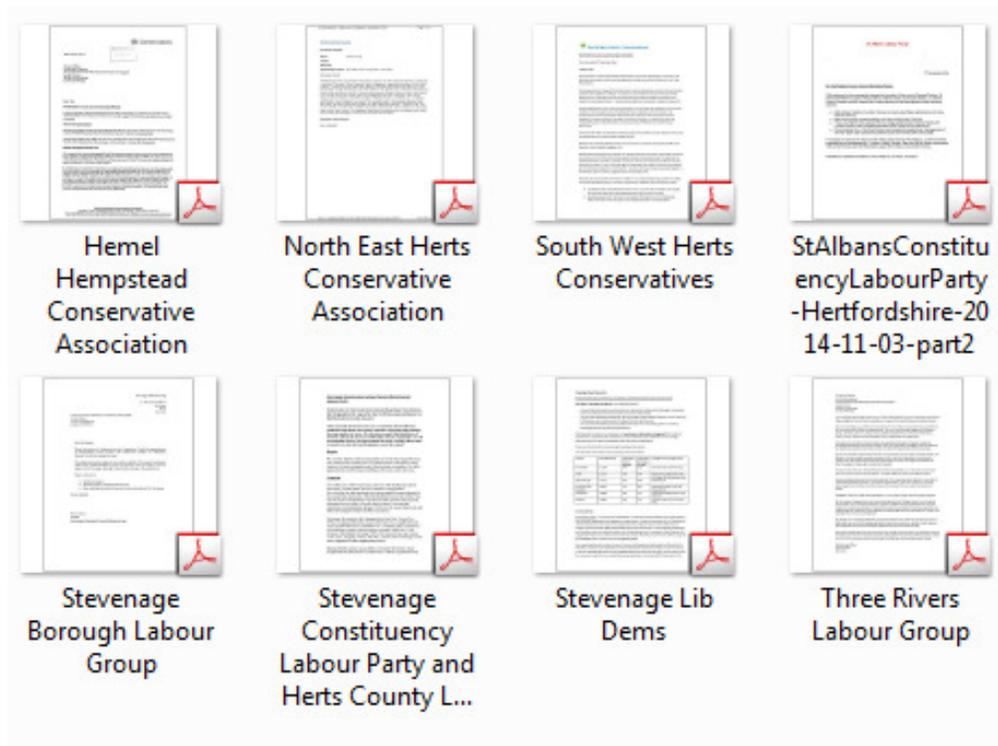


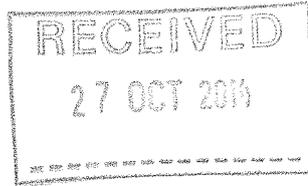
Political group submissions to the Hertfordshire Council electoral review

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20th October 2014

Review Officer
Hertfordshire Review
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

Dear Sirs,

Hertfordshire County Council Boundary Review

I write on behalf of Hemel Hempstead Conservative Association to support the majority of your recommendations for Dacorum. However we would suggest the following alterations to your draft proposals:

Hemel Hempstead East

We would suggest that the part of Polling District ALCA (Leverstock Green) that you are proposing to put in Hemel Hempstead South East should be put in Hemel Hempstead East

Hemel Hempstead South East has 2% more electors than the average and Hemel Hempstead East has 3% fewer electors than the average so this will help to reduce the discrepancy.

Hemel Hempstead North East

We suggest that Hemel Hempstead North East should consist of the current Grovehill & Woodhall Farm Wards, including Piccotts End, Redbourn Road in Polling District APBA (25 electors) and the undeveloped land between Three Cherry Trees Lane and Cherry Tree Lane, so helping reduce the deficit of electors in the North East Division.

It should also be noted that every time you propose County Divisions that are not coterminous with Borough wards that you damage the democratic process because the few electors attached to a Division from a different ward will be neglected either via error or cost. For instance we produce leaflets with the names, telephone numbers and email addresses of local councillors for a ward. If you have an add on it means producing a separate leaflet with different contact details whereas most political parties probably can't afford to have a separate print run of say 100 leaflets. We therefore urge you to arrange coterminous Divisions wherever possible. Perhaps Borough and County Reviews should be carried out at the same time.

Hemel Hempstead Conservative Association

Davidson House, 168 Queensway, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP2 5FX

Tel: 01442 255034 Email: enquiries@hemelconservatives.com Website: www.hemelconservatives.com

Printed by Dacorum Conservatives & promoted by Kevin M Drew on behalf of the Conservative Party, all at Davidson House, 168 Queensway, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 5FX.

Hemel Hempstead North West

We would suggest that you transfer Polling District AGBA to Hemel Hempstead Town.

Hemel Hempstead North West has 4% more electors than the average and Hemel Hempstead Town has 1% fewer electors than the average so this would be a more sensible arrangement.

Hemel Hempstead St Pauls

We would suggest that you transfer Piccotts End to Hemel Hempstead North East.

Hemel Hempstead South East

We would suggest that the part of Polling District ALCA (Leverstock Green) that you are proposing to put in Hemel Hempstead South East should be put in Hemel Hempstead East

Hemel Hempstead South East has 2% more electors than the average and Hemel Hempstead East has 3% fewer electors than the average so this will help to reduce the discrepancy.

Hemel Hempstead Town

We would suggest that you transfer Polling District AGBA to Hemel Hempstead Town.

Hemel Hempstead North West has 4% more electors than the average and Hemel Hempstead Town has 1% fewer electors than the average so this would be a more sensible arrangement.

Bridgewater

No suggested alterations

Kings Langley

No suggested alterations

Woodfield Drive, Hemel Hempstead

At the moment Woodfield Drive 2-12 is both in Nash Mills Ward (a Parish) and Leverstock Green Ward. Every Boundary review we request that you transfer these homes to Leverstock Green Ward only, to clear up this anomaly. We would be grateful if you would arrange this.

Yours sincerely,

Øllr Graham Sutton
Chairman

Hemel Hempstead Conservative Association

Davidson House, 168 Queensway, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP2 5FX

Tel: 01442 255034 Email: enquiries@hemelconservatives.com Website: www.hemelconservatives.com

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Hertfordshire County

Personal Details:

Name: Andrew Young

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name: North East Herts Conservative Association

Comment text:

The North East Herts Conservative Association supports the new Ward Boundaries as configured in the Draft Document. We do however have 2 suggestions regarding the names of the Wards outlined. 1) That Letchworth North West Ward be renamed Letchworth North Ward, as it now incorporates virtually the whole of the Town North of the Railway Line 2) Royston East becomes Royston East and Ermine Rural 3) Royston West becomes Royston West and North Herts Rural in 2) and 3) above, the current name only emphasises the town of Royston. Many of the villages and rural areas to the West and East of Royston have no connection to, or empathy with Royston Town. Indeed in the case of the southerly part of the proposed Royston West Ward, they are many miles from Royston and have absolutely nothing in common at all. The current names may well make residents feel totally disconnected from its Ward, and encourage even poorer voter turnout. Our suggested alternatives incorporate both the largest town name plus a name that is familiar to the more rural parts of the Wards.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded



Hertfordshire County Council Boundary Submission

Final submission 3rd November 2014

THREE RIVERS

This submission is made by South West Hertfordshire Conservative Association in response to the Boundary Commission's draft recommendations for revised County Council Divisions in the Three Rivers District.

We recognise that the shape of Three Rivers District and the distribution and size of its communities presents some significant challenges. In particular, we concede that because of the size of their electorates it is impossible to contain any of the Parishes of Abbots Langley, Chorleywood and Watford Rural in single Divisions – notwithstanding significant local opinion making that argument.

Following publication of the draft recommendations, the most vehement opposition has come from residents of the Loudwater area of Chorleywood Parish proposed by the Commission to be transferred from Chorleywood North Ward to Croxley. We agree with local opinion that this proposal is entirely at odds with the pattern of local communities; is unnecessary in securing reasonable equality of representation; and would not secure effective and convenient local government.

This submission offers an alternative proposal to address these defects and an additional community divide affecting the proposed Abbots Langley Division.

Based on the projected 2020 electorates, the Commission's proposals show Croxley at +6%, Three Rivers at +3% and Abbots Langley at +5%.

Responding to the disquiet in Loudwater, the simplest response would be to restore that area and its 1114 electors to Three Rivers Rural the proposed Division encompassing by far the largest part of Chorleywood Parish, of which Loudwater is a key part. Alone, this would increase Rural to +12.1% and reduce Croxley to -3.7%. The Croxley figure is well within the range of variances recommended by the Commission elsewhere in Hertfordshire. At 12.1%, the Rural variance would be the largest in Hertfordshire, but our further suggestion below would address this.

Naturally, we would ask the Commission to reflect on our proposal regarding Loudwater not solely on the basis of electoral equity. Comments received from residents which we endorse include:

- Loudwater is part of Chorleywood Parish and has no community connections with Croxley, and could not expect to be well represented by those focussed on Croxley.
- Leaving Loudwater with the Division most closely reflecting the current Chorleywood Division will result in less disruption to the established pattern of representation.

- Topographically, the two areas are divided by the Chess Valley, largely occupied by the Royal Masonic Girls School, sports facilities and open land. There is no built connection between the two areas and Loudwater Lane is a narrow and limited route, not one that joins these two areas.
- In terms of community orientation, Croxley looks very much to Watford whereas Loudwater looks to Rickmansworth and Chorleywood.
- Loudwater is served by Christchurch, Chorleywood and looks largely to Christchurch Primary School and to St Clement Danes School, Chorleywood for secondary education all of which are in Chorleywood North Parish Ward
- Commuting routes are from Chorleywood and/or Rickmansworth Stations not Croxley.
- Relations between County Councillors and Parishes are important but can be time-consuming. Our revised proposals would still require the County Councillor for Rural to engage with three Parishes (Chorleywood, Sarratt and Abbots Langley) but, at least, not four!
- Loudwater residents largely use the shops and restaurants in Rickmansworth or Chorleywood as well as the Doctors and Library
- Loudwater Residents Association has been taking an active part in the development of a Community Plan for Chorleywood Parish. Both Sarratt and Croxley parishes have developed their own Community Plans which obviously do not cover Loudwater

The other clear deficiency in the Commission's proposals results from the use of the eastern boundary of Gade Valley Ward, particularly where it abuts Abbot Langley West. Every community, representation and topographic judgement will demonstrate that the most easterly section of Gade Valley Ward is part of Abbots Langley village, rather than the rural areas to the west. It is in the Parish of Abbots Langley as is the rest of Gade Valle but roads such as Gallows Hill Lane, Lauderdale Road and Hamilton Road are part of continuous and long established residential development connected with Abbots Village.

We submit that the boundary between Hunton Bridge and Langleybury Ward and Abbots Langley West should be reset to reflect the true community and representative interests by drawing it along the main railway line. On our calculations, this would take Abbots to around +10% and Three Rivers Rural to around +6% - both within the range of variations suggested by the Commission elsewhere in this review.

Yours Sincerely

Angela Killick
 Chairman
 South West Hertfordshire Conservative Association

St Albans Labour Party

3rd November 2014

Re: Hertfordshire County Council Boundary Review

With reference to the proposal to change the boundary of the current Colneys Division, St Albans Constituency Labour Party believes that the status quo should remain, i.e. that the County Division currently named the Colneys should not be reconfigured for the following reasons:

- Both Colney Heath and London Colney are clearly identifiable settlements with links between the two.
- Both communities are emparished and have active Parish Councils.
- There are historic links between the two village settlements of Colney Heath and London Colney, both emanating from the former parish of St. Peter Rural.
- Environmental link – The River Colne runs through both settlements, Management of the river Colne and riparian areas have issues common to both communities.

In contrast, the area of St. Albans north of the London Colney Roundabout, put forward in the proposals to be incorporated in a 'London Colney' division, has none of the above connections with London Colney and identifies itself as part of St. Albans, not London Colney.

Submitted on behalf of St Albans Labour Party by Jill Gipps, Secretary

Stevenage Labour Group

c/o 10 Townsend Mews
Stevenage
Herts
SG1 3AP

Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find enclosed a Submission on the Commission's Draft Recommendations for Hertfordshire County Council. This submission includes an "Alternative Proposal" for the Stevenage Divisions.

The submission has been made to you jointly on behalf of Stevenage Constituency Labour Party and Hertfordshire County Labour Party and I am writing to give the support of the Stevenage Borough Council Labour Group to this submission.

Papers enclosed are

- Submission paper.
- Working papers at polling district level.
- Map showing alternative proposal division boundaries for Stevenage.

Yours faithfully

Sharon Taylor
Leader
Stevenage Borough Council Labour Group

Stevenage Constituency Labour Party & Herts County Labour Party

Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission (for England) with regard to the Draft Recommendations for Hertfordshire County Council.

“The aim of the electoral review is to recommend electoral division boundaries that mean each county councillor represents approximately the same number of voters. We also aim to ensure that the pattern of divisions reflects the interests and identities of local communities as well as promoting effective local government. In order to achieve these aims, we need to re-draw division boundaries across the county.”

Reason

We consider that the draft recommendations for the Stevenage Divisions run counter to the commissions own stated criteria with regard to both interests of local communities and effective local government. We fully appreciate the need for numerical balance between county divisions.

Comment

Our submission, whilst expressing criticism of the draft proposals for Stevenage, is made in the spirit of constructive engagement. It is clear that the draft proposals have been shaped to a major degree by the countywide submission of the Hertfordshire Conservative Party. One may be forgiven for thinking its proposal could result in some electoral advantage however that is not our major concern. It is either the intentional or unintentional damage it will do to the social framework and future development of the town that concerns us.

Stevenage, the countries first designated post war New Town (Nov 1946), was planned from the outset on the basis of six neighbourhoods. ‘Each neighbourhood was intended to be a complete entity in itself, but all coalescing to share in the prosperity and unity of the New Town’ (Claxton; The Hidden Stevenage 1992). The layout of the road system, cycle routes, shopping centres, churches, schools and recreation provision were all planned on this neighbourhood basis.

Repeated public opinion research has consistently shown the strong neighbourhood identification residents have with the neighbourhood in

which they live. Partnership working between local councillors (both district and county), police, health and residents all take place at neighbourhood level. Future growth of the town is dependent and planned on a neighbourhood basis.

The neighbourhoods in Stevenage and the other post war New Towns are not just arbitrary collections of urban houses with a line drawn round them. They are the basic building blocks of urban and social planning for these towns. This principle of self-containment means the needs of the community in terms of shopping, health, education, recreation and faith, should be met at neighbourhood level. This in turn leads to well focused and effective two-tier local government representation.

Thus, one may understand the dismay resulting from the draft proposals for the Stevenage South and West Stevenage Divisions. The justification for Stevenage, South regarding both interests and identities of local communities, is factually weak. Gresley Way is an eastern perimeter commuter route unsuitable for pedestrians. It would, I suggest, be similar to using the M25 as demonstrating a community of interest between Potters Bar and Waltham Abbey. The Poplars is totally disconnected from what was Broadwater. Different clusters of schools serve primary aged children and there is little common use of community provision between the two areas, due to their poor interconnectivity.

The proposed Stevenage West, paragraph 108, does not even attempt to address interest of identity for the community other than a coded reference to the railway line, (transport links) but as Stevenage has only one station, it is not a link but a division. Roebuck and Longmeadow, that have formed the heart of Broadwater, have been abruptly cut in half, taking away the major neighbourhood shopping centre (Marymead) to the proposed South Stevenage.

These two changes have other repercussions in the necessary balancing of numbers in the other divisions thus our alternative proposal aims at maintaining community identity and interest to a high degree by keeping the core neighbourhood centres of population whilst meeting the commissions requirements for electoral balance.

Alternative Proposal

As stated earlier we share the commission's aim of the need to balance the number of electors per councillor within sensible limits. This is achieved within our 'alternative proposal'. At the heart of these

proposals is the principle used by the commission in its own adjustments in past reviews, which is to achieve balance at the boundaries' between current electoral divisions whilst retaining neighbourhood identification.

The 'alternative proposal' is summarised below;

Old Stevenage

Remove - CCA Polling District, (Chancellors Road etc), and transfer in full to St Nicholas.

Remove - Angotts Mead from CAB Polling District and transfer to Broadwater. New ward boundary will be Bridge St West.

Add - CGA Polling District, (Sish Lane & Poppo Way etc), in full to Old Stevenage. Transfer from Bedwell Ward.

St. Nicholas

Add - CCA Polling District, (Chancellors Road etc), and transfer in full from Old Stevenage.

Remove - CEA Polling District, (Jessop, Wisden, Oval etc), and transfer in full to Bedwell.

Remove - Roads off Pacation Way, plus Lingfield, Wetherby & Sandown from CEB Polling District and transfer to Chells.

Chells

Add - Roads off Pacation Way, plus Lingfield, Wetherby & Sandown from CEB Polling District and transfer from St. Nicholas.

Remove - Collenswood Estate, (Marlborough, Cromwell, Wellington & Barham), from CHB Polling District and transfer to Shephall

Remove - CHC Polling District, (Brittain Way etc), and transfer in full to Shephall.

Shephall

Add - Collenswood Estate, (Marlborough, Cromwell, Wellington & Barham), from CHB Polling District and transfer from Chells.

Add - CHC Polling District, (Brittain Way etc), and transfer in full from Chells.

Bedwell

Add - CEA Polling District, (Jessop, Wisden, Oval etc), and transfer in full from St Nicholas.

Remove - Town Centre from CJC Polling District and add to Broadwater.

Broadwater

Add - Angotts Mead from CAB Polling District and transfer from Old Stevenage. New ward boundary will be Bridge St West.

Add - Town Centre from CJC Polling District and add from Bedwell.

These changes mean that the 2020 division sizes, based on the number of electors predicted by the Boundaries Commission are:

Old Stevenage - 11,514

St Nicholas - 10,785

Chells - 10,948

Shephall - 11,007

Bedwell - 11,182

Broadwater - 10,277

The average number of electors in a Stevenage county division in 2020 is predicted to be 10,985, therefore each of the wards are the following % of the average:

Old Stevenage - 104.8%

St Nicholas - 98.2%

Chells - 99.7%

Shephall - 100.2%

Bedwell - 101.8%

Broadwater - 93.6%

Therefore the difference between the largest division - Old Stevenage 11,514 electors and the smallest ward - Broadwater, 10,277 electors is 10.2%.

As a comparison, the difference between the largest and smallest divisions in Welwyn/Hatfield as proposed by the Local Government Boundary Commission is over 19%.

Note: If Broadwater is deemed too small, you could move Elder Way, Jennings Close, Dunn Close from Bedwell to Broadwater. This would add 174 electors to Broadwater and remove 174 from Bedwell, giving revised electorates of:-
Bedwell - 11,008 - 100.2% of average
Broadwater - 10,451 - 95.1% of average

Evidence of Community Identities

Community provision in terms of Shops, GP Surgeries, Primary Schools, Pre-Schools, Outdoors recreation & play, Childrens Centres' and churches are all provided on a Neighbourhood basis. Policing, Local Forums, Cllr's Surgeries and Residents Groups are all organized within each neighbourhood. This gives a strong relationship between electors and their local councillors in terms of each knowing and contributing to the well being of their neighbourhood. When you ask a Stevenage resident where they live, they will start by naming their neighbourhood. The strong connection to neighbourhoods was noted in the DCLG document of 2006 titled 'Transferable Lessons from the New Towns'.

Conclusion

Our submission has been constructed on the basis of enabling the Commission to better meet its declared objectives defined as follows:

- Deliver electoral equality for voters
- Establish electoral areas (wards or divisions) for local authorities that reflect, as far as possible, community identities in that area
- Promote effective and convenient local government

The 'Alternative Proposal' provides a solution that significantly improves division boundaries that reflect community identities by retaining the core Neighbourhoods of the town upon which its urban design has been based. This in turn enables effective local government at both tiers and maintains well-established partnership working with other statutory authorities. In fulfilling a match to these two objectives we have provided the balancing changes required to all divisions in order to meet the commissions priority of good numerical balance between Stevenage Divisions and the County average.

The County Council election results of 2009 and 2013 clearly indicate that no political party can assume an inherent right to any current

electoral division. All our neighbourhoods are developed on the basis of balanced demographic communities across income groups.

We respectfully urge the Commission to give serious consideration to our submission and modify its draft proposals for the Stevenage divisions in line with the spirit of our 'alternative proposal', thus helping to preserve the real benefits of Neighbourhoods and future social wellbeing.

Neighbourhoods are not just an historic link with the New Towns past they are essential building blocks for a sustainable social and economic future. Please do not destroy them.

Note: We have provided a supporting paper showing the details of our proposed changes at Polling District level and a map with marked up 'Alternative Proposal' division boundaries.

Compiled by John Gardner.

Stevenage Liberal Democrats

Response to Boundary Commission consultation on draft boundaries for Herts County Council

We object to the draft boundaries, for the following reasons:

- many local ties are broken and where there are natural communities within Stevenage in many cases these are divided by the draft boundaries (see further details below);
- the draft recommendations divide over half the Borough's wards between divisions; and four of the six draft divisions each comprise parts of no fewer than four district wards;
- the draft recommendations propose significant disruption from the existing pattern of divisions, breaking community links and causing confusion.

We believe all the above are unnecessary, and **we propose an alternative arrangement** that meets the Commission's requirements for all divisions to have an electorate within 10% of the county average electorate and at the same time addresses all of the concerns listed above.

Please see attached outline map showing the proposed boundaries.

The electorate of the divisions in our proposal would be as follows:

Division	2020 electorate	% deviation County average	% deviation Stevenage average	Changes from existing division
Broadwater	11,100	-6%	+1%	Add CJB south of Six Hills Way
Chells	11,075	-6%	+1%	Remove CHC, CHB south of Six Hills Way; add CEB southern half
Old Stevenage	11,031	-6%	+0%	Remove CCA
Pin Green (was Bedwell)	10,962	-7%	-0%	Remove CJB south of Six Hills Way; add CEA
St Nicholas	10,860	-8%	-1%	Remove CEA, CEB southern half; add CCA
Shephall	10,882	-8%	-1%	Add CHC, CHB south of Six Hills Way

Community links

Broadwater division – the community of Broadwater runs across the wards of Roebuck and Longmeadow in the south and these wards should be kept in a single division. St. Peter's Community Hall, in The Willows, is central in Broadwater, and serves both Longmeadow (CNA, CNB) and Roebuck (CMA, CMB). There is another community centre called Hertford Road Community Centre but it is on the outskirts of Stevenage, and therefore serves only really the eastern part of Longmeadow ward. So residents of both Roebuck and Longmeadow look to the St. Peter's Community Hall, and are effectively one community. Both are separate from Shephall which is north of the dual carriageway (A602).

Our proposal additionally includes the area in the south of Bedwell ward (polling district CJB south of Six Hills Way). This area is semi-detached from the rest of Bedwell ward and is in reality an area more or less on its own, definitely split from the rest of Bedwell Ward by the major Six Hills Way. The area used to form the nucleus of a ward of its own, called Monkswood, abolished as recently as 1999. It is certainly of the

same vintage as Roebuck and a similar mix of houses. There is a well used and strong pedestrian and cycle link between this area and Roebuck, along the wide Monkswood Way; and community events held at the Lamex Stadium (home of the town's major football club, Stevenage Borough), draw people from both parts of our proposed enlarged division; as do the nearby retail parks including the Monkswood and Roebuck retail parks.

Chells division – The core of this division (polling districts CFA, CFB, CHA, CHB) is a clearly-defined community with strong internal links and should be retained within a single division. The area as a whole is known as 'The Chells' and all residents of these four polling districts would say they live in Chells. It makes no sense to divide this area (as proposed in the draft recommendations) as it would break strong community ties.

There are many community links binding the division together. For example the major local neighbourhood shopping centre at The Glebe is situated on the corner of Chells Way/Mobbsbury Way, between CFB and CHA and serves all four polling districts. Nearby is a church and Day Centre, again serving all four polling districts, while the active community centre, Timebridge, is on Mobbsbury Way – this also serves the same area. Chells Manor centre on the boundary of CFA/CEB also serves the CEB polling district. There are excellent communication links (pedestrian, cycle and road) between all areas of Chells and the SB1 bus service services all parts of the division. The area is covered by a single policing area within the Borough, known as 'Chells Police'. The neighbourhood schools for the areas are Marriotts (secondary), Nobel (secondary), Camps Hill (primary), Lodge Farm (primary) and they all draw mainly from all parts of the division. Community events and places within the area are always referred to as 'Chells' (for example Chells Fun Day; Chells Park; Chells Pavilion).

The CHC polling district and area south of Six Hills Way are proposed to move into Shephall division (see below). These areas are more remote from the core of Chells and separated from it by clear boundaries (e.g. Fairlands Valley, Ashtree Wood and Pescotts Wood).

Old Stevenage division – Symonds Green has no links with residential areas to the south (separated by the industrial area) nor to the north (separated by the railway line) so needs to be kept linked with Old Town ward. The links between the Symonds Green and Old Town areas should be retained. For example, the Bridge Children's Centre serves both the Old Town and Symonds Green neighbourhoods; and Stevenage Borough Council's Local Forums were based on Old Town and Symonds Green being together.

Part of Woodfield ward is currently in the Old Stevenage division, but it is separated from Symonds Green by the railway line and it has weaker links with the Old Town; so in order to reduce the electorate of the division, we propose to remove this area into St Nicholas division (see below).

Pin Green division (based on former Bedwell division) – this division contains communities in central Stevenage. In our proposal, this division loses a small part of Bedwell ward south of the major boundary of Six Hills Road (hence the proposed name change) and gains the western part of Martins Wood ward (west of Verity Way which provides a clear boundary). This area (polling district CEA) forms a continuous built-up area with the north of Pin Green ward and fits comfortably into this division.

St Nicholas division – We accept the arguments put forward at the previous consultation round (and also accepted by the Commission) that there are links between the halves of Woodfield ward and it makes sense to unite these in one division. However the boundary in the east between Woodfield and St Nicholas wards is artificial and runs through the middle of built-up area, so these wards should also be in a single division. St Nicholas is a clearly-defined community that should not be split. The draft recommendations

divide St Nicholas in half along a minor road (Pilgrims Way). St. Nicholas Community Centre in Canterbury Way covers the whole of St Nicholas (that is, it covers polling districts CDA, CDB, CDC as well as the southern part of CCB and the northern half of CEA).

Shephall division – The wards of Shephall and Bandle Hill together form the single community of Shephall. Both wards are largely the same vintage and both look to The Hyde Neighbourhood Centre, which is a major local shopping centre situated between Shephall and Bandle Hill, half way down the north/south road of Shephall Way. Residents of both wards are also served by Shephall Community Centre, which is just west of Shephall Way in Shephall Green, and central for the whole division.

We note the argument put forward at the previous consultation that Poplars (polling district CLB) is a distinct area. We accept that it was not built at the same time as the rest of the division, but it is connected to Bandle Hill by strong pedestrian links to the district centre in Magpie Crescent. This centre serves the whole of Bandle Hill and comprises shops, Doctors' Surgery and community buildings including a community centre called the Poplars and Bandle Hill Community Centre. Poplars has no community links with other areas of the town apart from Bandle Hill, so it should be retained in the same division as the rest of Bandle Hill and Shephall.

The CHC polling district and area south of Six Hills Way in CHB are proposed to transfer from Chells division (see above). These areas have good links to Shephall and Bandle Hill.

Electoral equality

All proposed divisions are within 10% of county average electorate – and all are within 2% of borough average electorate.

Co-terminosity

We propose that only 3 district wards should be divided between divisions (Bedwell, Chells, Martins Wood) – compared with no fewer than 7 split wards under the Commission's proposals (or 8 if you include the split of Shephall ward that does not involve any electors). We recognise that co-terminosity is not an over-riding consideration but we have shown that it is possible to achieve electoral equality and avoid breaking community ties while at the same time minimising the number of wards divided between divisions. This will reduce confusion and increase convenience of local government.

Strong boundaries

Almost all the boundaries proposed in our arrangement follow railways, major roads, or open spaces that clearly delineate separate communities. This is an improvement on the draft recommendations, which include several boundaries that cut across communities arbitrarily (for example the division of polling district CJA and the division of the community of St Nicholas between three different divisions (in polling districts CCB, CDB and CDC).

Continuity

Unlike the draft recommendations, our proposals retain essentially the existing pattern of divisions, whilst improving on electoral equality and community identity by addressing anomalies.

The Review Officer
Hertfordshire Review
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

I am writing on behalf of the Labour Group on Three Rivers District Council to advise the Commission that we object to the draft recommendations in respect of the South Oxhey and Eastbury Division.

Given the wording in your draft recommendations for Three Rivers, we consider the consultation to be little more than a rubber stamping exercise. Of course, we should be delighted to be proved wrong. However, given our previous and unsatisfactory experience in the recent Three Rivers District Council review, we understandably write in hope rather than expectation.

We note that in the District Council review only completed in October of last year, it was not considered desirable for any of South Oxhey, which the Commission managed to split into three, to be attached to anywhere other than another area within the Watford Rural Parish boundary.

We are now therefore astonished to find the recommendation to pair the South Oxhey Division with Eastbury, an area outside the parish boundary, which it has little, if anything, in common with. Indeed some years ago the parish boundary was realigned in order to recognise this salient fact. Now this appears to have been conveniently forgotten.

The two communities are entirely different and that is why Eastbury is in the same ward as Moor Park with which it shares many similarities - not least being the London Underground station.

We are completely bemused and dumbfounded as to the reasoning behind tacking on a number of substantial detached properties surrounded by large gardens, many with sumptuous swimming pools in gated communities and private roads, with a compact former London County Council estate!

Paragraph 116 of your draft recommendations, is in our view, a classic case of the same amnesia.

On this occasion it appears to us you have already decided that "adding electors from the east of South Oxhey, thus crossing the railway line, would not reflect community identities" for no other reason than it suits your purpose. This assertion completely contradicts the previous argument you made during the Three Rivers District Review only months ago which has now been put in place! If it was right then, why is it so wrong now?

By making such a sweeping statement you allow yourselves at the stroke of a civil servant's pen to effectively rule out the only feasible alternative to what you propose i.e. adding sufficient electors from Carpenders Park (the Conservatives' proposal was even more hare-brained.)

We would strongly argue that the Commission with its draft recommendation has selected the worst of the lesser of two evils. We believe the South Oxhey Division should have sufficient electors added to it from the Three Rivers District Council ward of Carpenders Park and these should include:

Attenborough Close
Compton Place
Delta Gain

Gibbs Couch
Harrow Way
Little Oxhey Lane
Oulton Way
Romilly Drive
St Georges Drive

If considered desirable in terms of electoral equality, sufficient additional voters could be added in addition to the approximately 700 we propose.

We hope you will give our proposal due consideration.

Yours faithfully

Councillor Stephen Cox
Leader
Three Rivers Labour Group