they have affected Hooe more than Ninfield.

Examples are :-

Hooe Village school closed in the late 1960's our children now go to Ninfield C of E County Primary School.

The loss of two village shops and the Post office in Hooe in the 1970/80's has led to the "local shop" being in Ninfield.

The nearest Medical Centre (Doctor's surgery) is in Ninfield.

I think that you can understand, that there is a lot of contact between the two villages. In the view of the church, it is important that this should continue. Part of our outreach work as a church is to support the school and the community. This is part of the Diocesan Strategy of the Diocese of Chichester and we have been encouraged by the Bishops and other senior clergy to work in this way. We have no links with Pevensey and West Ham. The sub divisions of the Diocese are, the Deaneries. We in Ninfield and Hooe, are part of Battle and Bexhill Deanery, Pevensey and West Ham are in the Eastbourne Deanery. The people in these two differing communities have very little if any interaction. It is important that the Churches of Ninfield and Hooe continue to work together.

If we were to be divided, by an electoral boundary this could adversely affect the way that we are able to work together.

There are considerable differences between the communities. In Pevensey and West Ham they are more urban and built up, close to the seaside town of Eastbourne. In Hooe we are a rural parish and are five to six miles from a town. Linked with Pevensey and West Ham, our rural electoral voice, would be out numbered by the urban view. In a ward, as we are at present, with the villages of Ninfield and Wartling, we are similar communities and our voices would reflect the concerns of the countryside. The ward system, needs to support communities, not to be a convenient electoral number.

Yours sincerely,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of J. D. Rist.

J. D. Rist
Churchwarden St Oswald's Hooe.

Template letter/email – please feel free to adapt
Email [REDACTED] for an electronic copy

<Your address>

The Review Officer (Birmingham)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor Millbank Tower
Millbank
London
SW1P 4QP



<Today's date>

Sir or Madam,

Consultation on further recommendations for Birmingham City Council

I would like to comment on the proposed Harborne and Quinton wards.

My neighbourhood is currently assigned to Quinton ward. It is my strong view that we would be most appropriately assigned to Harborne ward instead. My neighbourhood is much more closely associated with Harborne than Quinton for the following reasons:

1. My neighbourhood was part of Harborne village prior to Harborne being annexed into Birmingham in 1891. It remained an integral part of Harborne ward right up until 2004, when it was moved into Quinton ward.
2. Residents and local organisations have retained their association with Harborne; for example, they still use Harborne in their postal addresses.
3. The neighbourhood is adjacent to Harborne Golf Club and a short walk from Harborne High Street which is the closest location for shopping facilities and similar amenities.
4. West Boulevard is a major four-lane highway that physically separates the neighbourhood from Quinton. This major barrier prevents natural movement and stops the area associating with Quinton.
5. Minton Road, Doulton Close and Chelsea Close are accessed from Welsh House Farm Road and connected by a path to Wentworth Way. Residents on these roads associate with the 'Harborne Rise' area and note that the Boundary review has already listened to the residents of Wentworth Way, returning it to the Harborne ward.
6. Tennial Road takes its name from the historic Tennial Hall which was a major landmark in Harborne. However, one side of Tennial Road is in the proposed Harborne ward and the other side in the proposed Quinton ward. The Quinton side includes the cul de sacs of Savoy Close, Copperbeech Close and Rosehead Drive; these are only accessible from Tennial Road and face towards Harborne. This arrangement is illogical and it would be much better if the whole neighbourhood were in Harborne.

In summary, the proposal I am making will result in better, more appropriate representation for my neighbourhood and I urge you to give it serious consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,
<Your name>

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Let's put our neighbourhood back into Harborne

Dear Fellow Resident,

The authorities are currently redrawing Birmingham's boundaries and we have a great opportunity to get our neighbourhood put back into Harborne. It had always been part of Harborne until 2004, when it was moved into Quinton.

I have spoken to many of our fellow residents and we think it's time that this historical wrong is righted and we are put back where we belong – in Harborne.

If you don't want to miss out on this opportunity, please write to or email the Boundary Commission by **Monday 20 June**. Overleaf you'll find a template letter – please feel free to adapt it as you'd like.

The postal address is *The Review Officer (Birmingham), Local Government Boundary Commission for England, 14th Floor Millbank Tower, Millbank, London, SW1P 4QP* and the email address is REVIEWS@LGBCE.ORG.UK.

Letters like this do work – letters from a few residents of neighbouring Wentworth Way during the previous round of consultation resulted in the Boundary Commission moving their road into Harborne. We can do the same.

You can find more information on the general proposals for Birmingham by searching online for *Boundary Commission Birmingham*.

Thank you very much for reading – please feel free to contact me with any queries.

Yours faithfully,

