

Gravesham Borough Council

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Comment text:

The ward of Chalk was a civil parish prior to 1935 and included a larger geographical area, including parts of the Riverside, Riverview and Westcourt wards. The historical Ordnance maps of 1846 and 1932 are attached with these comments. Both maps clearly define a Chalk parish boundary. A rural parish linked to Shorne parish boundary rather than to the urban wards of Gravesend. Therefore it is vital to maintain the historic ward name of Chalk. The name of Chalk appears on all Ordnance maps and on every brand and scale of map publically available. The names of Riverside and Riverview less so. The typeface used is suggestive that Chalk is a village and not an urban borough of Gravesend ward district. Many local government organisations including Kent County Council website treat Chalk as a separate boundary district to the urban district of Gravesend. Kent County Council recently re-installed the inscribed Chalk parish boundary marker stone on the boundary of Chalk ward on the northern side of the A226 to the west of Dering Way. I have attached two Google earth images with the Chalk ward boundary stone shown. The present forecast electorate for Chalk ward is rather lower than in neighbouring wards of Shorne, Cobham and Luddesdown and those of Riverside and Westcourt. But new housing developments identified in the Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy document of 2014 by the Local Planning Authority focussed within North-East Gravesend opportunity area on the Great Clayne Lane marshes will significantly increase the Chalk ward electorate. Recent boundary expansion of Riverside ward into Chalk ward to accommodate recent housing developments at Fenners Marsh including Malthouse Field have resulted in a less proportionate electorate in Chalk. Therefore a new boundary proposal should include these new recent developments within their former historical parish boundary of Chalk. The recent developments at Fenners Marsh and Malthouse Field including Great Clayne Road were constructed without a local neighbourhood service centre area. Therefore the new development areas share the existing community services at Lower Higham Road in Chalk ward. The shared services are the Chalk Surgery practice area, the Chalk dental practice, and the Chalk parish hall and car park which offer a variety of community events. The parish church of St.Mary in Church Lane, Chalk ward has an ecclesiastical parish including the recent development roads mentioned. The access road serving these recent developments is Dering Way, a road within the Chalk parish and boundary stone, but at present is within Riverside ward. Any boundary proposal aimed at combining Chalk ward with Riverside ward will result in an over proportionate electorate number, especially when considering the housing development dwellings proposed within Chalk ward up to March 2028 as stated in the Gravesham Local Plan Core Strategy document. Chalk ward is considered by many to be a village non-urban ward. The typeface used on many published maps is suggestive. Chalk is an ecclesiastical parish. Historical maps of Chalk are evident to the rural character of the ward and therefore, there is a historic reason.to combine Chalk ward into Shorne, Cobham and Luddesdown ward. The rural character of these villages and their association with Charles Dickens are very similar.The Dickens preservation society based in the neighbouring civil parish of Shorne has a planning consultee role in parts of Chalk ward including Castle Lane and Church Lane. Shorne Parish Council has a consultee role over planning in areas of Chalk ward including Church Lane. Combining the boundaries of Chalk with Shorne and Cobham will result in a more proportionate electorate number in comparison to the urban town districts of Riverside and Westcourt wards. Chalk and Westcourt wards were historically combined before 1935 as the civil parish of Chalk. The parish of Chalk along with Shorne and Cobham were represented on Strood rural district Council. The boundaries of Westcourt ward partially follow the historic parish of Chalk boundary, along Old Road East and to the east of Thong Lane. Therefore there is a historic boundary reason to combine the two wards of Chalk and Westcourt into the one of Chalk and Westcourt ward.One or two of the shops at the Lion roundabout on the A226 in Westcourt ward are shared with residents of Chalk ward such as the newsagent.

Uploaded Documents:

Download (https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1627826163_Chalk+ward+boundary+stone+marker%2C+A226-Dering+Way+and+parish+boundary+map.jpg)

