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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16 July 2021 12:42  
**To:** reviews  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Boundary Review  
**Attachments:** LibDem and Green Proposal Map for 2x3 & 3x2 member wards.png; LibDem and Green Proposal for 3x2 and 2x3 members wards.png; Tonbridge Wards Submission.docx

**Categories:** [REDACTED]

Attn: Tom Rutherford

Dear Mr Rutherford,

I am writing on behalf of Tonbridge and Malling Liberal Democrats and have copied in Councillor David Thornewell and Councillor Frani Hoskins, who are the Chairman and Vice-chairman of the local party respectively. In the briefing to members of the council you stated that proposals could be submitted in respect of parts of the borough and not necessarily the borough as a whole. You also stated that wards should reflect a sense of community and identity. We do not believe the warding arrangements for Tonbridge, as set out in the proposed submission from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, achieve this and were not supported by any opposition councillors. The proposals attached have been developed in conjunction with the Tonbridge and Malling Green Party and we understand they will be making their own submission.

If I may, I would like to say a little about myself, as, I think, this provides some indication of my knowledge and understanding of the town, which in turn provides the basis for the attached submission. My family moved to Tonbridge in January 1970 and, apart from 7 years in the 1980s, I have lived in Tonbridge ever since. During the years I did not live in Tonbridge, I did work in the town. We originally lived in Tamar Road, in Trench ward and attended Long Mead Primary school in that ward, later moving to Raeburn Close, which, through the vagaries of electoral boundary drawing, was either in Higham or Cage Green ward. We always regarded ourselves as living in the Higham Wood area of the town and used the shops in Martin Hardie Way. My younger brother attended the nearby Woodlands primary School and both of us attended Judd School (Judd ward). My grandparents lived in Nelson Avenue in the Barden Park area (Judd ward) for 25 years. For the last 30 years I have lived on London Road, close to Stacey, Correnden and Seabrook Roads in Castle Ward. For over 40 years I have been a supported of the local non-league football team, Tonbridge Angels (National League South) and am a season ticket holder and, along with about 300 other supporters, an owner of the club. Over the years I have enjoyed the company of fellow supporters from all over the town. In addition, my sister lives in White Cottage Road and shops and works in York Parade, whilst my nephew lives in Brionne Gardens, which is currently in Medway ward. Finally, since 2019 I have been one of the 2 borough councillors for Vauxhall ward (Cllr Hoskins is the other). Apologies for the detailed biography but I thought it was important to show how well I know the town.

I think it is also worth stating that I worked in Hildenborough for 28 years and served on Hildenborough Parish Council for 4 years from 1999 to 2003. From my experience on the parish council and from working for many years with residents of Hildenborough, I believe the people of Hildenborough do not believe they are part of Tonbridge and are clear that they live in a different community from Tonbridge and have their own interests. The fact that Hildenborough has its own parish council demonstrates this.

I have attached a map showing the proposed wards, a breakdown of numbers for the proposed wards and a written submission. In the map the various boundaries are represented as follows:

Thick black line	Borough boundary
Thick blue line	Current ward boundaries being retained or current polling district boundaries to become ward boundaries

Thick red line  
Thin black line

Proposed new ward boundaries  
Current polling district boundaries

I trust this provides the information you need but, if you have any questions or need further information, please contact me:

Email: [REDACTED]  
Telephone: [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely,

Garry Bridge  
Tonbridge and Malling Liberal Democrats

## Tonbridge Ward Boundaries

We, the Tonbridge and Malling Liberal Democrat group do not support the submission made by Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council in respect of the town of Tonbridge. It does not respect the integrity of Tonbridge as a town and community in its own right, by ignoring the town boundary between Tonbridge and Hildenborough, nor does it, in our opinion, properly reflect the neighbourhoods and communities within the town.

The boundaries of the town have been fixed, apart from a minor alteration about 30 to 40 years ago, since the establishment of Tonbridge Urban District Council in 1894. The only modification was to extend the boundary to include Longmead Primary School, which was opened in 1969 to cater for the expanding housing estates in north-west Tonbridge, and to include the sports ground at Tonbridge Farm. Both originally were located just outside the town's boundary on farmland that was part of Hildenborough parish but as they serve the people of Tonbridge the boundary was moved to reflect this. We believe that it is important to maintain the integrity of the town's boundaries and reflect this in the electoral arrangements. Tonbridge is a town with a long history, over 10 centuries, and a distinctive identity.

We are also disappointed that the proposed wards are given geographical names, such as Tonbridge North East or Tonbridge South. These names will mean little to the people of Tonbridge and provide little sense of community or neighbourhood. We propose maintaining, as much as possible, the existing ward names. These have existed since the establishment of Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council in 1974 and we believe were also used by Tonbridge Urban District Council before that. The current names, such as Vauxhall, Trench, Cage Green and Higham are names of longstanding and are part of the town's history and can be found on historic Ordnance Survey maps. Vauxhall, for example, appears on a map dating from around 1820. The name Trench reflects the name of the wood (Trench Wood) that was present before the houses were built after World War 2. We believe these names provide a sense of neighbourhood in a way a simple compass reference, such as Tonbridge East, could never do.

We propose the following wards:

### **Higham (2 members)**

This comprises the current Higham ward plus those roads centred around Whistler Road, which are currently part of Cage Green north polling district. These roads have, at times in the past, been part of Higham ward and whose residents tend to think of themselves as part of Higham. The Woodlands Walk stream separates these roads from the rest of Cage Green and, therefore, provides a natural boundary. The houses in this proposed ward were built as the town expanded between the end of the Second World War and the early 1970s. They are centred on the shopping parade at Martin Hardie Way and the nearby Methodist Church. Woodlands Primary School was originally founded to cater for the children living in these, then, new housing estates.

### **Trench (2 members)**

This comprises the existing Trench ward and those roads that adjoin the Shipbourne Road that are currently part of the Cage Green North polling district. These roads are not linked to the rest of Cage Green ward and have more in common with Trench ward, centred as they are on the shopping area at nearby York Parade. This is also the primary shopping area, on a day-to-day basis, for residents in the rest of Trench. Activities held at Tonbridge Baptist Church in Darenth Avenue also provide a community focal point.

### **Cage Green (2 members). Alternative name: Dry Hill and Cage Green**

This comprises Cage Green South, Castle North and part of Castle South, namely those roads running off London Road and close to the boundary with Hildenborough. In addition, it will include those roads in Medway North in Hadlow Road and those roads adjoining it. The houses in this area tend to be larger and is centred on the area know as Dry Hill and residents make use of shops at the bottom of Shipbourne Road for everyday items such as newspapers, milk and bread. St Saviour's Church in Dry Hill Park Road and St Philip's Church in Salisbury Road also provide community focal points. An alternative name, Dry Hill and Cage Green has been suggested as it may better reflect this new ward by bringing together two historic names, which described the area before they were developed.

#### **Vauxhall (3 members)**

This comprises the existing Vauxhall Ward and the polling district of Medway South. Medway South has little in common with Medway North in character and is separated by the railway line and the industrial and trading estates to the east of Tonbridge town centre. We propose that a more natural fit would be to combine it with the current Vauxhall Ward and form a new ward with the clear boundaries of Quarry Hill Road to the west and the railway line to the north, as well as the A26 Woodgate Way to the east and the A21 Tonbridge by-pass to the south. Pembury Road provides a central focal point as most roads within this proposed ward feed into it or are easily accessible from it.

#### **Judd Ward (3 members)**

This comprises the existing Judd Ward, together with Castle South, except apt those roads included in the new Cage Green ward, and Medway North, except those roads also included in Cage Green. We believe that it makes sense for Tonbridge town centre and the areas to the east and west to be part of the same ward rather than, as at present being split between 3 wards. Tonbridge town centre and the roads running off the High Street have a unified feel to them reflecting the original town and its subsequent growth with the coming of the railway. Residential areas, such as the Slade, Barden Park and Meadow Lawn are primarily Victorian terrace and, although each has its own sense of neighbourhood, they have a common character and it makes sense to combine them in the same ward. The newer developments, mainly flats, built to the east of the High Street, also fit easily into this new ward, as they are located in what is largely a commercial area of the town and in close proximity to the town centre.

On a historical note, for the first time, the birthplace of Sir Andrew Judd, who was born in the town in 1492 and later became a wealthy merchant and Lord Mayor of London, together with the school he founded (Tonbridge School) and the school that bears his name (Judd School in Brook Street), as well as the original site of Judd School in East Street, would be located within the same ward and which bears his name.

## Core Proposal - version 2

Proposal focuses on maintaining 4 key areas of Tonbridge - Judd, Vauxhall, Higham and Trench. Other wards are amalgamated to meet the target of 12 councillors.

### Changes from version 1

- 1) Hildenborough in Castle moved from Hildenborough to Northern Town
- 2) Partman Park moved from Northern Town to Expanded Judd
- 3) Boundary between Trench and Higham, north of Rowan Shaw, is drawn by Shipbourne Road (dotted line)

District	Description	2021	2027	Var - 2021	Var - 2027	
<b>Expanded Vauxhall</b>						
TNA	Vauxhall North	1397	1466			
TNB	Vauxhall South	2515	2659			
TLB	Medway South	2470	2643			
	<b>Total Electors</b>	<b>6382</b>	<b>6768</b>			
No of councillors	3	6861	7452	-7.0%	-9.2%	=> Could add c. 100 with Vale Road Cottages. => Reduces -9.2% to about -7.8% in 2027.
<b>Expanded Judd</b>						
TJA	Judd Central (Meadow Lawn)	1223	1302			
TJB	Judd North (Barden)	1363	1419			
TJC	Judd South (Molescroft)	1342	1416			
TLA	Medway North	2902	3065			
TCB	Castle South	1465	1585			
Less: TCB	Hildenborough In Castle	-565	-612			
TLA	Hadlow Rd in Medway	-486	-514			
	<b>Total Electors</b>	<b>7244</b>	<b>7661</b>			
No of councillors	3	6861	7452	5.6%	2.8%	
<b>Expanded Trench</b>						
TMA	Trench	3530	3802			
TBA	Cage Green North (South of Frog Bridge)	617	652			
TBA	Cage Green North (West of Shipbourne Road)	101	107			
	<b>Total Electors</b>	<b>4248</b>	<b>4561</b>			
No of councillors	2	4574	4968	-7.1%	-8.2%	=> Seems to ignore nursery development
<b>Expanded Higham</b>						
TGA	Higham	3653	3926			
TBA	Cage Green North (North of Frog Bridge)	1208	1278			
Less: TBA	Cage Green North (West of Shipbourne Road)	-101	-107			
	<b>Total Electors</b>	<b>4760</b>	<b>5097</b>			
No of councillors	2	4574	4968	4.1%	2.6%	
<b>Northern Town (New Ward - name to be agreed)</b>						
TLA	Hadlow Rd in Medway	486	514			
TCA	Castle North	2048	2193			
TCB	Hildenborough In Castle	565	612			
TBB	Cage Green South	1789	1905			
	<b>Total Electors</b>	<b>4888</b>	<b>5224</b>			
No of councillors	2	4574	4968	6.9%	5.2%	



