

Mayers, Mishka

From: Peter Harman [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 December 2017 00:30
To: reviews
Subject: FW: SGRA 2017 Boundary Submission
Attachments: SGRA 2017.docx

I wish to submit my comments as part of the current boundary review of Dartford Borough Council. I am submitting my personal views in the role of Kent County Council (KCC) Member for Swanscombe and Greenhithe Division. I am also a Councillor at Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council (SGTC), and am the Chairperson of the Swanscombe and Greenhithe Residents' Association (SGRA).

My views of the best way forward correspond exactly with those of the submission already made to yourselves by the SGRA (as per the attachment to this email). As Chair of that organisation I had a large amount of input into the writing of that document; and in this submission I wish to clarify why my own experience as a KCC and SGTC Councillor leads me to believe that to be the best way forward.

My experience over recent years is that our current system provides very good connectivity between our three local council organisation (KCC, DBC and SGTC), with area boundaries matching on most occasions. The Town Council area matches that of the KCC seat as defined in the last review of KCC areas, and Borough Council areas similarly. Local residents can identify with these three bodies, and with the responsibilities for local governance that each holds. Furthermore the current pattern of wards has been very effective at reflecting the interests, identities and needs of our local community; and work well for our residents. It also works well in providing good and effective local governance, without unnecessary complication for no real benefit.

The one area that has become rather problematic is the balance between the number of electors to each Borough Councillor position due to the rapid current and proposed housing developments. A review was therefore necessary because of this, and of course to examine whether there was a better way forward generally. I feel that the submission by the SGRA corrects the imbalance of numbers; whilst preserving the very real benefits of a tried and tested effective means of local government with regards the other two named criteria.

Kind regards

Peter Harman [REDACTED]
KCC Member for Swanscombe and Greenhithe