

**Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No. 495**

Principal Area Boundary Review

District of East Hertfordshire /

Borough of Stevenage

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 495

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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TO THE RT HON PATRICK JENKIN MP
SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

REVIEW OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE DISTRICT OF
EAST HERTFORDSHIRE AND THE BOROUGH OF STEVENAGE

BACKGROUND

1. In a letter dated 15 November 1983 Stevenage Borough Council made a request to us that we should make proposals for the realignment of the boundary between the District of East Hertfordshire and the Borough of Stevenage, so that an area containing a few properties in the vicinity of Chells Manor, which is in the East Hertfordshire parish of Aston, would be transferred from East Hertfordshire to Stevenage.

2. The Borough Council had initially also argued for two other areas to be transferred to their district across their eastern boundary.

In view, however, of the opposition that this had generated, they had confined their request to Chells Manor, the proposed transfer of which had, they said, gained the support of Hertfordshire County Council and Aston Parish Council.

3. In their submission to us the Borough Council explained that planning permission had been granted for the development of 160 acres of land at Chells Manor to meet the housing needs of Stevenage. Mainly private housing would be provided, though nomination rights to Stevenage residents would be offered on all the dwellings. The majority of the future residents would therefore have moved from within the Borough. The Council saw a need for the same standards of provision of facilities in the area, and access to them, as enjoyed by other Stevenage residents. In their view an important effect of early extension of the eastern boundary of the Borough would be to ensure that residents in the Chells Manor development continued to consider themselves Stevenage residents.

4. The Borough Council also maintained that the provision of services, such as highway maintenance, street lighting, and refuse collection, would be more efficient and effective from Stevenage, than from East Hertfordshire, as it would be a logical extension of the services they already provided to the eastern part of their area.

DRAFT PROPOSALS

5. We considered the Council's request, as required by section 48(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, having regard to Department of the Environment Circular 33/78 and to our Report No 287 (now subsumed in Report No 443). We noted that two of the local authorities involved and several local organisations were strongly opposed to Stevenage Borough Council's request. However, we were disposed to accept the Borough Council's view that the future residents of the affected area should from the outset be able to feel that they remained part of Stevenage.

6. In our view the request met the criteria set out in paragraph 14 of Department of the Environment Circular 33/78. We decided therefore to publish draft proposals based on Stevenage Borough Council's submission, and on 11 September 1984 we issued a consultation letter giving details of these. The letter was addressed to East Hertfordshire District Council and Stevenage Borough Council. Copies were sent to Hertfordshire County Council, the parish councils in the district of East Hertfordshire, MPs of the constituencies concerned, headquarters of the main political parties, Hertfordshire Association of Local Councils, North Hertfordshire and East Hertfordshire Health Authorities, Thames Water Authority, Department of the Environment Eastern Regional Office, the local government press, the local newspapers and the local radio and TV stations serving the area. The District Council and the Borough Council were asked to put copies of a notice on display at places where public notices were customarily displayed publicising our draft proposals, and to arrange for

the publication of the notice for two successive weeks in local newspapers. The Councils were also asked to put copies of our draft proposals on deposit at their main offices for a period of six weeks. Comments on the draft proposals were invited by 6 November 1984.

RESPONSE TO DRAFT PROPOSALS

7. In response to our draft proposals East Hertfordshire District Council disagreed with the view that the residents should feel part of Stevenage from the start - they felt that, in the early stages at least, the residents would feel part of Aston. They urged us to have proper regard to the overwhelming weight of public opinion which was not in favour of the transfer. The District Council were also concerned about planning issues. They referred to the urban fringe problems caused within their area by the expansion of Stevenage, and to the requirements in their District Plan for the retention of land for agricultural use for as long as possible. They felt in these respects that their continuing involvement in the Chells Manor development, as a local planning authority, was desirable. They additionally pointed out that while the land in question remained in their district, there was a statutory requirement for Aston Parish Council, representing the people who would be most immediately affected, to be consulted on planning applications. The District Council acknowledged that once the development was substantially complete, it might owe its major allegiance to Stevenage, and they conceded that it would be reasonable at that stage to consider a boundary change to transfer the land to Stevenage - by then the physical planning would have been completed in a way most compatible with the surrounding rural areas. The District Council's views were supported by Aston and Datchworth Parish Councils and Aston Village Society.

8. Stevenage Borough Council fully supported our draft proposals. They remained strongly of the opinion that the community of interest of those

who moved into the new housing would from the start be with Stevenage. They drew attention to a number of factors in support of this view, including the proximity of existing development in Stevenage to the Chells Manor site, and the main road and pedestrian links the development will have with the Borough. The Borough Council further stated that on planning issues they would consult East Hertfordshire, in the same way that East Hertfordshire had consulted with them, and would pay the same regard to the planning requirements for the area as they would for any existing part of Stevenage. As far as the development at Chells Manor was concerned, responsibilities for the infrastructure will fall upon Stevenage Borough Council, whose staff were already engaged on the design and overseeing of the construction of the main trunk sewer.

9. We established that Hertfordshire County Council did not wish to add to comments they had made at an earlier stage, which had been to the effect that there should be an adjustment of Stevenage's eastern boundary to take account of the Chells Manor development.

10. Thames Water Authority informed us that they had no comments to make.

11. A private individual commented that Stevenage Borough Council seemed to be adopting a piecemeal approach to their expansion. Another private individual was in favour of the proposed boundary change, subject to an adjustment.

FINAL PROPOSALS

12. We have reassessed our draft proposals in the light of the representations we have received. We consider that the overall weight of those representations favours the view taken throughout by Stevenage Borough Council, namely that the residents on the new development should from the beginning be able to feel themselves still part of the area from which they will have moved, to which they will go on looking for a variety of services and facilities, and with which they will continue to have their main community of interest.

We have noted the strong concern of East Hertfordshire District Council and Aston Parish Council as regards the planning implications of the proposed boundary change, but see no reason in this respect to doubt the assurances about consultation given by Stevenage Borough Council, who when taking planning decisions, will have to take full account of the views and anxieties of those already residing in the affected area. We are satisfied that it would be desirable in the interests of effective and convenient local government for the boundary between the District of East Hertfordshire and the Borough of Stevenage to be realigned, as indicated in our draft proposals. We therefore confirm the draft proposals as our final proposals.

13. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 1-3 to this report. Schedule 1 specifies the proposed changes in local authority areas; the proposed boundary is illustrated on a large scale map which is being sent separately to your Department. Schedules 2 and 3 specify the consequential adjustments to the existing electoral arrangements at district and county level respectively.

PUBLICATION

14. Separate letters are being sent with copies of the report and of the large scale map to East Hertfordshire District Council and Stevenage Borough Council asking them to place copies of this report on deposit at their main offices, and to put notices to this effect on public notice boards and in the local press. The text of the notices will refer to your power to make an Order implementing the proposals, if you think fit, after the expiry of six weeks from the date they are submitted to you; it will suggest that any comments on the proposals should therefore be addressed to you, in writing, preferably within six weeks of the date of the letter. Copies of this report which includes a small scale sketch plan are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter.

L.S.

Signed:

G J ELLERTON (Chairman)

J G POWELL (Deputy Chairman)

JOAN ACKNER

TYRRELL BROCKBANK

G E CHERRY

K J L NEWELL

B SCHOLES

L B GRIMSHAW
Secretary

2 May 1985

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

BOROUGH OF STEVENAGE/EAST HERTFORDSHIRE DISTRICT
PRINCIPAL AREA BOUNDARY REVIEW

FINAL PROPOSALS

Note: Where a boundary is described as following a road, railway, river, canal or similar feature, it shall be deemed to follow the centre line of the feature, unless otherwise stated.

SCHEDULE 1

Area A: description of an area of land proposed to be transferred from Aston CP in East Hertfordshire District to the Borough of Stevenage.

That area bounded by a line commencing at the point where the eastern boundary of the proposed road running southwards from the extension of Martins Way to Sheafgreen Lane meets the existing eastern boundary of the Borough of Stevenage, thence northwestwards and northwards along said Borough boundary to the northern end of Narrowbox Lane on the eastern curtilage of No 54 Dryden Crescent, thence due north to the proposed, realigned Stevenage Road, thence westwards along said road to the existing Borough boundary, thence generally northeastwards along said borough boundary to the proposed road running southwards from the extension of Martins Way to Sheafgreen Lane, thence southwards along the eastern boundary of said proposed road to the point of commencement.

Area B: description of an area of land proposed to be transferred from Aston CP in East Hertfordshire District to the Borough of Stevenage.

That area bounded by a line commencing at the point where the western boundary of Area A as described above meets the existing eastern boundary of the Borough of Stevenage at the eastern curtilage of No 54 Dryden Crescent, thence northwestwards along said Borough boundary to the western boundary of Area A, thence eastwards and southwards along said western boundary to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 2

Civil Parish Alterations within East Hertfordshire District.

Areas C and D: descriptions of areas of land proposed to be transferred from Aston CP to Walkern CP.

Area C: That area bounded by a line commencing at the point where the eastern boundary of Area A, as described in Schedule 1, meets the western boundary of East Hertfordshire District at Lobs Hole, thence eastwards along said District boundary to the western boundary of Walkern CP, thence southeastwards along said CP boundary to the northern boundary of parcel No 8247, as shown on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (A) TL 2625, date of publication 1974, thence southeastwards along said parcel boundary to the eastern boundary of Area A, as described in Schedule 1, thence northwestwards along said eastern boundary to the point of commencement.

Area D: That area bounded by a line commencing at the northern corner of Parcel No 8247, as shown on OS 1:2500 Microfilm (A) TL 2625, date of publication 1974, on the western boundary of Walkern CP, thence southeastwards and southwestwards along said CP boundary to the eastern boundary of Parcel No 8247, thence northwards along said parcel boundary to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 3

Revised District electoral arrangements.

1. It is proposed that the Borough Wards, as defined in the Borough of Stevenage (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976, and the District Wards, as defined in the District of East Hertfordshire (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976 (amended by the East Hertfordshire and Stevenage (Areas) Order 1984), shall be altered as described below.

Area A, as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Walkern Ward of East Hertfordshire District to the Martins Wood Ward of the Borough of Stevenage.

Area B, as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Walkern Ward of East Hertfordshire District to the Mobbsbury Ward of the Borough of Stevenage.

2. It is proposed that the Borough Wards, as defined in the Borough of Stevenage (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1976, shall be altered as described below.

Area E, described below, shall be transferred from the Mobbsbury Ward to the Martins Wood Ward.

That area bounded by a line commencing on the existing eastern boundary of the Borough of Stevenage at the western corner of Area B, as described in Schedule 1,

thence northwestwards along the proposed, realigned Stevenage Road, and the road known as Fairlands Way to the existing boundary between Mobbsbury Ward and Martins Wood Ward, thence northeastwards along said ward boundary to the western boundary of Area A, as described in Schedule 1, thence southeastwards along said western boundary to the point of commencement.

SCHEDULE 4

Revised County electoral arrangements

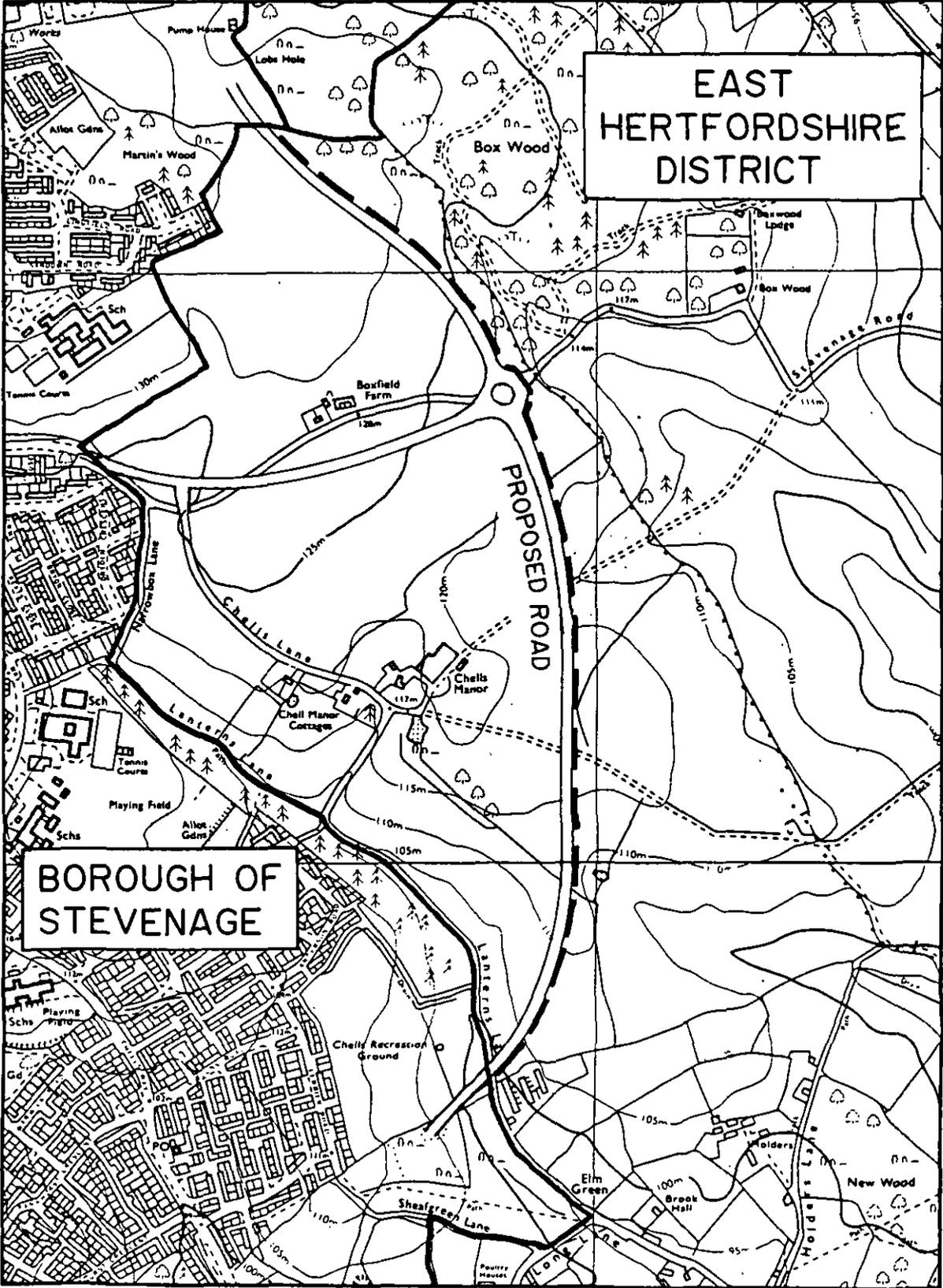
It is proposed that the County Electoral Divisions, as defined in the County of Hertfordshire (Electoral Arrangements) Order 1980, shall be altered as described below.

Area A, as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Hertford Rural ED to the St Nicholas ED.

Area B, as described in Schedule 1, shall be transferred from the Hertford Rural ED to the Chells ED.

Area E, as described in Schedule 3, shall be transferred from the Chells ED to the St Nicholas ED.

PRINCIPAL AREAS BOUNDARY REVIEW



— EXISTING BOROUGH BOUNDARY
- - - PROPOSED BOROUGH BOUNDARY