

Cllr Keith Williams

Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Sent electronically as an attachment to comments page on LGBCE website.

2 July 2013

Dear Sir / Madam,

Electoral Review of Three Rivers District.

I am one of the current Three Rivers District Councillors for Leavesden Ward and also an Abbots Langley Parish Councillor for the current Tanners Wood ward. Although the majority of these comments accord with my political party's and the District Councils view, I am writing in a personal capacity.

I broadly support the draft recommendations proposed by the Commission. In particular, I support the division of the District into four sub-areas that reflect the distinct community identities in the district; and the resulting recognition for parish boundaries.

Above all I feel that it is important that wards correspond as far as possible to the communities within each sub-area. In some cases this is not achieved by the draft recommendations and I would make the following comments specifically on the boundaries in the Parish I represent.

The Commission's proposed boundary through Abbots Langley is weak and has no clear definition, appears completely arbitrary, and causes several streets (including the High Street) to be split between wards. The original proposal suggested by the District and Parish Councils respects the communities within the parish, enables the existing parish ward boundaries to be retained (these are a good reflection of existing communities), and reflects existing transport and community links. I would therefore encourage you to reconsider these divisions.

In addition, paragraph 78 of the proposal makes specific reference to Furtherfield and Queens Dive. Whilst I accept that Queens Drive is eastward facing and the commission's proposals make sense, it is not the same for Furtherfield. The residential properties in Furtherfield are at the end of a long lane, which is only used as a vehicular access. The Furtherfield estate itself has two streets of older people properties (Pegasus Close and De Havilland Way) as well as family properties. The estate is also well served by footpaths facing north (to the centre of Abbots Langley) and to the west (to the shops at School Mead, along with the local school, Tanners Wood). Most of the community links are therefore to the north and east and not the south as assumed in proposal. This is further confirmed by voters in the Furtherfield estate voting at a polling station in School Mead, which is a convenient walk (through the paths) for residents. The polling stations for Leavesden are a considerable distance from the Furtherfield estate, and will require vehicular access, which could affect voter turnout, particularly from the less mobile population residing in the older people's residences. I would therefore request that the Furtherfield estate remains in the Langleybury Ward. A further reason for retaining the estate in Langleybury is that the proposed elector numbers for Langleybury are 8% below average even after the proposals, whilst Leavesden is 4% above. By leaving the

198 Furtherfield electors in Langleybury, Leavesden ward average voter per councillors is 1809 (one below the Three Rivers average), and Langleybury, will only by 4% below average.

Yours faithfully

Councillor Keith Williams

Three Rivers DC Councillor for Leavesden Ward
Abbots Langley PC Councillor for Tanners Wood