

Harlow District Council

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Comment text:

This is the submission from the Labour Group on Harlow district Council Harlow Labour group recognises that Harlow has changed significantly since the previous ward boundary review was conducted in 2002 and for that reason we welcomed this boundary review. We recognise the population growth the town has experienced and also the new communities which have been born out of that growth including Church Langley, Newhall and Gilston Park Harlow Labour group believe as the boundary commission does that after electoral equality the most important aspect of a warding arrangement is keeping existing communities together. This is more important than geographical features such as roads. We also recognise that roads are not always as much boundaries as other geographical features such as cycle paths and the green wedges and green fingers which run through our town This proposal sets out the reasoning behind each of the wards, as well as recognising some of the challenges in Harlow of creating ward proposals that balance the statutory criteria. Our proposal is as follows, as you can see it is balanced in terms of electoral equality. We do not agree with the proposal of the administration that the A414 needs to be a barrier. It is not currently with the existing ward of Harlow Common crossing through it. We also recognise the very distinct community that is Church Langley which was very much designed and sold as that. We also recognise that the community of Potter Street is very different to Church Langley and that they are more likely to utilise the services within the existing Bush Fair Ward, particularly its schools and GP surgeries. In fact, following the recent closure of Osler house GP surgery the majority of residents visit GP practises in and around the Bush Fair shopping complex. Our proposal also seeks to keep the historical and long standing community of Hare Street as one. The proposal of the administration group seeks to split this close knit community between three separate wards which we see as total inappropriate. The submission from the boundary review in 2000 from the Council stated clearly 'Church Langley is a unique community, with a strong identity, clearly identifiable boundaries and little in common with adjacent areas..... and that any attempt to break Church Langley up for electoral purposes would be profoundly illogical and unpopular' We attach our proposals as a word document including warding arrangements. Rationale for wards With the exception of Church Langley, whose rational is explained above, our group's submission seeks to put two communities together to create one ward (as Little Parndon and Hare Street has always done) so as to ensure that communities are not cut in two. There are slight exceptions (Felmongers moved into Newhall and Churchgate) so as to ensure that we have electoral equality but in general this has been achieved. Little Parndon and Hare Street No real changes from existing boundaries apart from losing the new development north of Elizabeth Way and a small part Wedhey, Little Groves Field and Turnors. Great Parndon and Katherine's This is made up of all of the existing Great Parndon Ward and a small part of the old Toddbrook Ward, Willowfield and Kingsland. The main advantage of this ward is it doesn't cross Third Avenue which is a clear dividing line between wards. Sumner and Kingsmoor Still majority the same as it was before but adding a small part of the old Staple Tye Ward. Moorfield, Joyners Field and Risdens. These areas were already quite a distance from the polling station at Longwood Academy. Their new polling station will be much closer. Church Langley. This is a clearly defined community with its own unique identity. To break it is unnecessary and illogical as the existing ward satisfies the requirements on number of voters. Tye Green. This ward is made up of mostly the old Toddbrook and old Bush Fair West. It's a ward that sits between two clearly defined main roads Southern Way and Third Avenue. They share common areas such as Barn Mead and Golding Playing fields. These are also right in the heart of the ward. This resolves the existing issue of Westfield and Stony wood being in an inappropriate ward. Stewards and Latton Bush Made up of the Latton Bush end of Harlow Common and most of the Old Staple Tye Ward. This new ward brings together two clear communities and is made up of only areas south of Southern Way. The middle of the ward is similar to others because they share open green areas. This has also solved the issue of Pear Tree Mead and Little Pynchons being in the wrong ward and crossing Southern Way. Also areas like The Readings and Latton Green are not currently in the heart of a ward but instead on the edges of Staple Tye. Potter Street and Brays Grove Potter Street is a defined community and an area which makes up half of the existing Harlow Common ward. Brays Grove is a defined area

that has historical links and makes up half of the existing Bush Fair. This proposal has placed these two areas together. Also included are houses east of Trotters Road. The Clocktower Roundabout is a key historical building right in the heart of the ward. This also prevents Church Langley from needlessly being broken up. These two areas are connected by 3 well used underpasses under the A414 which combine footpaths and cycle tracks. Newhall and Churchgate Street This new ward has come about due to large growth in this side of the town. It has placed together two new communities and one established community. Gilden Way, Newhall Hall and Churchgate Street. This area is expecting more growth in the future. The fact that these areas are new builds means it will have a commonality and experience the same issues. Mark Hall and the Stow Includes most of the old ward of Mark Hall, minus Felmongers, all areas North of Edinburgh Way and including estates that surround the Stow, Altham Grove, Pittman Field and Halling Hill. This keeps an established ward together with a few new estates which have commonality because they all use the Stow as a local place to shop. Old Harlow and Burnt Mill This keeps the historic area of Old Harlow as a single ward. This is an established community and shouldn't be broken up. Instead of having large areas to the east and south, we have given it the new growth that is expected in the area of Burnt Mill around the Train Station. This area is divided by main roads such as Edinburgh Way and the A414. All growth around the train stations is new so it isn't affecting current communities. The cycle path is more of a natural boundary between Burnt Mill and Mark Hall than the road because this keeps all of the industrial area in one defined zone. Netteswell and The High Made up of most of Netteswell apart from its extremities. It includes the Town Station development and parts bordering the Stow. It also has the remainder of the old ward of Toddbrook. The High is all the development planned in the town centre and current housing. Residents who live in Netteswell will regularly use the Town Centre as their shopping place. Adding areas to the west of the town Centre will only serve to bring this community together with The High as its focus. Still included in this ward is the Town Park and Netteswell Cross a historical link and the reason the ward is called Netteswell.

Uploaded Documents:

Download (https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1658838663_Electoral+Review+of+Harlow+Council+Labour+group+submission.docx)

Electoral Review of Harlow Council

Response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's consultation on Warding Patterns – an alternative from the Labour Group and official opposition group

This is a submission made by the Labour Group on Harlow District Council

Rationale

Harlow Labour group recognises that Harlow has changed significantly since the previous ward boundary review was conducted in 2002 and for that reason we welcomed this boundary review. We recognise the population growth the town has experienced and also the new communities which have been born out of that growth including Church Langley, Newhall and Gilston Park

Harlow Labour group believe as the boundary commission does that after electoral equality the most important aspect of a warding arrangement is keeping existing communities together. This is more important than geographical features such as roads. We also recognise that roads are not always as much boundaries as other geographical features such as cycle paths and the green wedges and green fingers which run through our town

This proposal sets out the reasoning behind each of the wards, as well as recognising some of the challenges in Harlow of creating ward proposals that balance the statutory criteria.

Our warding proposals

Our proposal is as follows, as you can see it is balanced in terms of electoral equality.

We do not agree with the proposal of the administration that the A414 needs to be a barrier. It is not currently with the existing ward of Harlow Common crossing through it. We also recognise the very distinct community that is Church Langley which was very much designed and sold as that. We also recognise that the community of Potter Street is very different to Church Langley and that they are more likely to utilise the services within the existing Bush Fair Ward, particularly its schools and GP surgeries. In fact, following the recent closure of Osler house GP surgery the majority of residents visit GP practises in and around the Bush Fair shopping complex.

Our proposal also seeks to keep the historical and long standing community of Hare Street as one. The proposal of the administration group seeks to split this close knit community between three separate wards which we see as total inappropriate.

The submission from the boundary review in 2000 from the Council stated clearly

‘Church Langley is a unique community, with a strong identity, clearly identifiable boundaries and little in common with adjacent areas..... and that any attempt to break Church Langley up for electoral purposes would be profoundly illogical and unpopular’

Our proposal (balanced)



Rationale for wards

With the exception of Church Langley, whose rationale is explained above, our group's submission seeks to put two communities together to create one ward (as Little Parndon and Hare Street has always done) so as to ensure that communities are not cut in two. There are slight exceptions (Felmongers moved into Newhall and Churchgate) so as to ensure that we have electoral equality but in general this has been achieved.

Little Parndon and Hare Street

No real changes from existing boundaries apart from losing the new development north of Elizabeth Way and a small part Wedhey, Little Groves Field and Turnors.

Great Parndon and Katherines

This is made up of all of the existing Great Parndon Ward and a small part of the old Toddbrook Ward, Willowfield and Kingsland. The main advantage of this ward is it doesn't cross Third Avenue which is a clear dividing line between wards.

Sumner and Kingsmoor

Still majority the same as it was before but adding a small part of the old Staple Tye Ward. Moorfield, Joyners Field and Risdens. These areas were already quite a distance from the polling station at Longwood Academy. Their new polling station will be much closer.

Church Langley.

This is a clearly defined community with its own unique identity. To break it is unnecessary and illogical as the existing ward satisfies the requirements on number of voters.

Tye Green.

This ward is made up of mostly the old Toddbrook and old Bush Fair West. It's a ward that sits between two clearly defined main roads Southern Way and Third Avenue. They share common areas such as Barn Mead and Golding Playing fields. These are also right in the heart of the ward. This resolves the existing issue of Westfield and Stony wood being in an inappropriate ward.

Stewards and Latton Bush

Made up of the Latton Bush end of Harlow Common and most of the Old Staple Tye Ward. This new ward brings together two clear communities and is made up of only areas south of Southern Way. The middle of the ward is similar to others because they share open green areas. This has also solved the issue of Pear Tree Mead and Little Pynchons being in the wrong ward and crossing Southern Way. Also areas like The Readings and Latton Green are not currently in the heart of a ward but instead on the edges of Staple Tye.

Potter Street and Brays Grove

Potter Street is a defined community and an area which makes up half of the existing Harlow Common ward. Brays Grove is a defined area that has historical links and makes up half of

the existing Bush Fair. This proposal has placed these two areas together. Also included are houses east of Trotters Road. The Clocktower Roundabout is a key historical building right in the heart of the ward. This also prevents Church Langley from needlessly being broken up. These two areas are connected by 3 well used underpasses under the A414 which combine footpaths and cycle tracks.

Newhall and Churchgate Street

This new ward has come about due to large growth in this side of the town. It has placed together two new communities and one established community. Gilden Way, Newhall Hall and Churchgate Street. This area is expecting more growth in the future. The fact that these areas are new builds means it will have a commonality and experience the same issues.

Mark Hall and the Stow

Includes most of the old ward of Mark Hall, minus Felmongers, all areas North of Edinburgh Way and including estates that surround the Stow, Altham Grove, Pittman Field and Halling Hill. This keeps an established ward together with a few new estates which have commonality because they all use the Stow as a local place to shop.

Old Harlow and Burnt Mill

This keeps the historic area of Old Harlow as a single ward. This is an established community and shouldn't be broken up. Instead of having large areas to the east and south, we have given it the new growth that is expected in the area of Burnt Mill around the Train Station. This area is divided by main roads such as Edinburgh Way and the A414. All growth around the train stations is new so it isn't affecting current communities. The cycle path is more of a natural boundary between Burnt Mill and Mark Hall than the road because this keeps all of the industrial area in one defined zone.

Netteswell and The High

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Appendix 1 – Unbalanced alternative



The only difference in this proposal is to return the estate of Felmongers back to Mark Hall. The impact is to make the new ward of Newhall and Churchgate out of tolerance. However, this is a ward where there could be further growth following 2028 which is what the boundary commission considers up to.