

Taylor, Laura

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 March 2017 12:05
To: reviews
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Goat Lees Ward - comments and objections to the proposal.

Good morning,

Subject - The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England is asking people across Ashford to comment on its draft proposals for new council ward boundaries.

We live at [REDACTED]

I have reviewed the consultation and would like to register my objections/comments in relation to the impact of the proposed local government boundaries commission change.

Substance of the objection: we have seen no reasonable attempt to determine why any of the properties on Sandyhurst Lane should be transferred to the Goat Lees Ward. The nature of the residential areas (Goat Lees and Sandyhurst lane) are entirely different and it is unclear how a common approach to decisions likely to be taken, including service provision, lighting, planning, inter alia, would be made?

We assert that it would be helpful for the proposal/decision-makers involved in this matter to consider this - if this has been assessed and considered then what was the outcome? We would recognise that this is a matter of judgement but put simply - how is it reasonable to suggest that the differences between the residential areas would be taken into account? You list many practical determinants of this: bus services, street lighting, shops, drainage. Surely this needs to be a point of discussion? If the change in boundary were to be executed then the residential environments would not be in anyway homogenous - the decisions made in the Goat Lees ward would be taken largely on the basis of the existing residents (estate which is well founded and served by bus routes, lights, mains sewage etc)...this would unreasonably disadvantage those sandyhurst lane properties you propose to transfer in. Surely better to keep those properties within the Boughton Aluph and Eastwell ward? That way there would be a more reasonable level of homogeneity for decisions to be made.

It is our view that the broader planning context has not been fully considered either. In its explicit decision to exclude a number of areas proposed for planning and building, the ABC plan has identified and agreed that the sandyhurst lane residential area is not the same as the sort of development we see in Goat Lees. Surely, such differences require the appropriate level of local governance. We recognise the appropriateness of the current boundary established in Boughton Aluph and Eastwell. The external boundary of Boughton Aluph and Eastwell PARISH is unchanged - to be in a different ward is unreasonable. The security zone running between our property and the new development of Goat Lees estate was intended to signal a deliberate separation, particularly where future growth is concerned. This consultation would be in contradiction to that and should be considered by the decision-makers in consultation with all stakeholders, including Ashford Borough Council.

In summary - we believe this proposal has unreasonably limited its scope to an exercise in "equalising numbers"...we pay for this in financial terms already and will be required to live with the consequences and in doing so believe it would be unreasonable if the consultation paper failed to take into account the range of qualitative factors as described in your note.

We look forward to you acknowledging receipt of this objection and trust you will consider it with the appropriate degree of attention it deserves.

Kind regards,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.