

## Owen, David

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**From:** Mayers, Mishka on behalf of reviews  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 5, 2016 10:45 AM  
**To:** Owen, David  
**Subject:** FW: response to proposals

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**From:** PEARCE, Teresa [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 03 April 2016 21:57  
**To:** reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>  
**Subject:** response to proposals

Dear Boundary Commission

I write as the MP for the constituency of Erith and Thamesmead but also as a resident of Erith for over 35 years.

I am particularly concerned by the proposals to make a ward called **Erith and Slade Green**

Erith and Slade Green are two different communities which both have a proud independent history and community identity.

Erith is a historic town which once had its own town council, in the 19th century it was Erith Urban Council which became the Municipal Borough of Erith in 1938. During that time Slade Green in the 19th century was part of Dartford Rural District then in 1920s joined Crayford District Council; although next door geographically it has never been the same community as Erith and has a different identity and has only been in the same borough since the creation of the London Borough of Bexley in 1965.

The proposed Erith and Slade Green ward will fragment Erith in many ways. For instance the place where Alexander Selkirk ( the original Robinson Crusoe) landed at Erith will be cut off from the roads such as Friday and Crusoe named in Selkirk's honour .

The majority of Erith is not included in Erith and Slade Green Ward. Erith Station is on the border, in fact according to the new ward map the kent bound platform will be in Erith and Slade green and the London bound platform in North Heath. So commuters travelling to work from Erith station will be in North Heath whilst they wait fir the morning train. It makes no sense.

The historic Christ Church Erith, one of the focal points of the community, would not be in Erith and Slade Green Ward but in Northumberland Heath Ward – a small community which it does not have any community connection with.

The church of St John the Baptist in West Street is one of Erith oldest buildings and in the proposed plans the church will be in the Erith and Slade Green ward yet most of the parish it serves will be in North Heath.

Erith and Slade Green are different places with different communities. They have separate Community Forums because their priorities and objectives are not the same.

Erith has a town centre a town hall and its own train Erith train station , it is a real community. As a community it dates back centuries. It was the place that Henry Viii built his ships. During the First World War Erith was an important area for the manufacture of guns and ammunition, largely due to the presence of the large Vickers works in the Fraser Road area. In fact much of that area is known by locals as the " Pom pom" after the munitions history and the pom pom gun. The Fraser Road area will no longer be in the new Erith and Slade Green ward even though its where much if Eriths industrial heritage lies.

In the Second World War, Erith found itself in the thick of the conflict, being directly on the German bombing routes from continental Europe to London, and also because of the nearby armament factories. It seems The Luftwaffe could nt destroy Erith yet the new boundaries may.

The Commission's draft proposals assert that their proposed boundary reflects how the area interacts with Erith Town Centre. This is misguided – it neglects the historic parts of Erith placed outside of Erith and Slade Green Ward which interacts directly every day with the town centre through its shops, facilities, and transport links.

Parts of Erith like Park Crescent and its surrounding roads, the historic heart of Erith will not be in Erith and Slade Green Ward but placed in Northumberland Heath Ward – a small community which it does not have any community connection with.

Alford Road and the roads surrounding it were terraced houses built for the workers of the factories in Erith – neither the industrial area on Fraser Road nor these associated houses would be included in the proposed Erith and Slade Green Ward. They owe their existence to Erith's industrial heritage which is tied closely to the River Thames – which the community of Erith has always embraced. Yet these proposals see much of Erith in a different ward to the riverside.

Erith is a historic area dating back centuries with links to Henry VIII and an important wartime industrial heritage.

A single Erith Ward could be extended to include the Frobisher Road estate – which identifies itself with Erith town and its community.

Slade Green and North End are two areas which have merged into one vibrant local community, with its own community forum.

Slade Green and North End make great use of their local library, shops, doctor's surgery and community centre.

The Local Government Boundary Commission uses the railway as a hard boundary – but the railway does not act as a hard boundary to Slade Green's community and identity which transcends across the local area.

### **Northumberland Heath**

Northumberland Heath is a much smaller community than the three member ward which the Local Government Boundary Commission has proposed.

The parade of shops in Northumberland Heath – providing small supermarkets alongside convenience stores, a Post Office, a successful bakery, restaurants provide a focus for a small community in the surrounding area.

It is rare that those living beyond the immediate vicinity of these shops make use of the parade of shops or identify themselves as living in Northumberland Heath.

Northumberland Heath Forum operates across the community bringing together traders with local residents. While a small forum it is active and gives the small tight-knit community of Northumberland Heath a focus.

Northumberland Heath is ideal for a one member ward. Much of the area in the proposed Northumberland Heath is actually Erith and should be in an Erith ward.

Regards

Teresa Pearce

Sent from my iPad

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