The Secretary
The Electoral Commission
Trevelyan House
Great Peter Street
London
SW1P 2HW

19th June 2006

Dear Sirs

Re: Proposed boundary changes within North Herts. District Council

We understand that over the last year there has been a review carried out by the Boundary Committee, into the future electoral arrangements in North Hertfordshire. We are dismayed that there has been no public consultation around the proposed changes, and indeed have only recently been alerted by our ward councillors.

As residents of a small hamlet in the rural ward of Hitchwood, it is clear that the proposed merging of three rural wards into one will not provide the quality of representation at a very local level. One councillor cannot possibly provide the same service to the community, currently fulfilled by three councillors who have come to know ‘their patch’ over time. Rural needs do vary from area to area, and the issues affecting Lilley are not necessarily those affecting Whitwell.

If this is an exercise to level numbers within each ward for purely bureaucratic demands, then you should remember that there are proposals to build a huge number of new homes within Hertfordshire, which would require further consideration in terms of representation.

We urge you to reconsider the proposal to merge three rural wards into one single ward covering a large tract of rural North Hertfordshire.

Yours sincerely

John Shervell and Melissa Waylett