

Uttlesford District

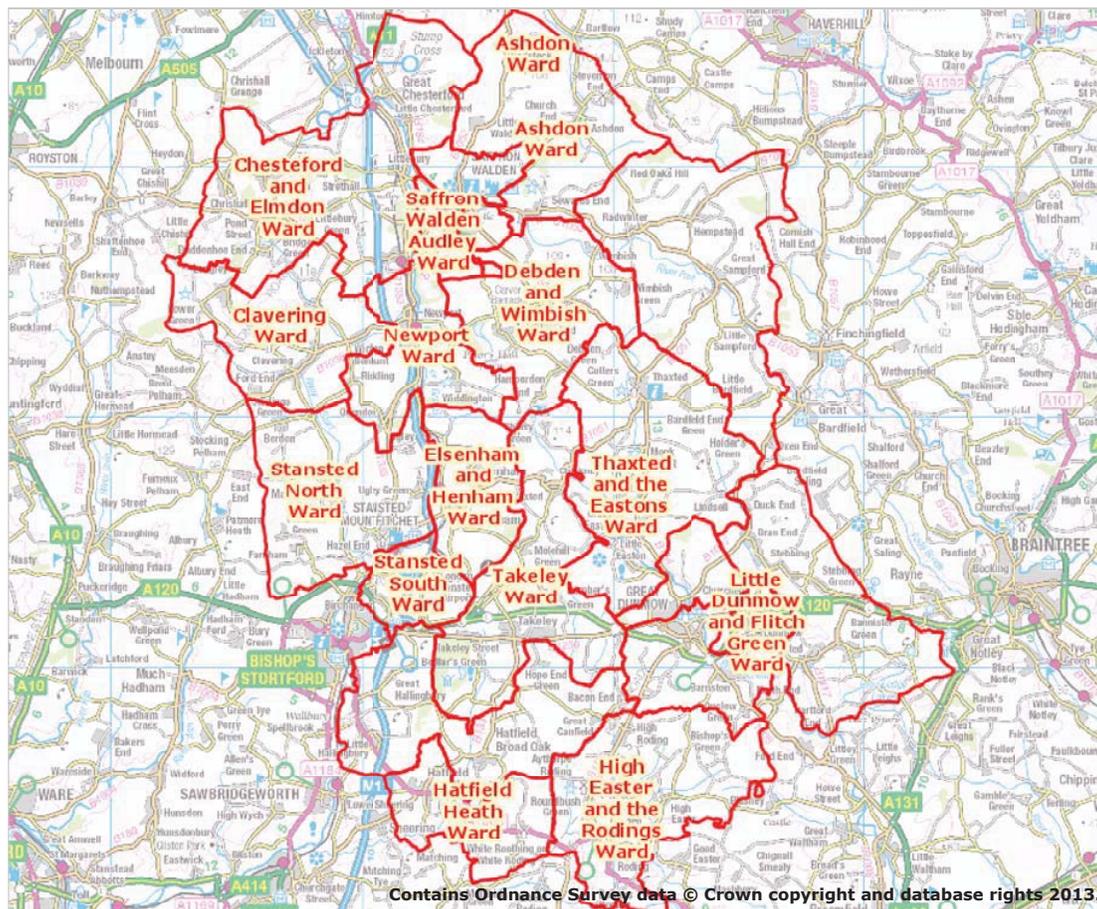
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Constituency Liberal
Democrats



Map Features:

Comment text:

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER ELECTORAL REVIEW OF UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL WARDS OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED THREE-MEMBER STANSTED NORTH WARD The Executive of Saffron Walden Constituency Liberal Democrats wish to object to the three-member Stansted North ward proposed in your draft recommendations published on 16th April 2013. We wish to object principally on the grounds that the proposed ward does not meet the Commission's own criteria that wards should reflect the interests and identities of local communities. Merging 4 small rural parishes with an urban area of Stansted Mountfitchet that has twice the number of electors will not enable the distinctive needs and issues facing these rural parishes in West Uttlesford to be reflected and championed clearly. Nor will the proposed representation of the four rural parishes be conducive to effective or convenient local government for the electorate in the villages. Ward members would have to build relationships with five parish councils. In practice the ward members are likely to devote most of their activity to the urban part of the ward because it would contain two thirds of the electorate. Especially as Stansted Mountfitchet is a rapidly growing urban area concerned by issues of further development and the need to improve community infrastructure. We consider that the objection to Uttlesford District Council's scheme on the grounds that there is no direct road connection between Ugley parish and the existing Stort Valley ward parishes ignores the strong common rural identity of the four parishes in favour of a rule of administrative convenience. Ugley does have common boundaries and extensive footpath connections with Manuden and Berden parishes. Furthermore it is inequitable that the views of one of the four rural parish councils should have precedence over the other three particularly as the parishes in the traditional Stort Valley ward were not aware of any proposal to amalgamate them with Stansted North at the time of your original consultation. The Executive of the Saffron Walden Liberal Democrats urge the Commission to re-consider their proposal and adopt Uttlesford district council's original proposal of a one-member rural ward for Berden, Farnham, Manuden & Ugley parishes, and a separate two-member urban ward for Stansted North.

To Local Government Boundary Commission for England,

DRAFT RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER ELECTORAL REVIEW OF UTTLESFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL WARDS

OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED THREE-MEMBER STANSTED NORTH WARD

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We wish to object principally on the grounds that the proposed ward does not meet the Commission's own criteria that wards should reflect the interests and identities of local communities. Merging 4 small rural parishes with an urban area of Stansted Mountfitchet that has twice the number of electors will not enable the distinctive needs and issues facing these rural parishes in West Uttlesford to be reflected and championed clearly.

Nor will the proposed representation of the four rural parishes be conducive to effective or convenient local government for the electorate in the villages. Ward members would have to build relationships with five parish councils. In practice the ward members are likely to devote most of their activity to the urban part of the ward because it would contain two thirds of the electorate. Especially as Stansted Mountfitchet is a rapidly growing urban area concerned by issues of further development and the need to improve community infrastructure.

We consider that the objection to Uttlesford District Council's scheme on the grounds that there is no direct road connection between Ugley parish and the existing Stort Valley ward parishes ignores the strong common rural identity of the four parishes in favour of a rule of administrative convenience. Ugley does have common boundaries and extensive footpath connections with Manuden and Berden parishes. Furthermore it is inequitable that the views of one of the four rural parish councils should have precedence over the other three particularly as the parishes in the traditional Stort Valley ward were not aware of any proposal to amalgamate them with Stansted North at the time of your original consultation.

The Executive of the Saffron Walden Liberal Democrats urge the Commission to reconsider their proposal and adopt Uttlesford district council's original proposal of a one-member rural ward for Berden, Farnham, Manuden & Ugley parishes, and a separate two-member urban ward for Stansted North.

Yours sincerely

Melvin Caton
Vice-Chair
On behalf of Saffron Walden Liberal Democrats