Dear Sir,

Please see attached letter concerning our objections to the proposed boundary changes in our ward of North Herts and the reduction in representing councillors.

Yours faithfully,

Mr and Mrs D Pearce
The Secretary  
The Electoral Commission  
Trevelyan House  
Great Peter St  
London SW1P 2HW  

20th June 2006  

Dear Sirs,  

Re: Proposed Boundary Changes within North Herts District Council  

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

As a resident of a small hamlet in the rural ward of Hitchwood it is clear that the merging of three 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 that is currently covered by three councillors who have a good knowledge of their specific areas.  

Rural needs do differ from area to area and issues affecting Lilley, for instance, are not necessarily those affecting Whitwell. This is currently reflected in our councillors being able to offer a degree of specialism which they contribute to their various roles within the council.  

If local people do not enjoy local representation it is likely that the turnout for local elections will be further reduced – a major concern already acknowledged at every level of electoral representation. Dislocation and disaffection from the democratic process is contrary to the Government’s expressed aim to bring everyone closer.  

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

We ask you to consider the points raised within this letter and 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,  

Mr and Mrs D Pearce