

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SHEPWAY DISTRICT

Submission by BURMARSH PARISH COUNCIL on the warding pattern and parish electoral arrangements

1. Burmarsh Parish Council prefers that it remains as part of the Romney Marsh ward that currently provides unified representation for all of the inland marsh communities which have common interests and concerns; comprising a unique area within Shepway.
2. Strong and easily identifiable boundaries are, broadly, Hythe, the Downs, the light railway and the county boundary.
3. Burmarsh's experience is that most issues which concern the community, such as transport, housing, planning, burial facilities, wind turbines etc...., are shared with the other small villages of Brenzett, Snargate, Brookland, Ivychurch, Newchurch, Old Romney, and St. Mary in the Marsh. There is a long standing practice of the District and County representatives for these parishes to call them together on a regular basis for the sharing of common concerns.
4. Whilst recognising the principle of electoral equality, the Parish Council hopes that the Commission will not be so influenced by arithmetical considerations that it proposes merging these isolated but distinct communities with larger areas such as Hythe or Lydd, with their more urban preoccupations, or with coastal communities such as Dymchurch and St. Mary's Bay which are focussed upon tourism and sea defences.
5. Finally, the Parish Council sees no reason for the Commission to propose any change to the current parish electoral arrangements.

John Rich
Clerk to Burmarsh Parish Council