



North Loose Residents' Association

Voice of the Community

North Loose Residents Association Response to the Boundaries Commission Review of Maidstone Borough Council Ward Boundaries 2022

Dear Commission Members

The NLRA generally supports the new proposed Loose and Linton Ward area and have held discussions with Loose Parish Council about the proposal.

North Loose and Loose have many more community linkages than North Loose and Tovil, which are currently grouped together as South Ward.

This proposal ensures that the primary southbound transport corridor of the A229 lies at the core of the Ward. This is also an important public transport corridor for bus routes and private cars and links both areas to the town centre. North Loose and Loose share many neighbourhood facilities along the route of the A229, including schools, doctors surgeries, dentists, retail outlets (including two neighbourhood retail hubs), public houses, leisure and recreation facilities and many more.

Importantly many residents currently feel that the Loose area starts when you reach the Wheatsheaf Junction from the town centre, which is where the new Loose and Linton Ward would begin.

The NLRA previous response to the earlier Ward proposals pointed out the inconsistency with the existing south-east boundary between South Ward and Boughton Monchelsea Ward. It follows no physical feature or logical line, actually cutting across an agricultural field and school playing fields.

This inconsistency remains in the boundary review proposal between the new Loose and Linton Ward and the Boughton Monchelsea Ward.

NLRA believes this inconsistency can be removed by extending the south-eastern most boundary south along footpath KB27 until the rear entrance to Kent Police HQ, then south along Cliff Hill, to turn west along Cliff Hill Road, Boughton Lane and along footpath KM 65, until it meets the boundary with the existing Loose Ward. This proposal has the benefits of ensuring all traffic exiting onto Boughton Lane (a key secondary transport corridor), which already has congestion issues, will do so within the boundaries of the new Ward.

It also neatens the existing footpath networks interfaces with new Wards.

We believe that this minor change to the Boundary Commissions proposal would be of benefit to the Loose and Linton communities and we would ask that you consider this change.

Regards

Sean Carter
Chair
North Loose Residents Association

12th September 2022