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From: Mike FitzGerald [REDACTED]
Sent: 15 March 2022 08:57
To: reviews
Subject: Maidstone Borough Council Ward Boundaries Review

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

The Boundary Commission for
England

Professor

Colin Mellors,

Chair of the

Commission

Dear Sir

Maidstone Borough Council Boundary Changes 2024

In response to the Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) submission in respect of the Boundary Review being undertaken I would like to submit the following amendments for your consideration.

I believe it important that the Boughton Monchelsea (B.M.) & Chart Sutton (2518) Ward remains a single member ward and that to increase the size to meet the criteria as set out of 3.051 voters. It should incorporate some (600) electorate from the 'Joy Wood' area of development in the ward of Park Wood which is part of the Parish of B.M. and has a close affinity with the current ward.

Chart Sutton & Boughton Monchelsea was reflects community interest, schools, transport, travel journeys, highway issues (B2163), agricultural links, environmental planning and flood action plus being a close community with common interests in maintaining services.

It works closely on Community safety with the recognised bodies and with KCC highways that makes for effective government.

The current arrangements have provided an excellent and effective local government that works for the MBC, the ward member and the community it serves.

It must be noted that different members over the years have been Independent and elected because" of who they were and not what they are"

It provides convenient local Government that delivers for the voters and residents have responded with very high voter turnout that supports our proposals.

Joy Wood area does suffer from lack of identity and support and would warm to being wholly in the Ward of their Parish.

The boundary Commission has always been persuaded by local views on the subject and we trust they will look favourably on these amendments.

These changes are supported by both Boughton Monchelsea and Chart Sutton Parish Councils.

I understand that an amendment like this will require other tweaking to make the programme of wards work for everyone.

I suggest that Sutton Valence and Langley remain a single member ward including Hawkenbury, *as it is now* (3.644) by passing 600 electorate back to Park Wood Ward of the new housing or the to be built housing which is adjacent to the current boundary to meet the criteria.

Simply stated the Boughton Monchelsea and Chart Sutton Ward will gain 600 electorate from the Park Wood Ward and Sutton Valence and Langley Ward will have given back 600 electorate, which is straightforward to implement.

I then propose that Loose Village (2223) and *Loose North (700) should form a single ward as they are natural "bed mates" with community interests and identity which will provide for good government.

It then leaves Tovil Ward currently shown as (9619) MINUS North Loose leaving some (8981) as a 3 member Ward but that is still within the plus or minus criteria as the proposed Three Member Ward of Penenden Heath has only (8680) – 5% and the Three member ward of Grove Green and Vinters (8347) at -9%.

Despite what the MBC submission says about North Loose and Tovil, they have a very tenuous link to each other as travel across Cave Hill and Stockett Lane is not encouraged or indeed that safe.

I believe that this is the way forward as it will provide the best local government, it will best serve the ambitions and growth of Maidstone and it will best serve the local communities who are those most affected by these changes.

Kind regards

Mike

Mike FitzGerald
MBE

Sutton Parish
Councillor

A Chart

