

Ashby, Jonathan

From: Barry Aspinell [REDACTED]
Sent: 18 July 2022 16:15
To: Ashby, Jonathan
Cc: Barry Aspinell
Subject: Boundary Commission Consultation : Brentwood
Attachments: Ward Names.docx; IMG_3288.jpg; Cllr Aspinell Final 2022-07-15(1).xlsx

Dear Mr. Ashby,

Boundary Commission Consultation

I am writing on behalf of the Brentwood Liberal Democrat Group to provide this letter as our representation to the current consultation on the draft proposals for the Brentwood area. We note the draft plans, which include various changes to the existing electoral ward boundaries within the Borough.

We understand that proposals for boundary changes are to ensure that there is electoral equality within the borough and have given due regard to the guidance of the Commission and the recent submission that 39 Councillors will be the right Council size for the Borough and that each electoral ward should have 3 members equating, as far as possible, in electoral numbers. We have based this not just on the current electorate but the forecast for the next five years.

In looking at proposed boundaries we have considered the importance of maintaining identifiable boundaries and ensuring, as far as possible, community cohesion and identity. It is not possible to replicate the exact numbers in each electoral ward; but we have tried to align and keep any imbalances to a minimum, having due regard to our five-year forecast.

To support the attached Boundary Map, and to offer further explanation, we are therefore propose the following:

Thirteen wards of three members - we have introduced a new ward representing the Town Centre. This is based on hard, easily identified boundaries and encompasses the oldest inhabited part of our town, including 12 schools and two major churches. The proposed new ward has been created through the need to reduce the amount of residents per councillor in the Brentwood West, Brentwood North and Brentwood South wards.

The A12 runs through our district from the Chelmsford boundary to the M25. A six lane highway dissects the villages of Ingatestone and Mountnessing, leaving everything to the West of the A12 mainly farmland and small villages, as one distinct rural area. Looking to balance the numerical equation with regard to hard boundaries and retaining communities it has not been possible to keep the Parish Councils in the same wards, therefore there are a couple of examples where there are two wards in one parished area. Unfortunately, the boundaries of the 17th and 18th centuries had no regard for futuristic railway and motorway placements!

With regard to one thousand new homes planned for the Shenfield area, the only physical way of encompassing that additional number is to enlarge the Ingatestone area to the East of the A12 to include the rural part of Mountnessing so that there is one continual ward between the A12 and the London Liverpool Street railway line. Again, easily recognisable boundaries with room for future expansion to the urban envelope.

Likewise, the ward of Hutton North, on the Billericay/Basildon border along the Rayleigh Road to Alexander Lane, which encompasses virtually all the urban built area. This ward has, in the past, been altered already along with its neighbours of Hutton East, Hutton Central and Hutton South.

You can see from the map that we are removing Hutton Central, leaving three wards. The Hutton South ward has always been large private houses and we propose to link that with an adjacent local authority housing estate, thereby balancing the social/economic demographics of that area with clear, easily identified boundaries and a more even workload for the local councillors. In this way we have removed Brentwood South ward, with the remaining areas based within the Town Centre ward and a newly created Warley ward.

The existing Warley ward is reduced in area and we have concentrated on the urban built (and to be built) part of that ward with, again, clearly identified boundaries and a varied mix of social/economic demographics.

The existing Brentwood West ward has been much reduced, losing the residents close to the Town Centre into the newly created ward and having a new boundary of the London Road, which stretches from our High Street to the M25. This does not break up any communities and again shows clear definition regarding easily identified boundaries.

The housing to the West of London Road known as the Homesteads has much in common with the existing South Weald ward. In fact they share a community hall, known as South Weald Parish Hall, which is actually in Brentwood West ward and South Weald is not parished!

All of the land surrounding these homes is farmland, and therefore is able to be joined into the areas known as Navestock and Doddinghurst. This is a very large ward, but by its very nature, a collection of old, historic villages with lots of farmland in between.

The same argument could be made for the remainder of the borough East of the existing Brentwood West and Warley wards. A large rural community stretching all the way to Thorndon, including the villages of Ingrave, Warley and Herongate.

We have based this review looking at our community as a whole with regard to its cultural, historical and community values. We have also considered the future proposals for our borough in terms of expansion, placed a value on easily identifiable boundaries and balanced the wards as best as possible with a view to having three councillors per ward which under the current electoral system would mean 13 elected each year. As a group we would prefer to see one election every four years, but that is not within our gift.

There are three wards that are almost numerically perfect. All three have minor boundary adjustments but in essence remain the same. These are Pilgrims Hatch, which is a tight knit community, with a balance of private and local authority housing, with a rural as well as urban aspect. Again, it has clearly defined boundaries. Shenfield is slightly adjusted to accommodate the new homes being planned but largely remains the same. Brentwood North had to lose one thousand or more residents and we were able to do this whilst creating a Town Centre ward. Again, easily identified boundaries, a tight knit community with a balance of local authority and private housing.

We believe that the above proposals will provide the electoral equality needed to ensure that each elector has access to an elected member and each member will have the resources to be able to serve the community needs.

We hope you find our proposals (along with the attached suggested ward renaming) agreeable and we trust you will give this your serious consideration.

Kind regards,

Councillor Barry Aspinell

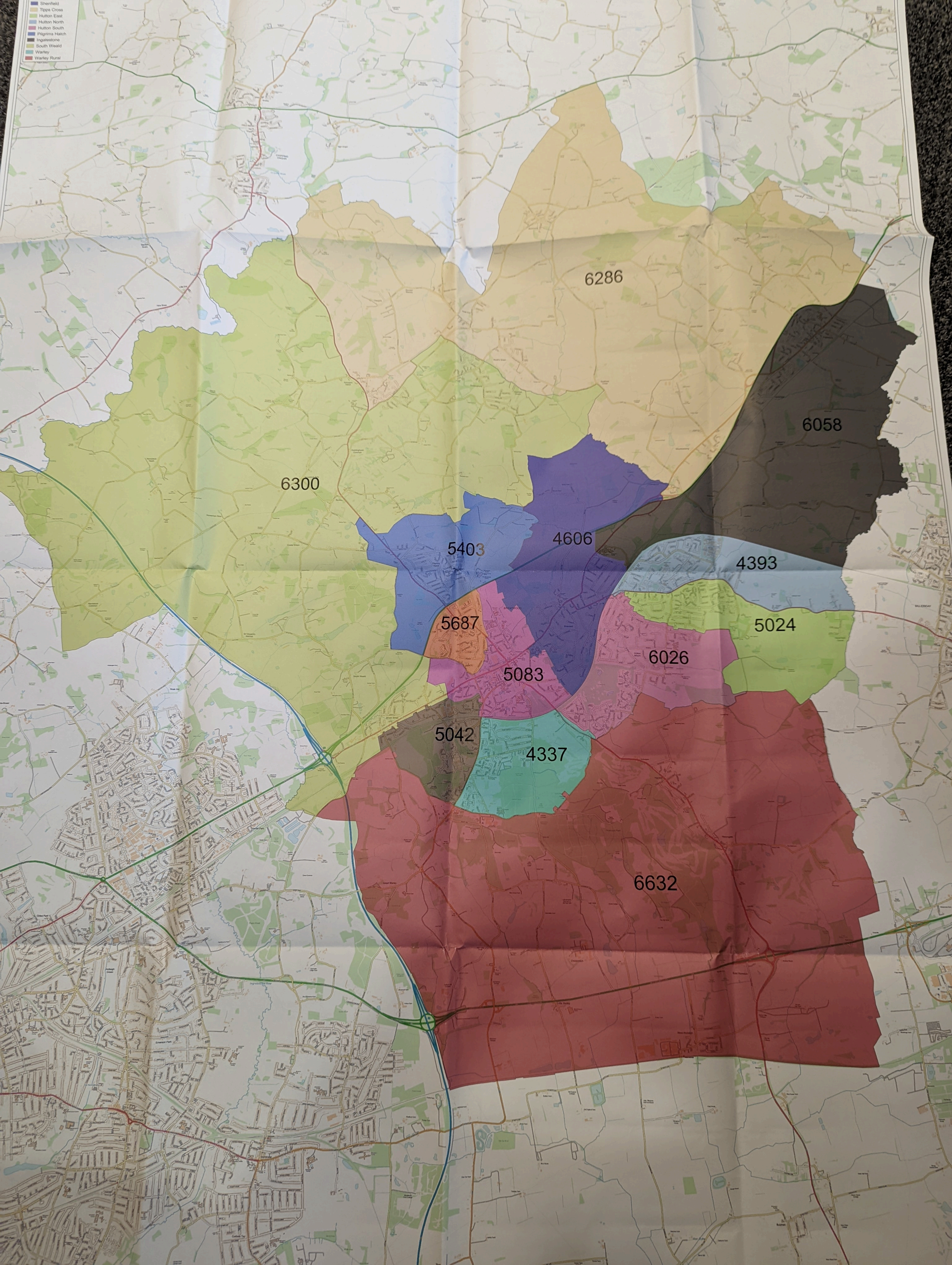
Cllr Barry Aspinell
Leader, Brentwood Liberal Democrats
Borough Councillor, Pilgrims Hatch Ward
County Councillor, Brentwood North Division (Brentwood North, Pilgrims Hatch, Shenfield)

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Ward	Electors
Ingatestone	6058
Hutton North	5035
Hutton East	5003
Brentwood Central	5083
South Weald	6300
Pilgrims Hatch	5403
Warley	4944
Brentwood West	5042
Warley Rural	6025
Hutton South	5405
Brentwood North	5687
Shenfield	4606
Tipps Cross	6286
Total	70877

Suggested Names for Wards

Existing / New / Adjusted Ward	Suggested Name
Herongate, West Horndon & Warley Rural	Thorndon
Warley	Warley or Warley Central
Hutton South	Running Waters
Town Centre (Newly Created)	Chapel
Shenfield	Shenfield
Pilgrims Hatch	Pilgrims Hatch
Brentwood North	Brentwood North
Brentwood West	Brentwood West
South Weald / Navestock / Doddinghurst	Farmlands
Fryerning / Blackmore / Swallows Cross	Swallows Cross
Ingatestone	Ingatestone Manor
Hutton North	Long Ridings
Hutton East	Willowbrook.



- Shenfield
- Tipton Cross
- Hutton East
- Hutton North
- Hutton South
- Pilgrims Hatch
- Ingatestone
- South Weald
- Warley
- Warley Rural

6286

6058

6300

5403

4606

4393

5024

6026

5083

5687

5042

4337

6632