



Lewes District Council

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Councillor Sharon Davy

Conservative
Chailey and Wivelsfield



Local Government Boundary Commission for England,
14th Floor Millbank Tower,
21-24 Millbank,
London, SW1P 4QP

Councillor Sharon Davy
22nd November 2015

Conservative
Chailey and Wivelsfield

FAO: The Review Officer (East Sussex, Lewes District)

Dear Sir/Madam,



**Re: Electoral Review of East Sussex County and Districts
Lewes District – Chailey and Wivelsfield**



I am writing as the District Councillor for Chailey and the 16th Councillor for
Chailey and Wivelsfield.

Telephone: 01323 811336
Email: [Redacted]

Attached is my submission. I represent the vast majority of Chailey and
Wivelsfield residents who support retaining the current existing ward along with
our Parish Councils. We do not support the recommendation from the Lewes
District Working Group.

Councillor Sharon Davy

At the meeting of 9th November, Cllrs Davy and Lington voted against the
proposal along with other Councillors who voiced their opposition.

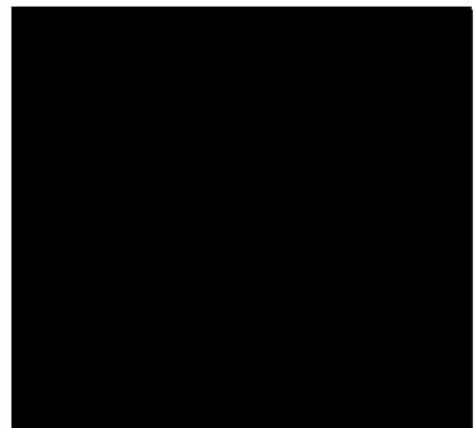
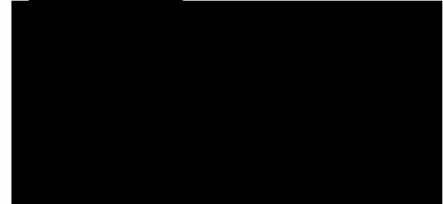
If any more detailed information is required, please contact me



Yours faithfully,



Cllr Sharon Davy (Chailey and Wivelsfield)



LEWES ELECTORICAL REVIEW
BOUNDARY CHANGES THAT AFFECT: CHAILEY – WIVELSFIELD –
BARCOMBE – HAMSEY

Cllr Sharon Davy is the District Councillor for Chailey and the joint ward of Chailey and Wivelsfield. Cllr. Isabelle Linington is the District Councillor for Barcombe and Hamsey.

We do not support the Lewes District Working Party's recommendations of amalgamating Chailey with Barcombe and Hamsey. We do support retaining the joint ward of Chailey and Wivelsfield and the separate ward of Barcombe and Hamsey.

Evidence – criteria – material considerations – judgment- reflecting interests and identities of local communities

Occasionally, it is recognized that it will not always be possible for a new boundary proposal to meet all of the main 3 criteria, but can meet the other 2 criteria and principles. Having represented the people of Chailey and Wivelsfield for 12 ½ years I submit evidence based recommendations to prove and reflect the joint interests and identity of Chailey and Wivelsfield

Transport Links – *There is no form of public transport from North or South Chailey to Barcombe. There is transport on the A275, the direct link to Lewes town. There is public transport on the A272 to Haywards Heath and Uckfield. Most of Chailey do not gravitate towards the town of Lewes, whereas most of Barcombe and Hamsey do. There is no reason why residents of Chailey ever travel to Barcombe and no reason for Barcombe residents to travel to Chailey.*

We, in Chailey and Wivelsfield, use Haywards Heath and Wivelsfield Green/Burgess Hill for our train station, whilst Barcombe and Hamsey residents will look towards Lewes Town and Cooksbridge railway stations.

Community groups – many Chailey and Wivelsfield residents are members of Chailey Commons Society. Our local hospice is in the Parish of Wivelsfield, but almost on the Chailey Parish boundary and is invaluable when our villages in both villages require end of life care. We share a huge amount of voluntary and charity connections.

Facilities – Chailey and Wivelsfield people primarily go shopping in Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath, for local shopping they use South Chailey and Wivelsfield Post Offices/village shops. We have 3 local pubs. Generally, Barcombe does not use those facilities as the residents shop in the town of Lewes and use their own Post Office/village shop. They have a village pub, 2 other pubs, 1 near Cooksbridge, 1 in Offham.

Chailey and Wivelsfield residents are fortunate to have the Princess Royal, Haywards Heath as their local hospital and a large number of residents give their voluntary support. Barcombe looks to the Queen Victoria hospital in the town of Lewes for non emergency, day-unit operations and services, as well as looking towards Brighton General Hospital for more serious treatment.

G.P.'s and medical centres: Chailey and Wivelsfield use the South Chailey and Newick medical centres. Some Barcombe residents use the Newick and South Chailey medical centres, but other residents, especially in Hamsey, Cooksbridge and Offham will look to the town of Lewes for their medical G.P. needs.

The vast majority of residents living in Chailey and Wivelsfield will use the Triangle Leisure Centre in Burgess Hill or the Dolphin Leisure Centre in Haywards Heath. The majority of residents in Barcombe and Hamsey will use the Leisure Centre in the town of Lewes. Haywards Heath exerts a strong influence on the northern part of the district (page 35, Local Plan) – Barcombe and Hamsey have a stronger relationship with the town of Lewes.

Chailey and Wivelsfield share the boundary of Chailey Common, this is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Nature Reserve. Chailey Common bonds many residents of the two villages in their country pursuits. This is not the case with Barcombe and Hamsey.

Electoral equality – The Lewes District Joint Core Strategy should be considered. It would be appreciated if the Local Government Boundary Commission refers to the Local Plan for factual data. An increase of approximately 40 dwellings by 2030 in South and North Chailey (without windfalls) has been submitted and agreed with the Inspector at the initial Inquiry. The figures submitted by Lewes District Council do not tally with the agreed Local Plan. I agree with Chailey Parish Council - the figures submitted should be re-examined. The Core Strategy and Local Plan have been agreed by Full Council. (ref. Local Plan page 45, Spatial Policy 2 – Distribution of Housing).

The 2021 variance data could collectively be +20% over the preferred electoral target, but the proposal of joining Chailey with Barcombe and Hamsey is still 13% over the preferred number of electors and thereby, does not fulfill a perfect electoral equality. We question the recommendation for change when the proposed Lewes District Council recommendation does not fulfill the ideal criteria. The justification for this variance is simply a +7% difference. This will create an impractical and ineffective collection of parish wards and boundaries that do not reflect the interest and identities of the villages.

The Boundary Commission recognizes that perfect electoral equality for all wards is unlikely to be exactly achieved. Chailey and Wivelsfield Parish Councils both strongly support retaining the joint ward of Chailey and Wivelsfield.

Shared Interests – promoting effective and convenient local government - Chailey and Wivelsfield are wholly outside the South Downs National Park, whilst areas within the ward of Barcombe and Hamsey are in the Park, i.e. Offham, Cooksbridge and parts of Hamsey. This adds more complexities as Chailey and Wivelsfield planning decisions are wholly decided by Lewes District and parts of Hamsey, Cooksbridge and Offham are decided by the South Downs National Park. This does not lend itself to effective and convenient local government.

The criteria states that evidence should be established if there are clear identifiable boundaries. Chailey and Wivelsfield is 100% out of the South Downs National Park boundary. Barcombe and Hamsey include some areas that are within the Park boundary.

Retaining the Chailey and Wivelsfield joint ward reflects the necessary criteria for our local communities to remain as they are.