

10 Tower Gardens  
Hythe  
Kent  
CT21 6DG

2nd April 2013

Mr William Morrison  
Review Officer (Shepway)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Layden House  
76-86 Turnmill Street  
LONDON  
EC1M 5LG

Dear Mr Morrison

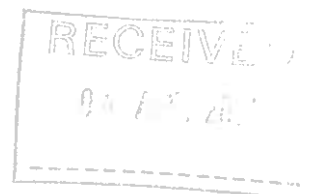
At its meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2012 the Hythe Town Council passed the following resolution (Min No 281/12 refers) :

*That Hythe Town Council supports the Boundary Commission's recommendation that Shepway District Council be reduced in size to 30 Councillors.*

Following its meeting in January 2013, the Commission has now adopted a Council size of 30 for Shepway District Council and it is now consulting the Town Council – together with other interested parties - on District warding arrangements. This includes suggestions for ward names, their extent, patterns and factors pertaining to community identity.

The members of Hythe Town Council, whose names are appended to this letter, would like to put forward the following proposal for your consideration.

- 1 The statutory criteria which govern the review are as follows:
  - (i) Electoral equality.
  - (ii) Community identity.
  - (iii) Effective & convenient local government.
- 2 Attached to this letter (**Plan 1**) are the existing Hythe District Ward boundaries which are, currently, coterminous with the Hythe CP boundary. It is not necessarily the case that these will remain in their present form and they could in fact transcend the CP boundary, given the requirement to reduce the number of District Councillors, whilst at the same time maintaining a reasonably equitable geographical spread of electoral representation.
- 3 The standard ratio of Electors to Members to 2018 has been projected to be **2,968** with, a deviation of 10% -ve or +ve. This would, in principle, mean that electoral ward sizes per Councillor could vary from between **2,672** to up to **3,265**.



- 4 Table 1 below shows the Commission's extrapolated electorate for Hythe up to December 2018.

Polling District	Parish Ward	Existing District Ward	Existing County Division	Electorate July 2012	Electorate Feb 2013	Electorate Dec 2018
HC1	Hythe North	Hythe Central	Hythe	2597	2578	2632
HC2	Hythe South	Hythe Central	Hythe	2359	2396	2467
HE1	Hythe East	Hythe East	Hythe	1857	1881	2036
HE2	Hythe East	Hythe East	Hythe	1593	1611	1713

These figures are based on the planning demographic information provided to the Commission by SDC and they take into account detailed planning applications and those developments highly likely to be implemented within the time frame – not outline applications or figures contained in the Core Strategy etc. The 2018 figures provided for the three existing District Wards are as follows :

Hythe West **4,041** – currently exceeds standard for one Councillor by 1,073  
 Hythe Central **5,099** – currently exceeds standard for one Councillor by 2,131  
 Hythe East **3,749** – currently exceeds standard for one Councillor by 781  
 Total **12,889**

- 5 Dividing the above total of 12,889 by the Commission's standard of 2,968 electors per Councillor provides a figure of 4.3 District Councillors for Hythe. The lower % deviation of 2,672 would allow for nigh on 5 and the higher % deviation of 3,265 yields 4.
- 6 What is clear from the above geographical spread of electorate and the prescribed ratio is that the present warding arrangements do not provide the "best fit" and so we are proposing the best way of equalising the wards, so as to ensure maximum community benefit, without seeking to going outside the current Hythe CP boundary.
- 7 At the time of the last local government review in 1999, the District Ward boundaries were changed from Hythe North, South, East and West to the present arrangements of Hythe West, Central & East. At the same time the internal Parish Ward boundaries were also changed, with Hythe North and South losing parts of their boundaries so as to accommodate the new District Central Ward. The difference between the District Wards and the Parish inevitably led to some confusion for the electorate.
- 8 Below is set out a worked example of how the Wards could be attempted to fit the criteria as laid down by the Boundary Commission whilst still retaining the elected District Members within the Hythe CP geographical area.



9 **Example of Option – Table 2 & Plan 2**

If there were to be a return to the pre 1999 District Ward boundaries of East, North South and West, with a few minor adjustments, then the electoral profile would approximate to the following Table 2:

	2018 Electoral Figs	Potential*
Hythe North	2,632	3,456
Hythe South	2,467	2,969
Hythe East	3,749	3,271
Hythe West	4,041	3,193
Total	12,889	12,889

10 **\*Synopsis of Proposed Option for new District North & South Ward – See Plan 2 & Appendix 1**

The changes engendered by this option would mean the following :

(i) Hythe North Ward

To the west, to include all roads to the west of London Road and to the north of the Royal Military Canal in this vicinity and to the east to include the part of North Road currently in East Ward, Castle Road, Tanners Hill Gardens and Deedes Close. This would mean a total electorate approximating to 3,456 which would be just within tolerable limits. It would also bring Hythe West Ward and Hythe East Ward within tolerable limits. It would also bring the North Ward back to its pre-1999 boundary on its western perimeter and be well-defined by both the road network and the Canal.

(ii) South Ward

To the west, the movement to South Ward of Fort Road, Sutherland Close, Frampton Road, St Nicholas Road, St Nicholas Terrace, Dymchurch Road – from St Nicholas Road to Fort Road. To the east to include Twiss Road – west side, Twiss Avenue, William Pitt Close, Blythe Court and Worthington Lodge. This option would substantiate the position of Hythe South to support one District Councillor whilst at the same time ensuring electoral equality in both East Ward and West Ward. It would also bring back the historical boundary of the former District South Ward pre-1999.

- 15 Using the above option, all suggested wards would have fairly well defined boundaries as per the attached plan.

We hope you will find our proposal useful in deciding the new boundaries for Hythe.

Yours faithfully

Councillors:

CELLR JOHN SCHONER

CELLR. ALAN SMITH.

CELLR. RICHARD WATSON

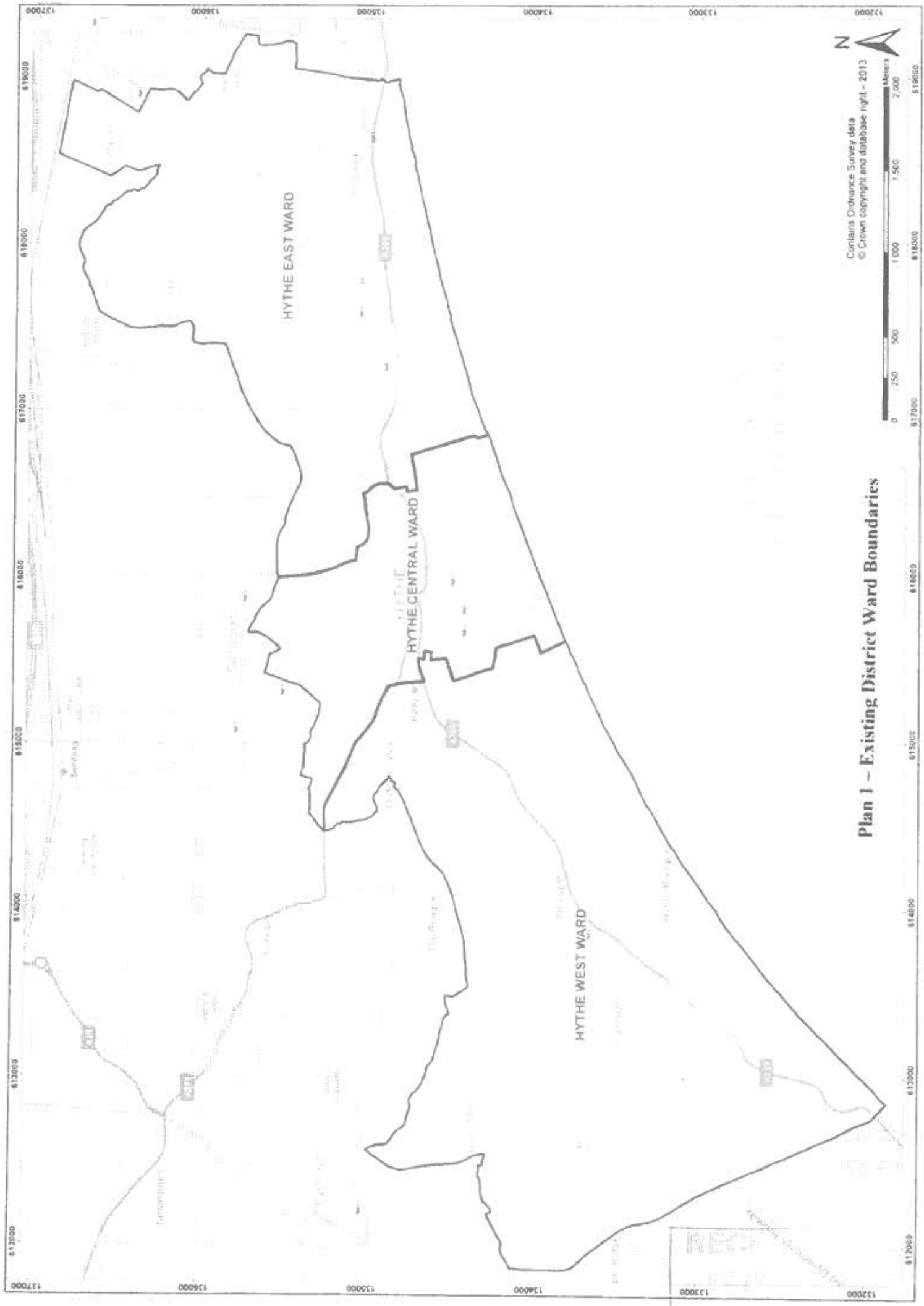
CELLR PAUL PEACOCK

CELLR. WENDY PEACOCK

CELLR ROSEMARY GRIFFITHS

CELLR JOHN GRIFFITHS

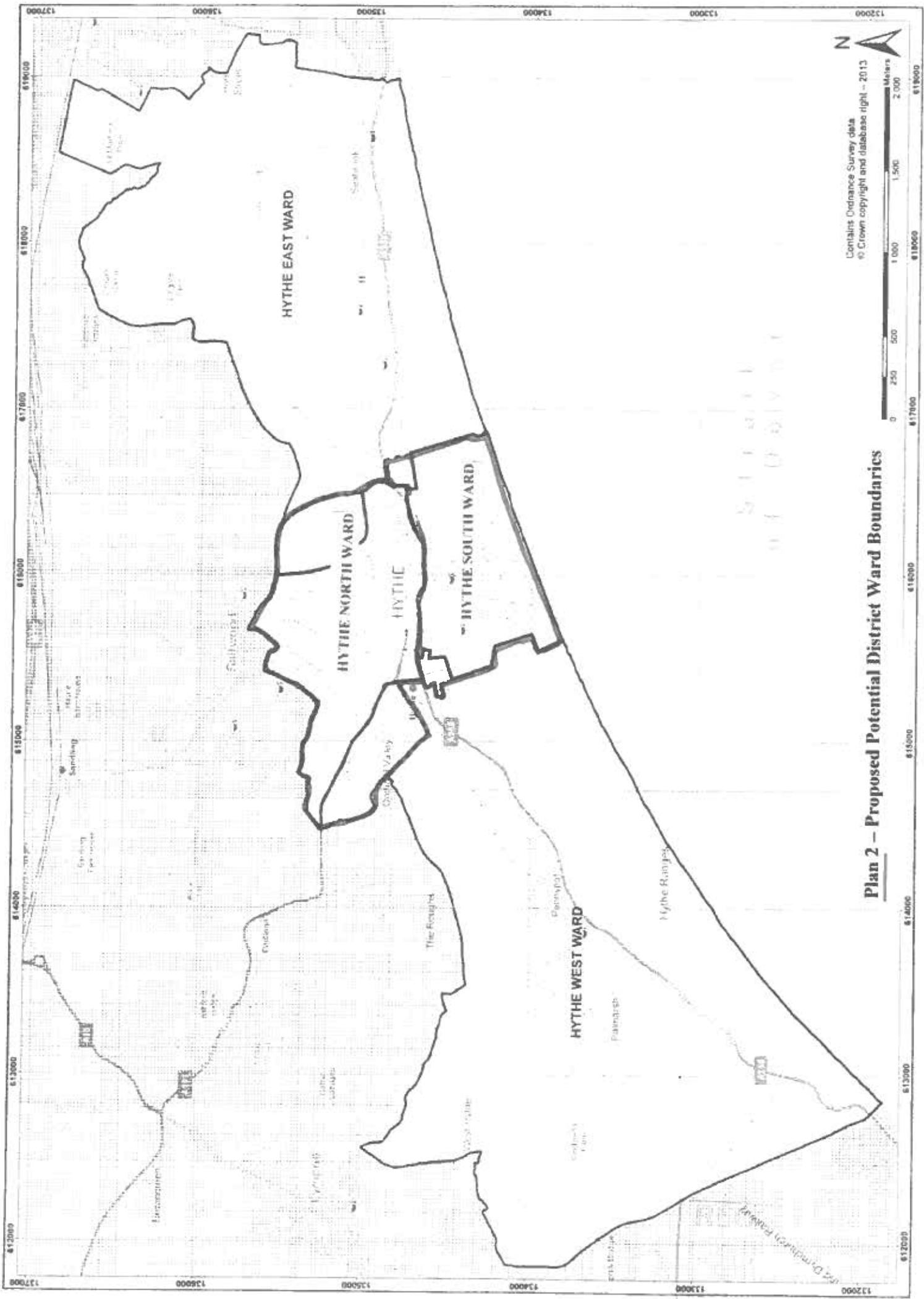




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**Plan 1 – Existing District Ward Boundaries**

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**Plan 2 – Proposed Potential District Ward Boundaries**

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**Appendix 1 – Details of Streets / Dwellings affected, together with approximate electorate**

Fort Road	66	Sutherland Close	30
Frampton Road	97	St Nicholas Road	45
St Nicholas Terrace	11	Dymchurch Road - part	64
Worthington Lodge	48	Twiss Road – west side	25
Twiss Avenue	47	William Pitt Close	34
Blythe Court	35	Castle Road	123
Deedes Close	16	Tanners Hill Gardens	104
North Road – Part	46	London Road	64
Old London Road	33	Nursery Fields	137
Orchard Valley	80	Redbrooks Way	48
Sunny Bank	16	Mill Fields Road	63
Summer Close	22	Green Lane	19
Green Lane Avenue	20	Turnpike Close	15
Bridge Close	12	Rothbury Gardens	6

