

Response to Draft Boundary Proposals on behalf of Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth Liberal Democrats

A. **Boundaries** – In the light of the draft recommendations report accompanying the proposed boundary arrangements for East Herts, we do not wish to propose any major alterations in the Bishops Stortford and Sawbridgeworth areas. However, we would propose amendments to the proposed boundaries of Bishop's Stortford Central Ward and of Bishop's Stortford All Saints Ward on the basis of community identity (see maps attached).

1. **Central Ward** – Changes to the boundary between Bishop's Stortford Thorley Manor Ward and Bishop's Stortford Central Ward. We consider the eastern section of Windhill (east of St. Mary's School), Bell's Hill, Regency Close, Markwell Place, Jeans Lane and the section of Hadham Road between the junction with Bell's Hill and Bishop's Stortford College, which are currently proposed to be in Thorley Manor Ward to have a closer community identity with Central Ward. These areas are immediately adjacent to Central Ward to the south and south-east, with the eastern section of Windhill forming an extension of High Street. There are therefore close connections with Central Ward by road and footpath whereas the larger part of Thorley Manor Ward is more distant and forms a distinct separate community. Furthermore, the transfer of this area will not adversely affect electoral equality as Central Ward and the proposed boundary, which is detailed below is well defined. Moreover, moving this area between these two wards will not give rise to a new parish ward.

The Proposed boundary (solid line on Map 1 below) would continue northward from the north-west corner of the Priory Court car park (rather than turn eastward along the north boundary of Priory Court as in the draft recommendation – dotted line on Map 1) along the western boundary of the Monastery car park, then north-west along the access road for 15 Windhill to the A1004, turning north along the B1004 and Bell's Hill and then westward along the footpath that runs along the north boundary of St. Mary's School to meet the Thorley Manor Ward/North Ward boundary at the south-west corner of the Bishop's Stortford College grounds.

2. **All Saints Ward** – We have concerns that the proposed boundary between All Saints Ward and Parsonage Ward does not respect community identities in three areas. In the east the Manor Links and Shortcroft developments are closely associated with the Parsonage Lane area to the west of them rather than to the bulk of All Saints, in the west the community around Hockerill junction is separated between the two wards and in the centre, we note that a number of properties in

Dunmow Road are included in Parsonage Ward when those on either side are in All Saints Ward. However, we note in the former two instances there are grounds for the draft recommendations based on well-defined boundaries and that alternatives are not readily identifiable.

Our proposed revision relates to the section of the Parsonage/All Saints boundary from the junction of Dunmow Road and Rainham Road to Hockerill Anglo-European College. We consider the draft boundary to be less than well-defined in that it crosses the 'GU factory' site and Stortford Hall Industrial Estate along private paths and drives, the line of which may be altered and potentially obscured by future development. Our alternative follows the boundaries of both these sites, which are well defined, especially as GU have erected fencing demarking their boundary and removed many of the trees alongside Dunmow Road. The draft recommendations also place seven residential properties in Dunmow Road into Parsonage Ward and uses ill-defined garden boundaries to the rear of houses on the west side of Elm Grove. The proposed revision maintains all the Dunmow Road properties in All Saints together with Edens Close, which has close community links with Dunmow Road, not least because of the local shop on the corner of Stortford Hall Park and Dunmow Road. The proposed boundary to the rear of houses on the north side of Edens Close is at least as well-defined as that in the draft recommendations, is marked by a recently built brick wall and in part follows the line of the rear access path to properties in Stortford Hall Park.

The proposed boundary (solid line on Map 2 below) would therefore depart from the draft recommendations (dashed line on Map 2) by continuing along Dunmow Road to the southern boundary of the 'GU factory' site (the line of a former railway), north-west along the boundary between Stortford Hall Industrial Estate and the Gu factory/Rainham Road Industrial Estate, turning south along the western boundary of Stortford Hall Industrial Estate to a point where this meets the access road to the rear of the Spar convenience store, turning west along the length of the access road, northward for a short distance along Stortford Hall Park and then north-west to the rear of houses on the north side of Edens Close before re-joining the boundary in the draft recommendations at the point where it meets the south-east corner of the Hockerill College playing field.

B. Ward Names

1. **District Ward names** – we have no objection to the use of the names in the draft recommendations, which in our view reflect the community identity and/or geographical location of the proposed wards.
2. **Parish Ward names** – we wish to suggest changes to the following proposed parish ward names:
 - i. **Goods Yard** – we consider this name to be less than appropriate as the ‘Good’s Yard’ development site only covers part of the proposed ward in the draft recommendations and once completed there will no longer be an actual good’s yard. We suggest a name that reflects that the ward in its entirety runs alongside the River Stort is more appropriate and therefore propose either *Riverside Ward* or *Waterside Ward*. The latter also references the Waterside Stortford walking trail, a large section of which is contained within the ward.
 - ii. **North East** – we consider this to be wholly inappropriate as it implies the ward covers the north-eastern section of Bishop Stortford, which is not the case and it is therefore potentially confusing. We would propose *Chantry Ward* as both the historic Chantry building, and Chantry Road are located in the ward, and the bulk of the ward is covered by Chantry Residents Association.
 - iii. **North West** – whilst this name is appropriate on geographical grounds we suggest that consideration be given to using *Silverleys Ward* as the Sports Ground of that name is located in the centre of the proposed ward.

Map 1 – Central/Thorley Manor Proposed Boundary Change

Tholey Manor-Central Boundary Proposal



Map 2 - All Saints/Parsonage Proposed Boundary Change

