



Review Officer (Hertfordshire)
Local Govt Boundary Comm for England
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
LONDON
EC1M 5LG

Cllr. Alan Anderson BSc CLP
Kings Langley, Dacorum Borough Council
& Leader, Kings Langley Parish Council,

3rd June 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

Electoral Review of Hertfordshire - Dacorum Divisions

I write to ask for a preparatory electoral review of the district wards, and to ask if the Kings Langley division could be retained 'as is'.

One of my main reasons for objecting strongly to the last periodic electoral review of the district wards in Dacorum was that it made a complete mess of the County divisions.

I appreciate it is a little outlandish, the relative amount of unanticipated work, and the deadlines involved, but if this review is to avoid completely disengaging the district and county boundaries and the splitting of polling districts, which would involve a large amount of work anyway, then one would have to review the district wards in Dacorum first.

The last district PER was not a success. It breached its own terms of reference about keeping the main segments of Hemel Hempstead intact/keeping to strong boundaries; it moved a problem in a circle around Hemel Hempstead, whilst over-ruling an on-site solution supported by all three main political parties; it reduced the amount of Bennetts End in the Bennetts End ward, including the Bennetts End Road, from a half to a third; and it described an imbalance of 30% in a politically contested parish council ward as being insignificant.

It's not an easy or quick solution, but in my view, a district review would be the only way of undoing the damage, and enabling a review of the county divisions in Dacorum.

Irrespective of whether this happens, however, I would like to ask that the Kings Langley county division is retained without change. It contains the villages to the south and west of Hemel Hempstead, and in my view it is particularly important, as the Commission says, to keep the village interests and identities separate from Hemel Hempstead.

Just because an area is parished, it does not mean it's a separate village, and taking bits off the Hemel Hempstead urban envelope would contradict the justification for moving Felden and Bourne End into the Kings Langley division in the last county review.

Yours Faithfully,

Cllr Alan Anderson.