
2nd September 2013

By Post and Email (reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

Dear Sir,

Draft Recommendation on the future warding pattern of the District, and in particular, the name to be given to the proposed Hythe Rural Ward

We note the reported comments of Max Caller, Chairman of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, as reported locally being “we want to make sure ward boundaries across Shepway reflect the identities and interests of local communities.”

We wish to address the name of the proposed Hythe Rural Ward.

The five correspondents are all Councillors of Hythe Town Council and Shepway District Council; four are past Mayors of Hythe, two are also past Speakers of the Confederation of Cinque Ports and two are presently Cabinet Members of the Executive of Shepway District Council.

Our purpose in writing to you is over the names of proposed Hythe Rural.

In its publication with regard to draft recommendations and, in particular, comments concerning Hythe Rural and Hythe the commission stated at paragraph 66

“Hythe is the second largest settlement of the District The District Council proposed two wards based on Hythe. ... Hythe Rural, comprised of the western part of Hythe Town and the parishes of Lympne and Saltwood.”

In its initial response to the consultation on warding arrangements representation was received from Saltwood Parish Council which led to the recommendation that Saltwood should be included in Hythe Ward which would reflect community links in the area and that proposal was adopted as part of the draft recommendation.

It was considered that on the basis of evidence received the proposed Hythe and Hythe Rural Wards provide for a better balance between the statutory criteria.

In Appendix A1 7 the electorate in Hythe Rural was given as 4776 and the division between Hythe Rural and Lympne would appear to be something in the region of 58% presently within the extant borders of Hythe and approximately 42% in the area of Lympne, with the preponderance of the population being in Hythe and the preponderance of the area of the new ward being in Hythe. Further development in the Martello Lakes, formerly Nicholls Quarry, will significantly increase the population and such increase will be reflected within the boundaries of Hythe and not Lympne.

The area of Hythe to be placed within the new Hythe Rural Ward is presently covered in respect of Highway and Planning Matters by Hythe Town Council and there will be representatives continuing to be Town Councillors of Hythe in that regard. A great part of the area covered by the new ward is rural land between Hythe and Lympne. Hythe is the major shopping centre and generally the people from Lympne shop in Hythe and use Hythe's facilities. As far as we know they are content that the name should remain Hythe Rural.

The difficulty that has arisen is that on the 28th August Shepway District Council, following recommendations from the General Purposes Committee, recommended the name of the proposed Hythe Rural Ward should be changed to Hythe West and Lympne. This was opposed by the correspondents, not least because Hythe Town Council had put a resolution that the name of the new ward should be Hythe Rural.

The proposal not to accept the change of name was defeated by 18 votes to 17 votes with two abstentions and the five signatories of this letter, all of whom represent wards in Hythe, objected to the proposal that Hythe Rural would be changed to Hythe West and Lympne. The commission itself believes that the name for this ward should be Hythe Rural and we would argue that there is no justification whatsoever to change the name from Hythe Rural to that of Hythe West and Lympne.

The General Purposes Committee that dealt with these proposals had substitutes and one of the correspondents objecting to the change of name for Hythe Rural to Hythe West and Lympne was not able to attend and would have opposed that decision had he been able to do so.

It is also interesting to note that at the same meeting to which we have referred it was accepted that the name of the proposed Romney Marsh ward would remain Romney Marsh and not be changed to Romney Marsh East despite the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee.

So far as we are aware, neither Lympne Parish council nor anyone from that part of the ward, save for one individual to whom you refer in your draft report and the Lympne District Councillor at the Council meeting, have raised any comment over the name Hythe Rural

In all of these circumstances we would strongly urge the Commission to maintain its stance contained within its recommendations and to adopt Hythe Rural as the ward and not to have a change. Our representations do not affect the constituent basis of 3 member Hythe ward or a 2 member Hythe Rural ward but does affect the way the majority of the people view the situation.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Malcolm J. Dearden (Town and District Councillor, Member of the Shepway District Council Cabinet, former Mayor of Hythe and Speaker of the Cinque Ports)

Councillor Alan Ewart-James (Town and District Councillor, Past Mayor of Hythe and Speaker of the Cinque Ports)

Councillor Keren Belcourt (Town and District Councillor, Member of the Shepway District Council Cabinet, former Mayor of Hythe)

Councillor David Owen (Town and District Councillor, Chairman of Audit and Compliance, former Mayor of Hythe)

Councillor Michael Lyons (Town and District Councillor)

The Review Officer (Shepway)
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Sent: 09 September 2013 14:54

To: Reviews@

Subject: The Review Officer (Shepway) The Boundary Commission

Dear Sirs

Further to our submission dated 2nd September I note the final submission from Shepway District Council in respect of Hythe and Hythe Rural. In respect of Hythe Rural on page (26) of the Report the figures given for Hythe West being Palmarsh is 4041; Lympne is 1461 - total being 5502.

This would therefore give a 73% in Palmarsh i.e. part of Hythe and 27% in Lympne.

Initially, 670 in Saltwood was scheduled to be included but this area is now included in Hythe.

The purpose in sending this email to you is that in the earlier submission the figures that were quoted in respect of percentage terms between Hythe and Lympne arose from the debate in the Chamber of Shepway District Council and now that the final submission has been indicated the different figures show a greater preponderance of voters in Hythe than in Lympne than was at first thought. This therefore reinforces the submission made by the five councillors that the name should remain Hythe Rural rather than West Hythe and Lympne.

Yours faithfully

Councillor Malcolm J Dearden