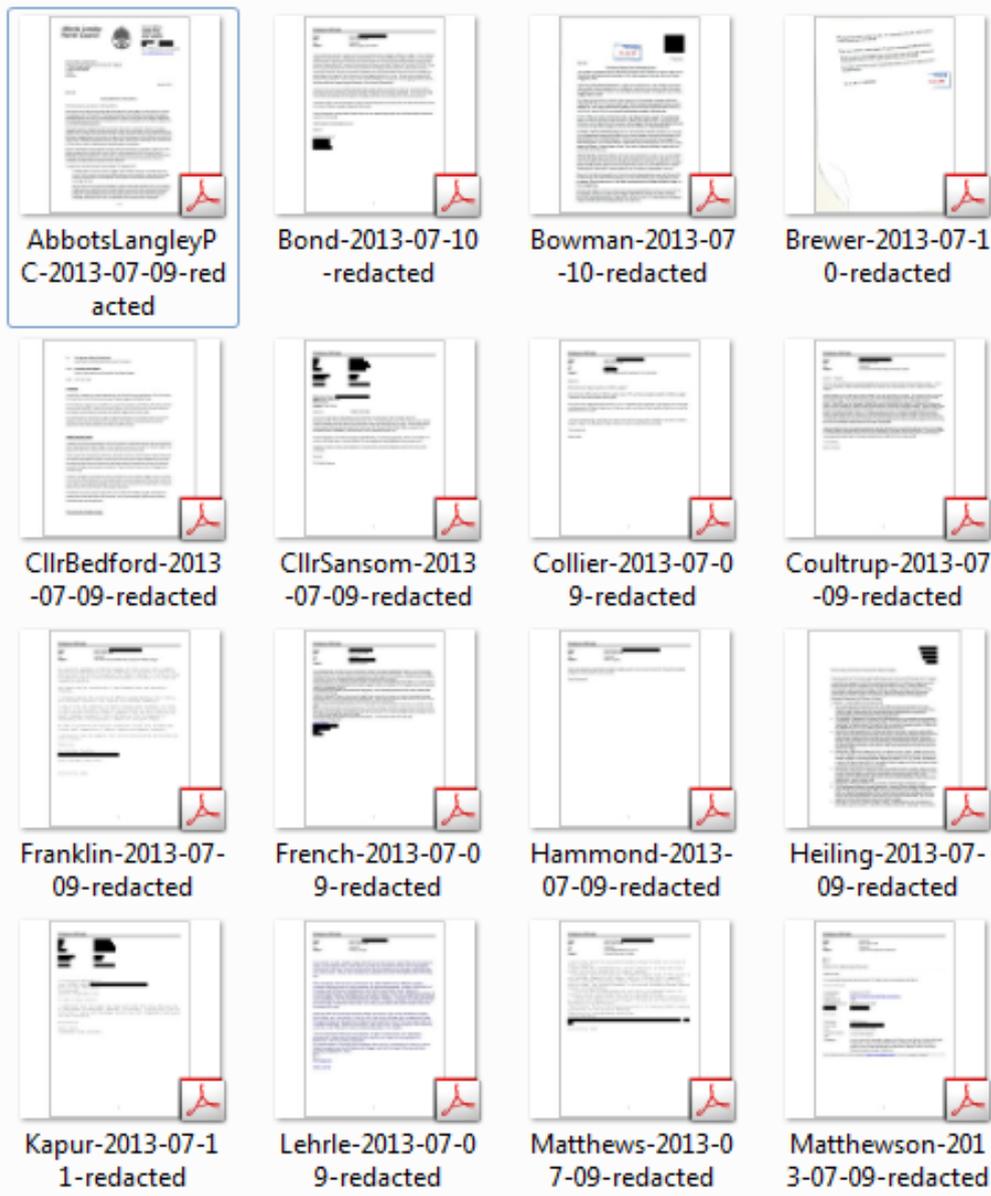


Late submissions to the Three Rivers District Council electoral review

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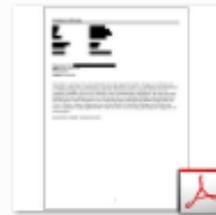




Norton-2013-07-10-redacted



Reid-2013-07-09-redacted



Smith-2013-07-09-redacted



Southern-2013-07-10-redacted



Stower-2013-07-09-redacted



Tomson-2013-07-09-redacted



Warman-2013-07-10-redacted



Warner-2013-07-10-redacted

Abbots Langley Parish Council



Council Offices,
Langley Road,
Abbots Langley,
Herts. WD5 0EJ

Mr. T. Perkins, Clerk to the Council

www.abbotslangley-pc.gov.uk

Review Officer (Three Rivers)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
3rd Floor Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London
EC1M 5LG

8th July 2013.

Dear Sirs,

Electoral Review of Three Rivers

With reference to your letter of 16th April 2013.

The Parish Council discussed the Draft Recommendations of the LGBCE current electoral review at its meeting on the 13th May 2013. The Council resolved without dissent to endorse the proposals submitted earlier this year by Three Rivers District Council as they affect the Abbots Langley area. We understand that Three Rivers are expected to restate the proposals for the Abbots Langley area at its Council meeting tomorrow.

The Parish Council is pleased that the Commission has chosen to keep the whole of the Abbots Langley Parish Council area as one discrete part, rather than cross Parish Council boundaries and to allocate nine councillors in three three-member wards. We believe that this represents the fact that the Abbots Langley Parish Council area is divided from the remainder of the Three Rivers District by a large area of broadly unpopulated area of Green Belt. There are no community ties to other areas in Three Rivers which is represented in the distribution of councillors.

However the Parish Council disagrees strongly with the Commission's proposals to split the current Abbots Langley District and Parish Council ward, whilst keeping the District Council ward of Bedmond and Primrose Hill intact. This ward is currently split into its two constituent communities for Parish Council purposes and we cannot see any reason why these communities should be combined for either District or Parish Council elections.

To quote from the Parish Council's letter dated 11th January 2013.

As stated above, we do not wish to suggest exact warding. However we would prefer the current Parish wards to be used as building blocks as far as possible, ensuring that as many existing communities are kept together and residents retain familiar polling stations to encourage turnout.

This would see the core of the old Abbots Langley village kept together (the current Abbots Langley ward), no splitting of the Hillside estate (an area of former local authority housing which forms the majority of the current Tanners Wood ward), the community of Hunton Bridge or village of Bedmond and the grouping together of the areas of new housing in Leavesden ward built since 1995, as these also form a coherent mini community.

We therefore submit that the new wards within the area should mean as little disruption as possible to existing community and electoral arrangements, which have served local residents well.

In contrast, the current Parish and District wards of Abbots Langley are coterminous and represent a strong, unified and ancient community. The division of this ward splitting it between enlarged Bedmond and Langleybury wards is irrational and the chosen dividing line is arbitrary, serving no purpose except to make up the numbers.

Abbots Langley village

The Parish Council is strongly opposed to the division of Abbots Langley ward, as the ward currently covers a single well-defined community. Abbots Langley is an old community, mentioned in the Domesday Book and with a 900 year old parish church.

Dividing the existing Abbots Langley ward will break the strong community ties within the ward. All residents identify only with the Abbots Langley community: there are no sub-communities within Abbots Langley ward.

Residents use the varied range of shops in the High Street; doctors and dentists surgeries and second tier medical services such as physiotherapists and chiropodists. The village halls, the three churches; and the many community groups provide a central focus on community life. Most primary-age children go to Abbots Langley School in the ward.

There is no reasonable way to divide the ward.

The Commission's proposed boundary through Abbots Langley is irrational, weak and poorly defined, causing several streets (including the High Street) to be split between wards. Abbots Langley is a single community with strong ties and currently forms a single parish ward.

The District Council's proposals respect the communities within the parish and enable the existing parish ward boundaries to be retained. This is overwhelmingly supported by residents, businesses and community groups.

The transport links within the Parish run north-south, linking Bedmond with Abbots Langley, and Primrose Hill with Hunton Bridge. There are no east-west links. This means that there are virtually no links between the Primrose Hill area and Abbots Langley. To combine part of such a well-defined and self-identifying village as Abbots Langley with Primrose Hill would be placing two entirely unconnected communities together, for no community gain.

This merger would mean there would be a significant loss of effective democratic representation.

However Abbots Langley does have a number of strong links with Bedmond village.

Bedmond & Primrose Hill

The village of Bedmond is a small and close community. It has shops, a primary school and a village hall. Groups such as the Women's Institute organise events such as the Summer Fair, carol singing and a beacon lighting to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. These groups have "Bedmond" in their title.

The village has a small church, which hosts services alternate weekends and a monthly coffee morning.

However Bedmond is also closely linked to the main village of Abbots Langley. Bedmond residents use Abbots Langley High Street, not only for the shops, but also for first and second tier medical services, the library and churches. The Church of the Ascension is part of the Parish of St Lawrence, Abbots Langley. The only bus route through Bedmond also passes through Abbots Langley on its way between Watford and Hemel Hempstead.

In contrast, residents of Bedmond village have no real relationship with the residents in the other part of the Bedmond and Primrose Hill District Council ward. Residents of the Primrose Hill area do not attend primary school in either Bedmond or Abbots Langley, but attend either Kings Langley, St. Paul's Langleybury or even Tanners Wood on Hillside.

Primrose Hill residents use the shops, doctors, dentists and library in Kings Langley village. They use the village hall in Kings Langley and would not use the hall in Bedmond.

Whilst Bedmond and Primrose Hill are currently in the same District Council ward, they have little in common with each other, save that they are both north of the M25. Indeed when the Parish Council wards were redrawn in 1998, the areas of Bedmond, and Primrose Hill each retained their own single-member wards; and the District Council ward, previously known only as 'Bedmond' was renamed 'Bedmond and Primrose Hill' to demonstrate the two very different communities in the ward.

Because of the links of the grand Union Canal, the railway line and the bus routes, the Primrose Hill area has strong links with the Hunton Bridge and much of the Hillside estate. Station Road and the new homes on the Ovaltine site are in the same church parish area as Hillside and Hunton Bridge - St. Paul's, Langleybury.

The division of Bedmond & Primrose Hill ward between its two respective communities is well-defined and follows an ancient boundary. The name of the ward was changed, from 'Bedmond' to 'Bedmond and Primrose Hill' at the previous boundary review, to reflect the fact that there are two very distinct communities in the ward:

Almost the entire population in Primrose Hill parish ward lives in a narrow and distinct area west of the railway line and east of the canal. There are no effective public transport links between Bedmond and Primrose Hill: the bus between them along Toms Lane having been withdrawn due to lack of demand. All the transport links run north to south (Abbots Langley to Bedmond, and Hunton Bridge to Primrose Hill), with both the railway line and all local bus routes. There are no main roads linking the Primrose Hill Area with Bedmond village.

Residents of Bedmond village use their own primary school, shops, village hall, pub etc. For other facilities, such as medical, shops, library and secondary schools, they travel to Abbots Langley or on through Abbots Langley to Watford. The 'Tin Church' at Bedmond is part of the same Parish with St. Lawrence, Abbots Langley and there are many shared community events across the two churches.

Residents of the Primrose Hill area mostly use facilities in Kings Langley village or travel into Hemel Hempstead. For primary schooling, it has become increasingly difficult to gain places at Kings Langley school, but local children are taking places at St. Paul's , Langleybury or Tanners Wood JMI, rather than attend Bedmond or Abbots Langley JMIs.

Residents of Primrose Hill feel no connection with the village of Abbots Langley.

The Commission's plans to merge Bedmond, Primrose Hill and Abbots Langley into one large Parish Council ward makes little sense and combines communities which need their own distinct representatives. If the Parish Council wards are combined, there is a strong risk that representatives will not live in the individual communities, as is now the case, but will be more likely to come from Abbots Langley, reducing effective democratic representation at the community level.

The current Bedmond & Primrose Hill Three Rivers ward is comprised of two very different communities. The area has always been divided between two separate Parish Council wards, reflecting the two communities and enabling them to have local representatives at this lowest level of local government. Finally the Boundary Commission's plans for a hugely expanded Parish ward covering the whole of the Bedmond, Primrose Hill and Abbots Langley North area will remove the Parish Councillor specifically representing Bedmond village and the Primrose Hill area, which will be very much to the detriment of these very different communities.

Hillside

Hillside is a post-war development of around 900 homes, originally built as a council estate, but now with a mix of owner occupied and housing association homes. The area has a strong community feel.

Although the estate is a part of the greater Abbots Langley area, Hillside has its own community facilities and feels very different to Abbots Langley village. It has its own primary school, shops, open spaces, play areas, Scout hut and a number of community activities operating out of the Parish Council's community hall and the active Residents' Association offices.

Last month, a new youth club opened on the estate, as young people from the estate did not want to attend the club in Abbots Langley village.

Hillside is part of the Parish of St. Paul's at Langleybury (together with Hunton Bridge and some of the Primrose Hill area), rather than St. Lawrence, Abbots Langley, there is also a community focus at the Baptist Church on the estate, where coffee mornings and events for children are run. The community has its own football club at Evergreens on South Way and cricket club at Langleybury.

The Hillside Residents Association is a strong community group, which organises many events on behalf of local residents, including an annual Family Fun Day and supports the activities of other groups organising craft, family and computing classes and events for Hillside residents.

The boundary between the existing Abbots Langley and Langleybury wards is a well-known and ancient boundary, which follows the church parish boundary. In contrast, the boundary which has been proposed by the Boundary Commission is less clear and cuts the community of Abbots Langley in half. Sharing a councillor with parts of Abbots Langley would be detrimental to the Hillside community, as it would only be a small part of the more significant Abbots Langley area. A link with Hunton Bridge and Primrose Hill would be between communities of equal size with their own discreet character.

Children in the current Langleybury ward attend Tanners Wood School and St. Paul's Langleybury, whilst children from Abbots Langley usually attend Abbots Langley School. Tanners Wood and St. Paul's are also attended by many children from both Hunton Bridge and also Station Road and Primrose Hill.

All the buses from Primrose Hill into Watford/Hemel Hempstead run through the Hillside and Hunton Bridge areas, whilst the buses in Abbots Langley and Bedmond run along a different route. There are no buses linking Primrose Hill with Abbots Langley or Bedmond.

At the moment the Hillside/Tanners Wood area has three Parish Councillors separate from Abbots Langley and this is important for community representation. These councillors are also separate from the Parish Councillor for Hunton Bridge.

The Boundary Commission's plans for a larger Parish ward will remove the Parish Councillor specifically representing Hillside, which will reduce democratic representation for residents in this key housing area.

Conclusion & Summary

The Parish Council:

- Reiterates its support for the warding proposals made by Three Rivers District Council for this part of the District.
- Strongly opposes the division of Abbots Langley ward, which members believe to be totally contrary to community cohesion and local identity.
- Believes that Leavesden ward as proposed is logical in terms of the communities on the border with Watford Borough.

- Believes that the division of the Bedmond and Primrose Hill ward not only makes sense for the purposes of this boundary review, but also respects the two very separate communities within the existing District Council ward.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Perkins
Clerk to the Council



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Dunkeyson, Nicholas

From: Ian Bond [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 July 2013 08:20
To: Reviews@
Subject: Abbots Langley boundaries

I am sending this email in response to the proposed boundary changes to Abbots Langley. I live in Abbots Langley, my wife works at Breakspere school and our son attends Abbots Langley school. As I am aware of the need to support our community, to build resilience in the face of climate instability and fossil fuel depletion (especially oil), I started a local initiative 4 years ago called "Abbots in Transition" (ALTTA). Since then our group has started a community market in the village, formed a team to plant and maintain a community orchard, set up a group that campaigns for more sustainable practices in terms of single use plastic bags, working with local shops and encouraging residents to re-use. We are also working with 6 local primary schools in various ways, most recently holding an "eco picnic" encouraging schools to share best practises and supporting them towards "Eco school accreditation."

I am of course very concerned that this boundary split might cause a fracture to our community which would be counter productive towards bringing us together to face these challenges. The idea of the High Street effectively being split through this change would be most unhelpful for community cohesion.

I therefore wish to personally object to this proposed change and would prefer an alternative which places the whole of Abbots Langley village with Bedmond.

I do not represent anyone else's opinion here but am expressing my and my wife Denise Bond's personal opinions in this email.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards

Ian & Denise Bond
[REDACTED]



5th July 2013

Dear Sir,

Three Rivers District Council Boundary Review

I am writing concerning the plans to change the boundaries of the wards in the Abbots Langley Parish Council area and in particular the boundaries of the Abbots Langley, Bedmond, Primrose Hill and Langleybury areas.

I have been a resident of Bedmond for 15 years and live in the centre of the village. I am involved with a number of local organisations including the village Task Force, and am a past office holder of the Bedmond Women's Institute. I am currently the Parish Councillor for Bedmond ward of Abbots Langley Parish Council.

The village of Bedmond is a small and close community. We have shops, a primary school and a village hall. We have our own groups such as the Women's Institute and organise events such as the Summer Fair, carol singing and a beacon lighting to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We have a small church, which hosts services alternate weekends and a monthly coffee morning.

However Bedmond is also closely linked to the main village of Abbots Langley. We use their High Street, not only for the shops, but also the doctor, dentist, library and churches. Our Church of the Ascension is part of the Parish of St Lawrence, Abbots Langley. The only bus route through Bedmond also passes through Abbots Langley on its way between Watford and Hemel Hempstead.

In contrast, residents of Bedmond village have no real relationship with the residents in the other part of the Bedmond and Primrose Hill District Council ward. Residents of the Primrose Hill area do not attend primary school in either Bedmond or Abbots Langley, but attend either Kings Langley, St. Paul's Langleybury or even Tanners Wood on Hillside. Primrose Hill residents use the shops, doctors, dentists and library in Kings Langley village. They use the village hall in Kings Langley and would not use the hall in Bedmond.

Whilst Bedmond and Primrose Hill are currently in the same District Council ward, they have little in common with each other, save that they are north of the M25. Indeed when the Parish Council wards were redrawn in 1998, the areas of Bedmond, and Primrose Hill each retained their own single-member wards; and the District Council ward, previously known only as 'Bedmond' was renamed 'Bedmond and Primrose Hill' to demonstrate the two very different communities in the ward.

Because of the links of the grand Union Canal, the railway line and the bus routes, the Primrose Hill area has strong links with the Hunton Bridge and much of the Hillside estate. Station Road and the new homes on the Ovaltine site are in the same church parish area as Hillside and Hunton Bridge – St. Paul's, Langleybury.

Finally the Boundary Commission's plans for a hugely expanded Parish ward covering the whole of the Bedmond, Primrose Hill and Abbots Langley North area will remove the Parish Councillor specifically representing Bedmond village, which will be very much to the detriment of our Bedmond village community and other communities within the ward.

In conclusion, I would like to strongly add my support to the District Council's original plans to link the current Abbots Langley village ward with Bedmond and to place the Primrose Hil area with the current Langleybury ward. I believe that this gives the best possible outcome which respects current community links.

Yours faithfully,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

Jean Bowman (Mrs)

My Husband and I came to live in Carpenders Park in 1959 and we have lived here ever since.

Our two children, now aged 49 and 51 attended St Meryl School.

This estate is and always has never been part of South Oxhey and should be linked to the lower part of the Oxhey Ward.

For this reason we want Carpenders Park to remain separate from South Oxhey.

Mr. & Mrs. E. BREWER

REIVED

10 JUL 2013

To: **The Review Officer (Three Rivers)**
Local Government Boundary Commission for England

From: **Councillor Sara Bedford**
Parish, District and County Councillor for Abbots Langley

Date: 22nd June 2012

SUMMARY

I would like to express my strong disagreement with the draft recommendations of the Commission for Three Rivers in the Parish Council areas of Abbots Langley and Watford Rural.

For the Abbots Langley area, I would like to support the proposals submitted by Three Rivers District Council earlier this year. I believe that these support current community links and best represent the smaller communities that comprise the Abbots Langley Parish Council area.

For Watford Rural, I would like to support proposals submitted to Three Rivers District Council for debate at their Council meeting on 9th July 2013, which keep the distinctive communities of Carpenders Park, Oxhey Hall and South Oxhey in different wards.

ABBOTS LANGLEY AREA

I support the draft recommendations of the Commission in deciding to keep to the wards within the Parish boundaries for Abbots Langley. This is important, as there is no need for Abbots Langley to be placed with Sarratt or Croxley and no community identity to link the areas.

I also support the proposed boundaries for Leavesden ward. To a certain extent, these are forced on the ward by its geographic position, wrapping around the northern edge of Watford, but the ward also demonstrates a common feel across the largely newly built estates on the sites of the former Leavesden hospitals and Leavesden aerodrome. I have not found anyone who is in disagreement with this ward.

However I disagree very strongly with plans to divide the current Abbots Langley ward at the centre of the community and divide it in a seemingly random manner between two other wards, neither of which have any strong identity between the smaller communities within the ward and in the case of Bedmond and Primrose Hill have no day-to-day relationship.

The District Council's proposals respect the communities within Abbots Langley and enable the existing parish ward boundaries to be retained. This is overwhelmingly supported by residents, businesses and community groups.

The community of Abbots Langley

The current Parish and District wards of Abbots Langley are coterminous and represent a strong, unified and ancient community. The division of this ward to divide it between enlarged Bedmond and Langleybury wards is irrational and the chosen dividing line is arbitrary, serving no purpose except to make up the numbers.

I am totally opposed to the division of Abbots Langley ward, which currently covers a single and well-defined community. Abbots Langley is mentioned in the Domesday Book and is a historic village, with most of the homes in the village built before 1960. Residents identify only with Abbots Langley and there are no sub-communities within Abbots Langley ward. Dividing the existing Abbots Langley ward would break the strong community ties within the ward and confuse residents. Residents use the shops in the High Street; the doctors' and dentists' surgeries; the village halls; the three churches; and the many community groups. Most primary-age children go to Abbots Langley School in the ward. There is no sensible way to divide the ward.

The transport links within the Parish run north-south, linking Bedmond with Abbots Langley, and Primrose Hill with Hunton Bridge. There are no east-west links. This means that there are no links between the Primrose Hill area and Abbots Langley. To combine part of such a well-defined and self-identifying village as Abbots Langley with Primrose Hill would be placing two entirely unconnected communities together, for no community gain, and mean a loss of effective representation.

However Abbots Langley does have a number of strong links with Bedmond village. These include the church, where the churches in both villages are part of the same ecclesiastical Parish. Using the same GP and dentist surgeries, shops, library and other facilities. People in Bedmond share a postcode and postal address with Abbots Langley and see themselves as part of the same larger area.

The community of Bedmond

The village of Bedmond is a small community, with a strong identity amongst its residents. It has shops, a primary school, a sports and social club with a flourishing football club, and a village hall. Bedmond has a number of community groups and a Village Task Force, which organises the annual village Summer Fete, celebrations for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the erection of a Christmas tree, carol singing and a beacon lighting to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Links between Abbots Langley and Bedmond villages

Bedmond is also closely linked to the main village of Abbots Langley. Bedmond residents use Abbots Langley High Street, not only for the shops, but also the doctor, dentist, library and churches. The Church of the Ascension is part of the Parish of St Lawrence, Abbots Langley, and holds services on alternate weekends and a monthly coffee morning.. Abbots Langley Cricket Club use the sports ground for their 3rd/4th teams to play. The only bus route through Bedmond also passes through Abbots Langley on its way between Watford and Hemel Hempstead. Bedmond and Abbots Langley share a postcode and postal address.

Links between Bedmond village and the Primrose Hill area

In contrast, residents of Bedmond village have no real relationship with the residents in the other part of the Bedmond and Primrose Hill District Council ward. Residents of the Primrose Hill area do not attend primary school in either Bedmond or Abbots Langley, but attend either Kings Langley, St. Paul's Langleybury or even Tanners Wood on Hillside. Primrose Hill residents use the shops, doctors, dentists and library in Kings Langley village. They use the village hall in Kings Langley and would not use the hall in Bedmond. Residents of Primrose Hill have a Kings Langley postcode and postal address. Residents use the medical, social and shopping facilities in Kings Langley village (in Dacorum), but not those in Bedmond or Abbots Langley village.

There are no public transport links between Bedmond and Primrose Hill: the bus between them along Toms Lane having been withdrawn due to lack of demand. All the transport links run north/south (i.e. Abbots Langley to Bedmond, and Hunton Bridge to Primrose Hill), with both the railway line and all local bus routes. There are no main roads linking the Primrose Hill area with Bedmond village: there is Toms Lane and two rural, farm lanes with few passing places.

Whilst Bedmond and Primrose Hill are currently in the same District Council ward, they have little in common with each other, except that they are both north of the M25. When the Parish Council wards were redrawn in 1998, the areas of Bedmond, and Primrose Hill each retained their own single-member wards; and the District Council ward, previously known only as 'Bedmond' was renamed 'Bedmond and Primrose Hill' to demonstrate the two very different communities in the ward. Local councillors usually issue two versions of their newsletters for the two parts of the ward, as there are so few issues in common. This does not happen in any other ward in the District to my knowledge.

In my 20 years living in the area, there have been three attempts to run a bus along Toms Lane to connect the two communities (because looking at a map people cannot understand why such a route does not exist) and in every case the route has been cut within about a year of its inception, due to lack of demand for this link.

The Primrose Hill area

The current Bedmond & Primrose Hill Three Rivers ward is comprised of two very different communities; those of Bedmond and Primrose Hill. The area has always been divided between two separate Parish Council wards, reflecting the two communities and enabling them to have local representatives at this lowest level of local government. Combining them into one District Council ward has always felt like a numerical matter, rather than a community one.

The vast majority of homes within the Primrose Hill part of the existing ward lie in a narrow corridor between the West Coast Main Line railway and the Grand Union Canal. Both of these features dominate and define the area, giving the community a very different feel from much of the rest of the area.

The division of Bedmond & Primrose Hill ward between its two respective communities is well-defined and follows an ancient boundary. The boundary is still visible on the ground and can be seen in the layout of the roads and lanes. At the last boundary review held in 1998 the name of the ward was changed, from 'Bedmond' to 'Bedmond and Primrose Hill', to reflect the fact that there are two very distinct communities in the ward. Thanks to recent house building, particularly on the Ovaltine site, the area of Primrose Hill is now much more populous than that of Bedmond.

Residents of the Primrose Hill area mostly use facilities in Kings Langley village or travel into Hemel Hempstead. For primary schooling, it has become increasingly difficult to gain places at Kings Langley school, but local children are taking places at St. Paul's, Langleybury or Tanners Wood JMI, rather than attend Bedmond or Abbots Langley JMIs.

Links between the Primrose Hill and Langleybury areas

Almost the entire population in Primrose Hill parish ward lives in a narrow and distinct area west of the railway line and east of the canal. This reflects the community of Hunton Bridge in Langleybury, which is also mainly located within these two features.

It has become increasingly difficult to gain places at Kings Langley school for children in both the Primrose Hill and Hunton Bridge areas. However local children are attending St. Paul's, Langleybury or Tanners Wood JMI (on Hillside), rather than attend Bedmond or Abbots Langley JMIs. In fact the new primary places created with the S106 funding from the Ovaltine housing development in the Primrose Hill area were created at Tanners Wood School.

All the transport links from Primrose Hill also run through Hunton Bridge along the A41/C76 corridor. Langleybury Cricket Club (at Hunton Bridge) and Evergreen FC (on Hillside) have many members and office holders from the Primrose Hill area and very few from the Abbots Langley area. Part of the Primrose Hill community is part of the Parish of St. Paul at Langleybury, together with Hunton Bridge and Hillside.

The community of Hillside

Hillside is a post-war development of around 900 homes, originally built as a council estate, but now with a mix of owner occupied and housing association homes. The area has a strong community feel, which is demonstrated through its vigorous Residents' Association, local groups, schools and Scout group. Hillside has a parade of shops next to the community hall and its own open spaces and Scout Hut. Many community activities are run from the hall and on the green outside at School Mead. Last month, a new youth club was opened by the County Council on the estate, as young people from the estate did not want to attend the existing club in Abbots Langley village.

Hillside is part of the Parish of St. Paul's at Langleybury (together with Hunton Bridge and some of the Primrose Hill area), rather than St. Lawrence, Abbots Langley, and also has a community focus at the Baptist Church on the estate, where coffee mornings and events for children are run.

The Hillside Residents Association is a strong and active community group, which organises many events on behalf of local residents, including an annual Family Fun Day and supports the activities of other groups organising craft, family and computing classes and events for Hillside residents.

Relationship between Hillside and Abbots Langley

The boundary between the existing Abbots Langley and Langleybury wards is a well-known and ancient boundary, which follows the church parish boundary. In contrast, the boundary which has been proposed by the Boundary Commission is less clear and cuts the community of Abbots Langley in half. Sharing a councillor with parts of Abbots Langley would be detrimental to the Hillside community, as we would feel overwhelmed, whilst a link with Hunton Bridge and Primrose Hill would be between equal communities.

Residents of Hillside do feel a part of the greater Abbots Langley community., However there is some feeling that their views are often subservient to those of the village itself and there is a worry that if the two areas are combined into one ward, there will be a loss of identity for Hillside and its needs and views will be less distinctive and audible.

At the moment the Hillside/Tanners Wood area has three Parish Councillors separate from Abbots Langley and this is important for community representation. These councillors are also separate from the Parish Councillor for Hunton Bridge. The Boundary Commission's plans for a larger Parish ward will remove the Parish Councillor specifically representing Hillside, which will be regretted by Hillside residents.

Effect on the Parish Council

The proposals of the Boundary Commission would be to establish two new, larger wards to match the proposed District Council wards, with the exception of the area of Hunton Bridge, which already has its own single member ward as it is in a different County Council division to the remainder of the Abbots Langley area. This would be very destructive to the community identities of Bedmond, Primrose Hill and Hillside and again split the community of Abbots Langley.

In its original letter to the LGBCE in January, the Parish Council stated: "...we do not wish to suggest exact warding. However we would prefer the current Parish wards to be used as building blocks as far as possible, ensuring that as many existing communities are kept together and residents retain familiar polling stations to encourage turnout.

"This would see the core of the old Abbots Langley village kept together (the current Abbots Langley ward), no splitting of the Hillside estate (an area of former local authority housing which forms the majority of the current Tanners Wood ward), the community of Hunton Bridge or village of Bedmond and the grouping together of the areas of new housing in Leavesden ward built since 1995, as these also form a coherent mini community.

"We therefore submit that the new wards within the area should mean as little disruption as possible to existing community and electoral arrangements, which have served local residents well."

I fully support this position. There have been no questions asked or disagreements with the current District or Parish ward boundaries. I therefore believe that these boundaries should remain as untouched as possible and that the change needed to move from 48 to 39 councillors should be made by splitting the one ward where there is no natural community link between its constituent parts. i.e. Bedmond & Primrose Hill.

WATFORD RURAL AREA

Although I am not a representative of the Watford Rural area, I have been an active Three Rivers councillor for over 17 years and have worked with the councillors in Oxhey Hall and Carpenders Park for over a decade. I am sure that they will have far more to say about the needs of the local community.

However it seems clear to me that the three communities of Carpenders Park, Oxhey Hall and South Oxhey are distinctive and very different from each other. Each comprises one of two estates, who have a great deal in common with themselves and very little other than geographic location, with the other two communities.

For this reason, I would like to see the LGBCE make every effort to draw up wards that reflect these overwhelming community ties for each area, and the lack of cross-community links, even if this means moving away from the presumption of three-member wards where we elect by thirds.

CONCLUSION

I hope that I have articulated adequately the feelings of myself and many other residents that I have spoken to at community events and that the LGBCE will feel able to adopt the boundaries as outlined above.

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

[REDACTED]

From: David Sansom [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 July 2013 12:18
To: Reviews@
Subject: Three Rivers

Dear Sirs THREE RIVERS

As a local Councillor for Rickmansworth I feel that moving some of the residents from the Rickmansworth Ward to Moor Park Ward is an error. Your draft plans move Moor Lane, London Road (some of) and Batchworth Heath. Moor Park has a sign up saying 'private no entry', a road barrier and a security guard who questions people that want to go in. Because of this Moor Park is not part of the Rickmansworth Community, while the areas I have mentioned clearly are.

Your dividing line a few houses along London Road is a very strange proposal, I don't see how this was arrived at let alone how it can be defended. It cuts neighbour from neighbour for no reason at all.

I ask that you move these small number of residents back into the Rickmansworth Ward for the final settlement.

Regards

Cllr David Sansom

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

From: John Collier [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 July 2013 19:25
To: Reviews@
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Abbots Langley ward boundaries for local elections

Dear Sirs

Please keep our village together as Abbots Langley!

I have lived in Abbots Road, Abbots Langley since 1977 and I am a founder member of Abbots Langley Transition Town Association (altta.org.uk).

I was attracted to Abbots Langley because it was a complete local community, and still is! Your proposals would put much of Abbots Langley in a different ward to our Parish Church and the High Street would be split between two wards.

The Parish and District councillors have agreed an alternative plan which will place the whole of Abbots Langley village with Bedmond village which is no more acceptable than your plan.

Yours sincerely

John Collier

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 July 2013 22:23
To: Reviews@
Subject: Local Government Boundary Commission report

Dear Sir / Madam,

Thank you for advertising the proposals regarding the proposed local boundaries through Abbots Langley. I must say I am completely amazed that the Boundary Commission has in its proposals, the the bi-section of Abbots Langley.

Abbots Langley is one of the most vibrant villages (if you can call it that) in this area. St Lawrence Church was built in the 12th century and is a thriving church in the centre of Abbots Langley (High Street) and is the main Parish church of the village. The Church of the Ascension, 'tin' church in Bedmond is run by the main church in Abbots. Bedmond has one newsagent / grocery store and a chemist and the majority of residents from Baemond come to do their shopping in Abbots Langley where there is a large variety of shops available. Abbots Langley has a thriving social scene and a horde of local societies - there is the well renowned Abbots Langley Gilbert and Sullivan Society, The Abbots Langley Players, The Abbots Langley Orchestra, The Abbots Langley Gardening Society, Abbots Langley Bowls club, a volunteer run Coffee Shop called 'A Heart for Abbots Langley' thrives every Friday morning in the village hall (The Henderson Hall), the Abbots Langley Local History Society, to name just some of the 'activities that take place in this area. Members of these societies come from all around the village and for them to be split into two completely different areas is just simply unbelievable.

I have no doubt that the Commission worked very hard on the plans but it is a pity they did not come into the village of Abbots Langley to see the activity there and how insensitive it would be to split the community. I am very involved in a lot of the local societies and have had numerous frustrating discussions about these plans and what stress it would cause to not only some of the older residents but to most of the newer ones as well.

Yours faithfully,

Marcus Coultrup

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

From: penny franklin [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 July 2013 19:03
To: Reviews@
Subject: Three Rivers Proposed Boundary changes for Abbots Langley

As an active resident of Abbots Langley for most of my life I support the draft recommendations of the Commission in deciding to keep to the wards within the Parish boundaries for Abbots Langley. I can see no need for Abbots Langley to be placed with Sarratt or Croxley or to lose all community identity.

Our legacy can be traced back to the Domesday Book and should be retained.

I strongly oppose the division of Abbots Langley Ward as this covers a well defined, centuries old, single, well defined community.

I wish to see the community of Abbots Langley kept together, not split in half, as you propose. There can be no benefit in splitting the core of the village across two wards - indeed it will be very confusing for Abbots Langley residents to be told they now live in Bedmond or Langleybury. You are proposing to remove our village's legacy.

We need to preserve the historic boundaries of the area and keep the closely knit communities of Abbots Langley and Bedmond together.

I ask you to take my comments into account when meeting and considering these changes.

Thank you.

Mrs Penelope Franklin.
[REDACTED]

Local resident since 1957.

Sent from my iPad

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 July 2013 18:39
To: Reviews@
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: ABBOTS LANGLEY

We understand that you plan is to get rid of Abbots Langley (the Abbots Longfield from history) - this is a historical village in which I have lived for almost 35 years and am very proud of it and it's history. Also Abbots is much bigger than Bedmond so why are you planning to integrate part of our village with one that is far smaller and less well known in the area. This is an outrageous fiasco and should not be allowed to go ahead.

What will happen to our cricket club, Abbots Langley Cricket Club, I believe Bedmond have their own, we even have a 'donated for' electronic scoreboard for the Abbots Langley Cricket Club, Stephen Finn (England bowler from the area) came and inaugurated it for us..

It is ludicrous to join another part of Abbots to Langleybury which is actually beyond the main road to Watford and includes Hunton Bridge.

Have you no sense of history when the only English Pope comes from this area, our road is named after Nicholas Breakspeare and we have Popes Road and Abbots Road. There will be no cohesion within the area any more and it seems that you are changing boundaries merely for the sake of changing them.

What is wrong with the current situation as it is. It has been this way for hundreds of years so why suddenly change now?

Big is not always beautiful and being autonomous is part of our heritage. We have a great council who work hard for our village, what will happen if you take it all away from us and put it in the hands of people who are nothing to do with us? Who don't actually care about our village.

Reconsider these cynical plans as they are not necessary - we are HAPPY THE WAY WE ARE.

Yours angry and disgusted.

[Alison French](#)

[REDACTED]

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

From: Derek Hammond [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 July 2013 19:48
To: Reviews@
Subject: Abbots Langley

What is the benefit of splitting the Abbots Langley ward in two. Surely It is best for the whole of abbots langley be represented by one councillor.

Derek Hammond



Re Boundary Commission Proposals for Abbots Langley.

I have lived in the Three Rivers and Watford area all my life and in Primrose Hill for 19 years.

I would like to disagree with the Commission's proposals for the Abbots Langley area and instead support those submitted by Three Rivers District Council. I believe that the Commission's plans to split the village of Abbots Langley in half and combine it with the communities of Bedmond and Primrose Hill is flawed, dividing the strong and ancient community of Abbots Langley and combining that with the distinct communities of Bedmond village and the Primrose Hill area.

In support, I would make the following points:

- The current Bedmond & Primrose Hill Three Rivers ward is comprised of two very different communities. The area has always been divided between two separate Parish Council wards, reflecting the two communities and enabling them to have local representatives at this lowest level of local government.
- The division of Bedmond & Primrose Hill ward between its two respective communities is well-defined and follows an ancient boundary. The name of the ward was changed, from 'Bedmond' to 'Bedmond and Primrose Hill' at the previous boundary review, to reflect the fact that there are two very distinct communities in the ward:
- Almost the entire population in Primrose Hill parish ward lives in a narrow and distinct area west of the railway line and east of the canal. There are no effective public transport links between Bedmond and Primrose Hill: the bus between them along Toms Lane having been withdrawn due to lack of demand. All the transport links run north/south (i.e. Abbots Langley to Bedmond, and Hunton Bridge to Primrose Hill), with both the railway line and all local bus routes. There are no main roads linking the Primrose Hill Area with Bedmond village.
- Residents of Bedmond village use their own primary school, shops, village hall, pub etc. For other facilities, such as medical, shops, library and secondary schools, they travel to Abbots Langley or on through Abbots Langley to Watford. The 'Tin Church' at Bedmond is part of the same Parish with St. Lawrence, Abbots Langley and there are many shared community events across the two churches.
- Residents of the Primrose Hill area mostly use facilities in Kings Langley village or travel into Hemel Hempstead. For primary schooling, it has become increasingly difficult to gain places at Kings Langley school, but local children are taking places at St. Paul's, Langleybury or Tanners Wood JMI (which my own children attended), rather than attend Bedmond or Abbots Langley JMIs.
- Residents of Primrose Hill feel no connection with the village of Abbots Langley.
- The Commission's plans to merge Bedmond, Primrose Hill and Abbots Langley into one large Parish Council ward makes little sense and combines communities which need their own distinct representatives. If the Parish Council wards are combined, there is a strong risk that representatives will not live in the individual communities, as is now the case, but will be more likely to come from Abbots Langley.
- Although I do not live in Abbots Langley village, I understand how the Commission's plans have upset residents in what is a very close community, especially with a number

of streets split between wards. Abbots Langley is a single community and should remain as a single District and Parish council ward.

Samantha Heilling

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Shanta Kapur [REDACTED]

Sent: 11 July 2013 22:52

To: Reviews@

Subject: Carpenders Park

To whom it may concern:

I understand that this email has been sent after 8th July. This was due to unforeseen circumstances. However, if possible, I would still like to voice that I agree with Pam Hames in her view that Carpenders Park needs its own councillor.

Kind Regards

Shanta Kapur
(Carpenders Park resident)

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

From: Helen Lehrle [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 July 2013 22:34
To: Reviews@
Subject: Boudary changes

I have lived on the northern edge the Primrose Hill area in Nash Mills for the past 13 years. During that time I have led a number of successful community campaigns, including to improve a local road junction and to oppose an enlarged waste transfer site. Since then, I have been elected as a district councillor for Bedmond & Primrose Hill.

This area does not have any connection to either Bedmond or Abbots Langley. Children attend school in Kings Langley of Hemel Hempstead. Those in the south of the area use St Pauls at Langleybury and a few have been given places at Tannerswood School. Residents here use the medical, social and shopping facilities of Kings Langley, rather than Bedmond or Abbots Langley. Primrose Hill has just gained new allotments, as the existing allotment plots in Abbots Langley were thought to be too distant by residents. These are now fully subscribed with plot holders from the Primrose Hill area.

Although the Primrose Hill area has little connection with most of Abbots Langley Parish area, any connection it has is with the Hunton Bridge and Langleybury area, through transport, educational, religious and sporting links. The two areas share an industrial heritage, linked by the canal, and also have a Kings Langley WD4 address, one that is not shared by many homes elsewhere in the Parish.

The link between Bedmond and Abbots Langley includes their own transport, educational, religious and sporting links and is very clear to the residents of Bedmond, who I currently represent.

For these reasons I would like to support the council's proposals to place an entire Abbots Langley ward with Bedmond village, and the Primrose Hill area with the existing Langleybury ward.



Kind Regards

Helen Lehrle

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

From: Gillian Matthews [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 July 2013 20:06
To: Reviews@
Cc: sara.bedford@threerivers.gov.uk
Subject: Proposed Boundary Changes

I am writing about the proposed boundary changes within the village of Abbots Langley.

I agree with the recommendations of the Commission to keep the wards within the Parish boundaries of Abbots Langley.

I strongly oppose the division of Abbots Langley ward as this splits a well defined community with shops, doctors, village hall, community centres churches and playing fields. There is no natural way to split this village. The current boundary is an ancient boundary between Abbots Langley and Langleybury.

I live on the village green and will be in a different ward to St Lawrence church even though both are on The High Street!

I agree with Three Rivers council's proposals for Abbots Langley to be joined with Bedmond as these respect the parish and existing parish boundaries to be maintained.

The official title of the Anglican parish is St Lawrence Abbots Langley with Church of the Ascension Bedmond.

Thank you for considering my objections

Gillian Matthews,
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

From: Reviews@
Sent: 09 July 2013 21:54
To: Reviews@
Subject: Custom Form Submission Received



Custom Form Submission Received

Contact us Email,

A new custom form submission has been received. The details of the form submission are as follows:

Submission Information

Custom Form: Contact us (#212)
Form URL: <http://www.lgbce.org.uk/about-us/contact-us>
Submission ID: 1894
Time of Submission: Jul 9th 2013 at 8:54pm



Form Answers

Your name: M.Matthewson
Your email: [Redacted]
I am: a member of the public
Comment/enquiry type: your local boundaries
Comments: I see no reason for boundary change in the Three rivers Distict of Oxhey Hall and South oxhey, I have lived in South Oxhey and Oxhey Hall,all my life,this is totally a waste of time and money to spend.Leave things as they are,and use financial resources to put to better use.

This communication is from LGBCE (<http://www.lgbce.org.uk>) - Sent to **Contact us Email**

[REDACTED]

From: NORTON JAYNE [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 July 2013 20:03
To: Mail Delivery Subsystem; Reviews@
Subject: Re: dividing Abbots Langley Ward

[REDACTED]

>
> I am writing as a resident of Abbots Langley to state that I object to the
> division and becoming part of Langleybury ward. As a community we are fully
> supportive of one another, and have the same aims and beliefs. It is a
> wonderful place to live due in part to that sense of community and I
> believe that splitting a community is a mistake and one that as a central
> resident I cannot agree to.

> Jayne Norton

> [REDACTED]

> [REDACTED]

>

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

From: John Reid [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 July 2013 19:00
To: Reviews@
Subject: Parish Boundary Changes

Sirs

Abbots Langley

I write to request that you reconsider your decision to do away with the Abbots Langley parish in the forthcoming boundary change.

Abbots Langley is the heart of this area which includes Langleybury, Hunton Bridge and Bedmond and for this to disappear would be a disaster.

As chairman of a local charity, Abbots Langley Tough Ten, which has been in existence for 30 years and raises funds to help local less privileged people and also local organisations we believe that to dispense with this parish is completely wrong.

As stated Abbots Langley is the centre of this area and as such should have its named parish and not be swallowed into the outlying districts.

I would therefore urge you to reconsider this proposal and retain a parish with the name of Abbots Langley which would encompass the centre of the village and not have the centre split between two outlying areas.

Sincerely

John Reid

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

[REDACTED]

From: David Smith [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 July 2013 11:12
To: Reviews@
Subject: Boundaries

Dear Officer in Charge, I have been informed about the suggested boundary changes to our Village and would like to make a few comments that I feel need taking into account. I live in Hillside and although that is in Abbott's Langley and we use the shop,Doctors etc in terms of our residential area it is not our community. Hillside's social set up is different to that of Hunton Bridge, Langleybury, the village itself and Bedmond. The areas defined as they are work because they are community related, start moving the lines and what affects or has consequence to me is alien to people in other parts of Abbott's Langley and Viser Verser. If this is a money saving exercise to cut the amount of Councillors finding a way that does not destroy communities and neighbourhoods would win more votes preventing alienating the village from its wider dwellers.

Regards David Smith, Norman Hayward.

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Brenda Southorn [REDACTED]
Sent: 11 July 2013 10:00
To: Reviews@
Subject: Boundary changes for Abbots Langley, Herts

Dear Sirs

I wish to say that I support the draft recommendations of the Commission in deciding to keep to the wards within the Parish boundaries for Abbots Langley.

I would like to express my deep concern about the boundary changes which will split the ancient village of Abbots Langley in half and seem to pay no attention to the fact that this is a united and vibrant community which is centred on and around the village High Street which your proposals intend to split down the middle. The parish of Abbots Langley contains several churches, all who work together within the community. The proposals would find the churches in different wards. As a resident of nearly 40 years I strongly object to these changes. I do not wish to live in Langleybury as proposed. I live in Abbots Langley as my great, great grandparents did and wish to continue to do so. I can see no logical reason for the change at all. it would be far more sensible and more historically accurate if Abbots Langley in its entirety were to be linked in with Bedmond.

Yours faithfully

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

From: Judy Stower [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 July 2013 19:06
To: Reviews@
Subject: Ward boudary changes

As a resident of Adrian Road (who moved from Hunton Bridge where I found living in a split community difficult) I cannot understand why the village of Abbots Langley is being split.

I am an Abbots Langley resident living in the Abbots Langley community, supporting Abbots Langley church, community events, shops, library etc. Hunton Bridge is too far away (I am a non driver) for me to feel a part of. How, exactly will the division of Abbots Langley benefit a) me b) my community ?

Judith Stower Mrs

Sent from my iPhone

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

From: Peter Tomson [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 July 2013 22:58
To: Reviews@
Subject: Ward changes

We were appalled to read of the possibility that Abbots Langley Ward was to be divided between Bedmond and Hunton Bridge. As residents in the village for almost 60 years the thought of Abbots Langley being divided is impossible to contemplate and we hope that sense will be brought to bear. Abbots Langley, inspite of its size, is a very active community and should remain a cohesive identity

Peter Tomson FRCGP retired village GP. President Abbots Langley Garden Society, President Abbots Langley Players

Susan Tomson; Co-Founder of Abbots Langley Good Neighbours; erstwhile Honorary Vice President of local Red Cross

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

From: Peter Warman [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 July 2013 12:13
To: Reviews@
Subject: Objection to Boundary Commission Proposal to divide Abbots Langley Village

I do not agree with the Boundary Commission's proposal to split the current ward of Abbots Langley between Bedmond and Primrose Hill in one part and Hillside and Hunton Bridge in the other. I understand that this means the Abbots Langley High Street will be split in half, the Cricket and football clubs will end up in Langleybury. My home of twenty years in Greenways will no longer be in Abbots Langley. Much of Abbots Langley will be in a different ward to our Parish Church. This is not a natural boundary when viewed from the perspective of a local resident of the village. Most of my local activities involve crossing the proposed false community boundary the Commission has recommended.

The following roads including my own street, **Greenways**, have no relationship with Langleybury. That is a place 'down the hill' to the west of where we live, divided from us by Tanners Wood and the large Green space next to School Meads. I believe the alternative proposal, suggested to the Commission by our local Parish and District councillors, which places the whole of Abbots Langley village with Bedmond village as one ward **is the far superior option which will closely match local perceptions of our locality.**

I trust you will take account of our local views and this community perspective. Your suggestions will just cause confusion.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Warman, MSc. B Eng. FCILT, MICE.

[REDACTED]

Dunkeyson, Nicholas

From: Alison Warner [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 July 2013 11:40
To: Reviews@
Subject: Boundary changes

I am very strongly opposed to the boundary changes in Abbots Langley. I have been a resident in the Village since 1967 and I have always been happy with having the village ward with its own identity. This new idea of splitting the village into three areas is madness and not in keeping with giving an area its community feel.

PLEASE WILL YOU RECONSIDER YOUR IDEAS AND LET US KEEP OUR VILLAGE AS ONE WARD

Alison Warner
Area Co-ordinator for Neighbourhood Watch