



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

CONSERVATIVE GROUP
Room G84, Hove Town Hall
Norton Road, Hove BN23 3BQ

11 April 2022

Alexandra Jones & Richard Otterway
Review Officers
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Alexandra.Jones@LGBCE.org.uk; reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Dear Alexandra and Richard,

Brighton & Hove Conservative Group Submission: Draft Recommendations

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to the third and final stage of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's Electoral Review of Brighton and Hove City Council (Draft Recommendations).

Please find enclosed the submission of the Conservative Group of Councillors, which has been endorsed unanimously by the twelve Councillors that currently comprise our Group.

We recognise the extensive work that has gone into the Boundary Commission's Draft Recommendations through the first two stages of this process, which has been carried over the course of the past year. We commend the Commission on publishing its initial proposals, which are well evidenced, well-argued, and balanced. We believe the Commission has succeeded in establishing a warding pattern for 54 Councillors according to the statutory criteria.

As such, and as is appropriate for the third stage, our submission seeks to build on the Commission's work so far with a small number of recommendations where we feel communities of interest and convenient and effective and convenient local government might be strengthened.

The remainder of our submission is supportive of the Commission's proposals and provides evidence as to why Boundary Commission's proposals in these wards can be made final.

We commend this proposal to you and wish the Commission well in publishing its final proposals.

Should you have any further questions about our submission, please get in touch via our Lead Member on the Boundary Review, Cllr Samer Bagaeen Samer.Bagaeen@Brighton-Hove.gov.uk

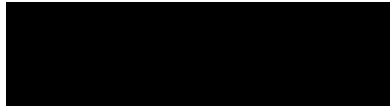
As this is the final stage of the process before the Commission publishes its final recommendations, we would like to thank the Commission for its information and support throughout the three stages of the process and for the opportunity to engage fully and openly at each stage.

It is apt this month marks 25 years since Brighton & Hove City Council came into being as a Unitary Authority after the unification of the previous Brighton & Hove boroughs.

Conservative Group of Councillors
Telephone: [REDACTED]

We are sure that the Commission, through its detailed consideration, will set boundaries that will take Brighton & Hove City Council through the next 20 years and serve the residents of this city well.

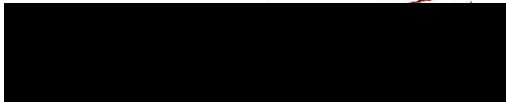
Yours sincerely,



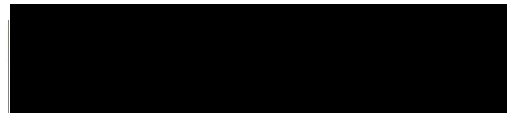
Councillor Samer Bagaeen



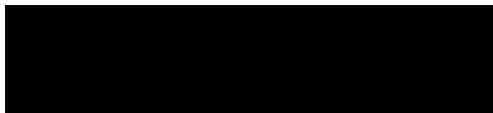
Councillor Alistair McNair



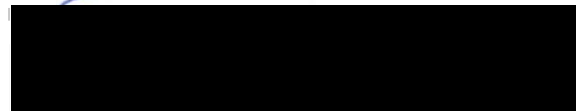
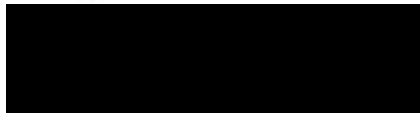
Councillor Dawn Barnett



Councillor Anne Meadows



Councillor Steve Bell CBE

Councillor Nick Lewry



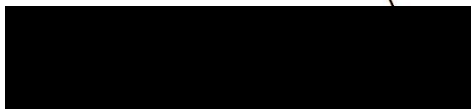
Councillor Garry Peltzer Dunn



Councillor Dee Simson



Councillor Carol Theobald




Consultation on New electoral arrangements for Brighton & Hove City Council – Draft Recommendations

Submission from the Conservative Group (April 2022)

Introduction - Reflecting on 25 years of Brighton & Hove and looking forward

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission in relation to the Report: New electoral arrangement for Brighton & Hove City Council – Draft Recommendations.

Overall, we think the Local Government Boundary Commission has struck a good balance in its report between its three statutory criteria of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009, outlined on page 7 of the Commission's report:

- Equality of representation
- Reflecting community interests and identities
- Providing for effective and convenient local government

This submission is therefore mostly one that will support the Boundary Commission's recommendations.

It is notable that the Commission's work has come on the 25th anniversary of the unification of Brighton and Hove as a City. The City's Head of Legal Services said in the press release celebrating the event the following:

“I think it would be hard to explain to our younger people who have grown up or moved to the city why we were ever two separate boroughs in the first place.”

Source: Brighton & Hove City Council press release (See Appendix 1).

We agree with the sentiment and letter of this statement issued on behalf of the city council and its leadership, that Brighton and Hove is one city and not two separate boroughs.

In this context, the boundary commission's work has the opportunity to reflect the modern communities of interest and identity of the unified city and address some of the artificial boundaries of the past.

The Boundary Commission's proposal succeeds in this endeavour and as we outline in this submission, has united communities and corrected a number of anomalies of the past where communities of interest were divided.

In general, the naming of wards is appropriate and recognisable and present an improvement on the current naming, providing more meaning to residents and communities.

This submission therefore proposes to amend the name of the Regency ward as proposed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to 'Regency & Brunswick'. We received correspondence from a local resident that argued in favour of reflecting the community Brunswick in the name of the ward.

The Commission has already accepted in its proposals the premise of wards that bring together communities of heritage and communities of interest e.g. Seven Dials, St Peter's & North Laine and Westdene & Hove Park.

This proposal takes into account local evidence that we received as a Group, which provided further evidence of community links and architectural heritage and identity.

We are also guided by the need of securing equality of representation and providing for effective and convenient local government alongside reflecting community interests and identities.

We believe therefore that the number of councillors at 54 and the balance between two and three member wards is a good mix that appropriately reflects the communities of interest and also works well within a committee system of governance where multi-member wards are more desirable to ensure constant representation of residents.

For example, where one member of a ward sits on the Planning Committee and is constrained in expressing an opinion on a subject, the other two members are able to effectively represent community interests and needs. We believe the Boundary Commission has found the right balance that reflects communities of interest first.

We note that the Boundary Commission has also established wards with a strong sense of place, which make sense when compared to Brighton & Hove City Council's Urban Characterisation Study: <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/planning/heritage/urban-characterisation-study>

This submission is therefore broadly supportive of the boundaries and provides evidence in support of the warding proposals.

There are a few areas where we seek to build on the Commission's Proposals to strengthen communities of interest and convenient and effective local government so that the Boundary Commission will be able to publish final proposals:

Our recommendations, evidenced and outlined in full detail in the report, are as follows:

- **Recommendation 1:** The boundary commission's proposal perfectly includes the Poets' Corner area in one ward. To reflect this, the Boundary Commission might consider adding Poets' Corner to the name of the ward changing this to Westbourne & Poets' Corner.

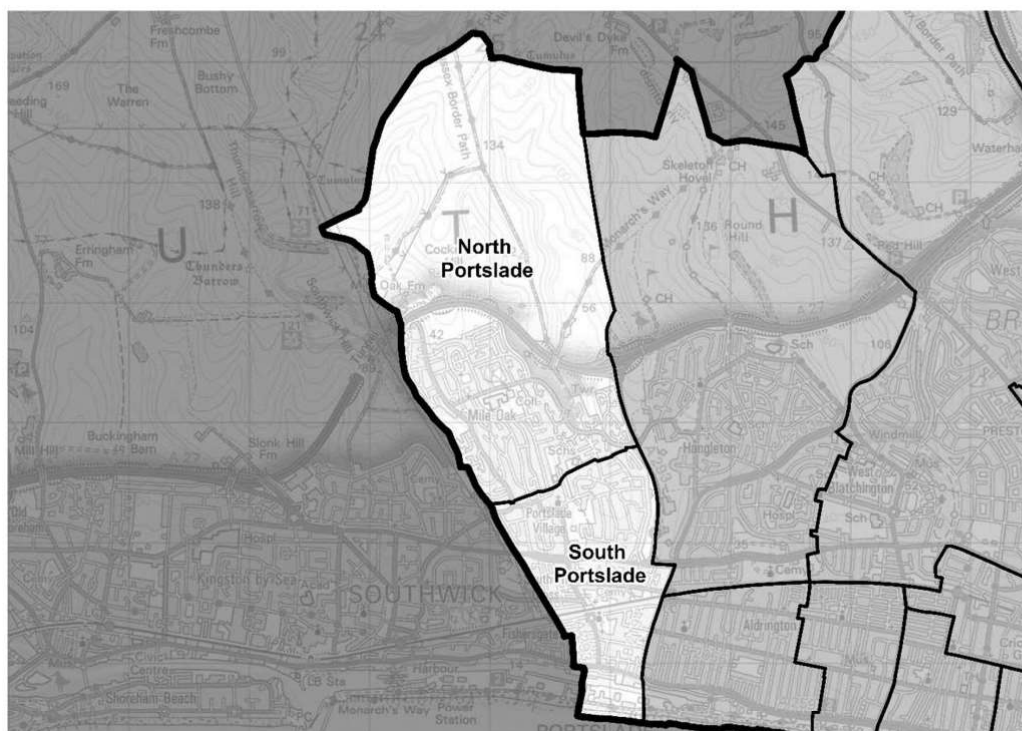
- **Recommendation 2:** We also propose a small modification to the Goldsmid Ward to incorporate the Sackville Trading Estate. We believe this will improve the electoral equality across adjoining wards in this part of the city. We propose to include electors in the Sackville Trading Estate development to the east of the Sackville Road and south of the Old Shoreham Road to within the Goldsmid ward.

- **Recommendation 3:** This submission from the Conservative Group is proposing to amend the name of the ward as proposed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to 'Regency & Brunswick'.

- **Recommendation 4:** That the Commission consider adopting an alternative proposal from the Conservative Group for the four wards in the East Brighton section. We believe that the Commission's draft recommendations have opened up an excellent opportunity to now include Brighton's Kemptown in one complete ward. This submission therefore proposes a change to the East Brighton group of wards.

Responding to the Local Government Boundary Commission's Proposals

Portslade



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
North Portslade	2	-7%
South Portslade	2	-5%

We support the Boundary Commission's recommendation for these two wards. Equality of representation is within the tolerable range, and we particularly support the use of Benfield Valley as a strong eastern boundary to the ward.

We note that the South Portslade ward is slightly weakened by the lack of a complete internal road network, however we understand the Commission's balancing act in creating these wards and its desire to use Boundary Road as the south-eastern boundary.

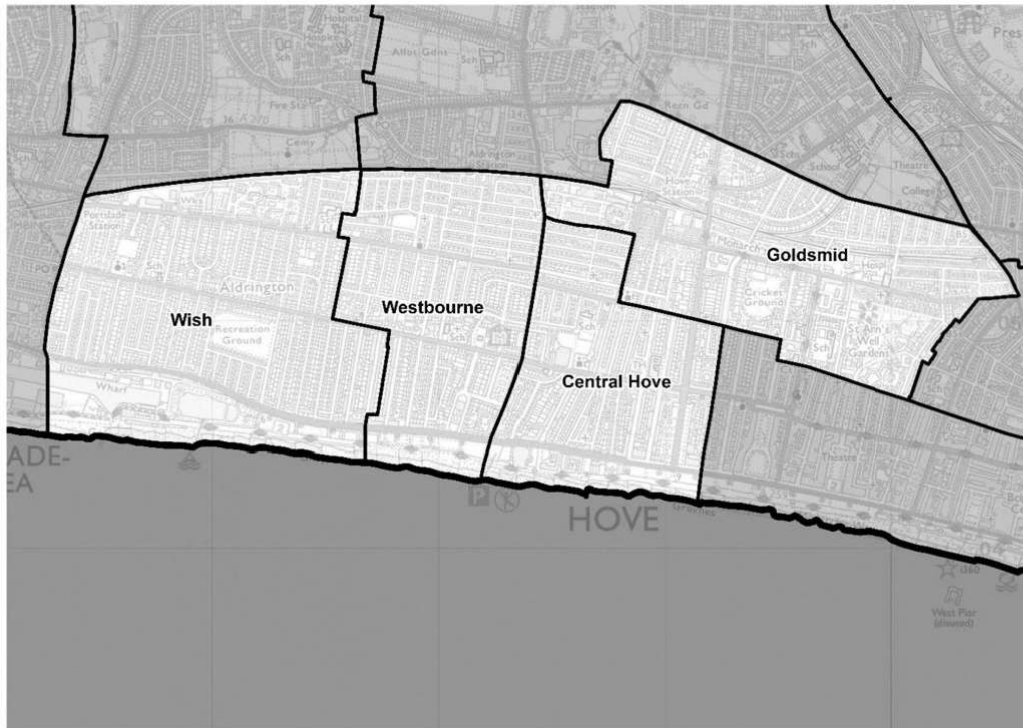
We note that the dividing boundary between these two wards is not particularly strong and feel that the A270 would be a stronger boundary for marking the transition between the North Portslade and South Portslade Communities of Interest.

The A270 is used as the Boundary for the Mile Oak & Portslade Village neighbourhood in the Urban Characterisation study and also tends to define shopping and leisure catchment areas with South Portslade gravitating to Boundary Road while North Portslade residents shop at Portslade Village.

(https://www.brightonhove.gov.uk/sites/default/files/migrated/article/inline/downloads/conservation/UrbanStdy_Mile_Oak_Portslade_Village_final.pdf).

However, we accept that using the A270 as the boundary would not be possible due to electoral inequality it would create. Therefore, we accept the draft recommendations made by the Commission for these wards and invite the Commission to confirm the boundaries of the draft recommendations for this ward.

Hove Seafront



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Central Hove	2	8%
Goldsmid	3	-2%
Westbourne	2	-6%
Wish	2	-7%

We support the configuration of boundaries in the draft recommendations for the four wards designated 'Hove seafront', while suggesting a small alteration to the boundaries of one of the wards to improve electoral equality.

Wish

We support the Boundary Commission's proposals for Wish ward, which we find are well-defined and encapsulate an urban character area and a defined community of interest.

The commission's decision to retain Boundary road as a ward boundary provides a strong basis for the remaining boundaries of this zone. The eastern boundary is defined as the edge of the well-defined community of interest of Poets' corner in the Westbourne ward. The south-eastern boundary marks a point of housing type transition where houses stop, and flatted developments begin.

In paragraph 56 of the report the Commission has asked for feedback on the appropriateness of the railway line as a boundary. We consider that the railway line is an appropriate boundary for Wish Ward.

It defines the boundary between the Old Shoreham Road catchment area and the West Hove catchment areas. While there is a crossing at Olive Road and a pedestrian underpass providing some access across the railway line, residents in Wish ward do not tend to cross the railway line through either of these crossings to access any services or community spaces such as green spaces. Also, as we will outline in the section for Hangleton & Knoll ward, residents in the portion between Old Shoreham Road and the railway line consider themselves 'Knoll' residents and are members of numerous local community groups in Hangleton & Knoll.

Within these boundaries, residents of the Wish ward would share a strong community of interest. Common recreation spaces include Hove Lagoon and Wish Park, which are entirely located within the ward. Residents tend to do their shopping on Boundary Road and Portland Road, both include within the ward.

Westbourne

The boundary commission's proposal for Westbourne succeeds in uniting the Poet's Corner area which was previously split between multiple wards. The Poets' Corner community of interest, which is named after well-known poets, is a well-defined community of interest with its own Facebook Group, Poets' Corner Hove, which has 2,900 members.

The Argus describes the nature of the Poets' Corner community of interest in detail in this article:

A few years ago, the area had become run down and shabby but a very active and determined residents' society halted the decline and turned the area into a desirable place to live. It has become particularly popular with people moving down from London who can commute to the capital from nearby Hove or Aldrington Halt railway stations.

Some of the small corner shops and pubs in the area have gone but, like the Hanover area of Brighton, there is a strong sense of community which it celebrates in an annual festival.

Source: [Poets' Corner](#), The Argus, 2014

The Argus also defines the boundaries of Poets' corner as follows:

Poets' Corner is bounded by Sackville Road to the east and Alpine Road to the west with Portland Road and the railway line to the south and north. The area is very popular and these days it includes Livingstone Road and many of the other small streets between Sackville Road and Hove Station.

Source: [Poets' Corner](#), The Argus, 2014

This definition confirms that this community of interest is wholly included within the Boundary Commission's proposed Westbourne Road, which will provide for more effective and convenient local government.

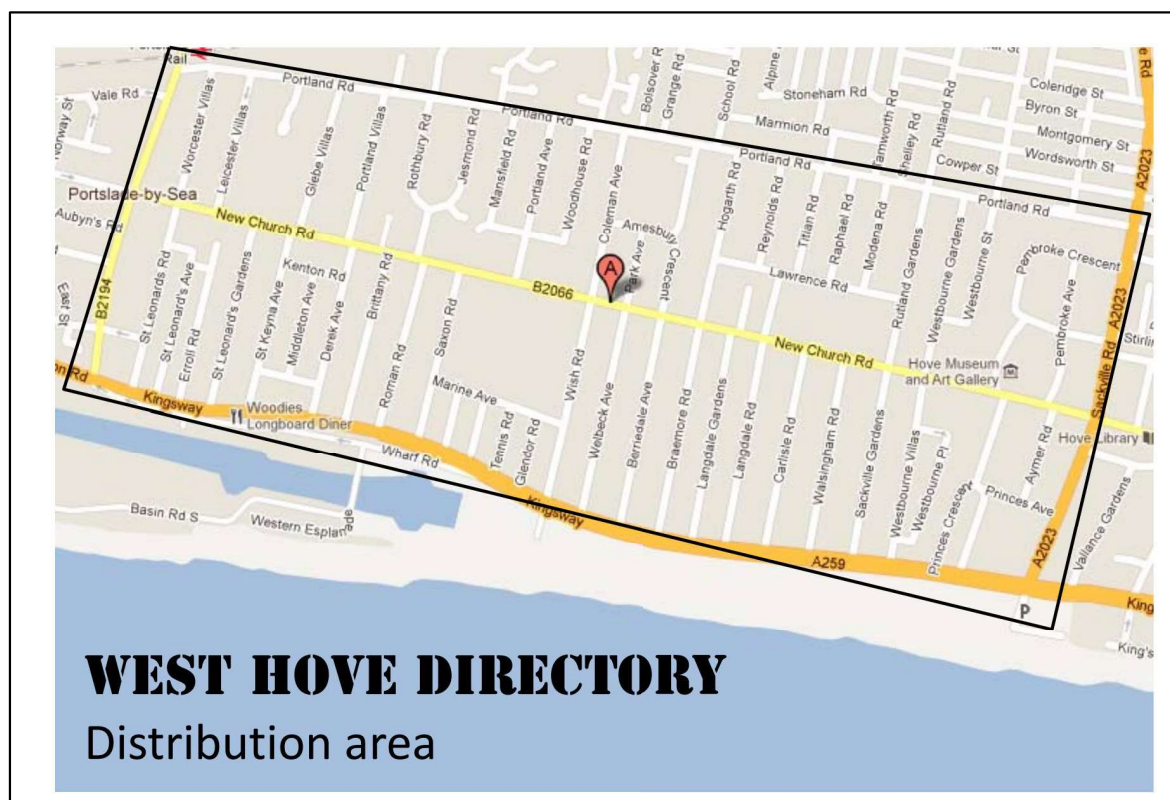
Recommendation 1: The boundary commission's proposal perfectly includes the Poets' Corner area in one ward. To reflect this, the Boundary Commission might consider adding Poets' Corner to the name of the ward changing this to Westbourne & Poets' Corner.

This proposed name confirms historical and community ties to the name, and this submission proposed that this better reflects the community here.

An added benefit of the Boundary Commission's proposal is that it includes a park in Westbourne Ward for the first time, fixing an anomaly where all the local parks used by residents were packed into Wish Ward. The Boundary Commission's new ward solves this anomaly by making sure the local park used by Westbourne residents is within the ward.

The Boundary Commission in paragraph 51 has correctly identified Sackville Road as being a strong boundary for the east of the ward. Sackville Road designates a change in property types, as the housing type moves from Edwardian houses to what houses in multiple occupation. It also marks the boundary between the general central hove and west hove areas. West Hove for example has had its own community magazine the West Hove Directory which was distributed to the west of Sackville Road as follows:

Map 1: Distribution area for the West Hove Directory, using Sackville Road as its Boundary.



Source: https://www.brightonandhovemagazines.co.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/west_hove_distribution_map.pdf

In addition to their own community magazine, Central Hove and West Hove are served by different medical centres. Central hove is served by Holy Trinity Medical Centre and West Hove is served by Wish Park Surgery.

Goldsmid

We propose a small change to the Goldsmid ward boundary to improve electoral equality, citing the evidence above regarding the Sackville Road as a natural community boundary rather than the industrial estate on its eastern side.

We note the industrial character of the Goldsmid ward, which contains many of the inland industrial areas of Hove that are undergoing a transitional development into flatted apartment blocks.

As the Boundary Commission has recognised, Sackville Road provides a strong local boundary and we believe that this boundary should be used to define the western edge of the Goldsmid ward.

The area bounded by Sackville Road and the A270 is the Sackville Industrial Estate, an area which is a mix of industrial and future housing uses, fits more with the character of Goldsmid than Westdene & Hove Park wards.

By transferring this portion to Goldsmid, the Boundary Commission would therefore be able to improve communities of interest, electoral equality, and the strength of boundaries for this ward.

Such a small change would improve electoral equality between Goldsmid and Westdene & Hove Park wards.

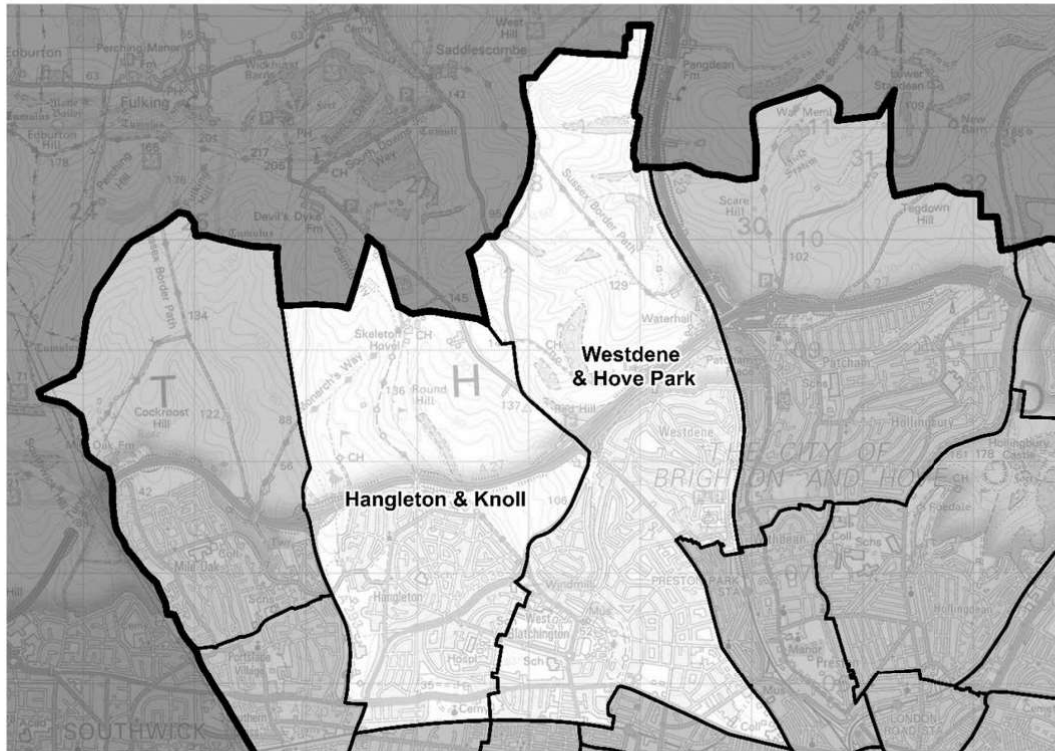
Recommendation 2: We propose to include electors in the Sackville Trading Estate development to the east of the Sackville Road and south of the Old Shoreham Road to within the Goldsmid ward.

Central Hove

We support the Commission's proposals for the Central Hove ward, including the inclusion of Goldstone Road, Shirley Street, Livingstone Road and Clarendon Road into Central Hove, which we agree share similar characteristics and interests with the rest of area.

We note the strong boundaries to the east and western side of this ward. In particular the use of Second Avenue as the Western Boundary marks a strong architectural transition to the Regency seafront area of the city.

North Hove



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Hangleton & Knoll	3	-9%
Westdene & Hove Park	3	5%

Hangleton & Knoll

We support the Commission's proposals for the Hangleton & Knoll ward.

We note that the ward lies within a good electoral equality.

The ward provides for effective and convenient local government, fully encompasses the recognised communities of Hangleton and the Knoll Estate, allowing for complete representation of these two communities within a single ward. The name of the ward is therefore appropriate and accurately reflects the communities within the ward.

The proposed ward benefits from incorporating two well-established community charities that serve the entire area and engage with the council on behalf of the area, indicating that the Boundary Commission's ward provides for effective and convenient local government. These are:

- **The Hangleton & Knoll Project** is a well-established community charity that has defined itself of Hangleton & Knoll's boundary since 1983 and serves both communities: <https://www.hkproject.org.uk/>. For example, The Hangleton &

Knoll Project operates a café in Knoll Park during the summer months for outreach services for local young people in the area.

- **The Benfield Valley Project** is a well organised community and campaign group concerned with the protection of Benfield Valley, which is incorporated fully into the ward. The Project has taken the lead on making detailed representations to the Council and to the Planning Inspectorate on the Council's City Plan Part 2 10-year development proposal. It is currently running a local petition to Save Benfield Valley from development, which has been signed by 2,500 people: www.fb.com/benfieldvalleyproject

The ward demonstrates strong communities of interest as demonstrated through transport links, community groups, facilities, interests and identifiable boundaries.

Common Transport Links include:

- **King George VI Avenue** (known locally as Snakey Hill) – The main arterial road into and out of Hangleton & Knoll.
- **Old Shoreham Road** – the main arterial road for west to east travel. There have been several petitions concerning the road layout during the past two years signed by thousands of people across Hangleton & Knoll.
- **The Hangleton Road bus interchange** – known locally as the Grenadier interchange due to the proximity to the Grenadier pub.

Common facilities that serve Hangleton & Knoll include:

- **Green spaces:** Benfield Valley is the major green space serving the area and is entirely incorporated in the ward.
- **Shops and services:** Hangleton Road shops (known locally as 'The Grenadier'), is the hub for services and facilities that connects Hangleton & Knoll areas as one community. The area includes doctor's surgeries, local shops and the library.
- **Churches:** Local churches, including St Richard's Church; St Helen's Church; and Oasis Church serve both Hangleton and Knoll areas and run events and services for residents, such as kids' clubs for the area and really demonstrate the strong communities of interest between Hangleton & Knoll. St Richard's Church and St Helen's Church for example have the same vicar and alternate their services: one week it's at St Helen's in Hangleton and the following week at St Richard's in the Knoll. Many parishioners that like to go every week attend both services at the alternate venues. These Churches run a lot of activities for the elderly from Hangleton & Knoll, including the lunch club and the multicultural club, the Knollonians and the befriending group hosted at St Richards in Knoll and the get together club at St Helens in Hangleton. Residents from both areas attend the these services.
- **Hangleton Community Centre.** The Hangleton Community Centre is the main community centre serving Hangleton & Knoll Community. It includes a variety of groups and activities for all ages, including Karate Clubs, Short Mat

Bowls Club, 50 plus SocialPing and Pottery:
<http://hangletoncommunitycentre.org.uk/activities/groups/>

Common interests that unite Hangleton & Knoll include:

- **Happenings in Hangleton Facebook Group** has 6,000 followers. The group posts local issues of common interest, including local petitions such as those concerning Old Shoreham Road, Benfield Valley and local Schools.
- **Old Shoreham Road** has provided a common council issue in recent months, with over 7,500 people signing petitions around the installation of a cycle lane, incorporating for and against positions. The matter has
- **Protecting Benfield Valley from Development** is a common interest uniting the communities, with four major petitions to protect Benfield Valley from development in the past two years attracting over 5,000 signatures.

The ward has strong identifiable boundaries. Benfield Valley provides a strong and identifiable western boundary, with the entirety of the valley enclosed within the ward. King George VI Avenue, known locally as 'Snakey Hill', provides the main arterial entry and exit point into this part of the City dividing communities on either side, acting a sensible boundary for the north-east of this ward. The railway line provides a strong and recognisable boundary to the south, with access across it restricted to a couple of pinch points, having the impact of separating the community from the seafront area.

The Boundary Commission has asked specifically for comments in paragraph 55 on whether the railway line provides a strong northern boundary of Wish Ward between the proposed Wish Ward and Hangleton & Knoll. The area north of the railway line consider themselves part of the Knoll. There are many elderly people in these areas that join the activities that are going on in St Richards and St Helens and the Community Centre at Hangleton. Families in this area use the local primary schools serving Hangleton. All the senior schools serving this area are in Hangleton. We therefore submit that the boundary commission has correctly identified the boundary for the community of interest between Wish ward and Hangleton & Knoll wards as the railway line.

Westdene & Hove Park

We support the Boundary Commission's proposed Westdene & Hove Park ward. The ward has strong electoral equality – 5% – which could be further improved should the Commission agree to our recommendation to include electors on the site bounded by Sackville Road and the Old Shoreham Road into the proposed Goldsmid ward.

The ward fully incorporates the recognised suburban areas of Hove Park and Westdene in one ward.

The boundaries effectively demarcate the points at which other suburban parts of city begin, such as the Preston Park station area that incorporates the Tivoli and Prestonville areas.

The boundary also accurately defines a transport catchment area, with residents in the Patcham & Hollingbury boundary using the London road corridor to access bus services into the city. Overall, the ward unites two communities of interest that have separated been from each other in the past by the arbitrary Dyke Road Boundary and are brought together by one of the most heavily used bus services in the city, the 27 route.

The ward demonstrates strong communities of interest as demonstrated through transport links, community groups, facilities, interests and identifiable boundaries.

Westdene & Hove Park share a transport catchment area, including bus services and key roads. These include

- **Bus Links** – Both communities are united by the same public transport services:
 - Number 27 Bus– this is the main bus link to Brighton to the Town Centre and Saltdean and serves people equally on both sides of the road. It goes every 15 minutes in the daytime.
 - Number 77 bus – which goes at weekends and in the summer and serves Devil's Dyke and Brighton Pier.

The ward includes the Tongdean Conservation Area, exemplified by common nomenclature in the area with several streets in Hove Park and Westdene named 'Tongdean' e.g., Tongdean Road in Hove Park and Tongdean Lane in Westdene. The wards also share the Parish Boundary of the Church of the Good Shephard.

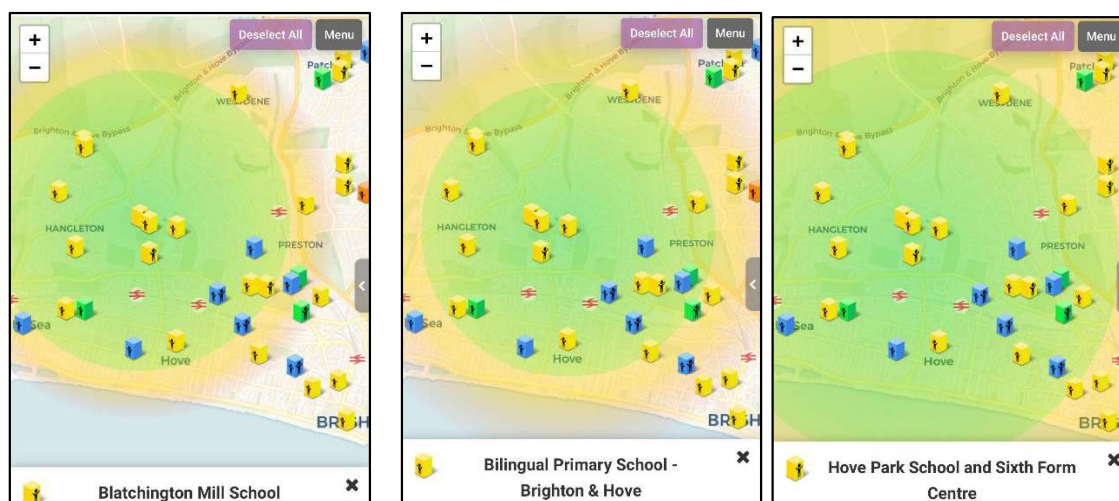
Hove Park and Westdene share the same community magazine: the Post, which states on its front cover that it is delivered to homes in Hove Park, Tongdean, Withdean and Westdene.

When Westdene was designed in the 1930s and built in the 1950s and 1960s by the Brighton Corporation and the Braybon family, the estate did not include schools, churches, pubs or any other community facilities, the nearest of which would have been some distance away across the Dyke Road in what is now Hove Park ([History of Westdene estate:2 | Eldred Avenue | My Brighton and Hove](#)). Westdene (Primary) School was opened in 1961 as Westdene was built up.

Common facilities have evolved in this part of the city since the 1960s, serving Westdene & Hove Park. These include:

- Shopping centres: Westdene & Hove Park share major shopping centres and other retail facilities, including Waitrose (Nevill Road); the Goldstone Retail Park on the Old Shoreham Road as the main retail park accommodating a variety of retailers including; TK Maxx, Lidl, DFS, Pets at Home, Nando's and Burger King. There is additionally a planning proposal for an Aldi Superstore at King George VI Avenue which current councillors from Hove Park and Withdean had been consulted jointly about.
- Hove Waste & Recycling Centre, located in the ward, serves both Westdene and Hove Park areas.
- Leisure Facilities, including Withdean Stadium and Sports Complex, within the proposed ward serves as the major leisure centre for the Westdene and Hove Park Communities.
- Common Green Spaces used by Westdene & Hove Park Residents which include: the Three Cornered Copse (extends through Westdene & Hove Park, connecting communities, with a dedicated crossing over Dyke Road at the Hilltop Café on the Westdene side of the road); Hove Park (also includes the area's major Tennis Courts and club); Green Ridge; Coney Woods; and Waterhall.
- Churches – Church of the Good Shephard on Dyke Road hosts Brownies and Guides from both communities.
- Post Office – Many people in Westdene are served by the post office in Woodland Drive by Hove Park.
- Doctor's catchment – Many people in Hove are served by Matlock Road Doctor's surgery catchment area.
- Council-run schools – The catchment areas for four secondary schools in Hove Park (Bilingual Primary School, Aldrington CofE Primary School; Blatchington Mill School; and Hove Park School and Sixth Form Centre) all extend into Westdene and serve families living in Westdene (see map 2)
- Independent Schools – Both areas are served by local independent schools, Cardinal Newman, Lancing College Prep the Girls Day School Trust and the Bilingual Primary School and Cottesmore St Mary's Catholic Primary.
- Dyke Road Park Open Air Theatre – attracts people from both Hove Park and Westdene.

Map 2: Catchment areas for three secondary schools in Hove Park extend into Westdene.



Source: locrating.com

Common interests and council issues that impact Westdene & Hove Park include:

- **Tongdean Conservation Area:** Council officers in March 2022 approached current Hove Park and Westdene councillors about a review of the designation of the Tongdean conservation area which straddles the present Hove Park and Withdean wards.
- **Park and Ride:** The City's only two park and ride schemes are located in the ward, including the stadium park and ride (at Mill Road Westdene) and the City centre Park and Ride (At Withdean Stadium). City Park and ride facilities have consistently been one of Brighton's most controversial issues, attracting many petitions over the years. There are current plans to significantly reconfigure these schemes including expanding the Mill Road Westdene to include city centre services, which are attracting local controversy in Westdene and Hove Park and will in turn impact the Withdean Stadium service). Having the City's two park and ride services and surrounding communities in one ward will assist representation of residents on this issue.
- **Parking permits** – Both areas share a common interest of Zone P parking zone, with the Council has announced plans to unite the parking zones on either side, uniting the area in an administrative district. This arrangement when it came to the Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee last year had the full support of the Withdean Ward councillors who voted to extend the Hove Park newly introduced parking zone into the Withdean Ward.
- **Waterhall Golf Course rewilding** –The Council has announced a major rewilding project at Waterhall, which is the main urban fringe area servicing Hove Park and Westdene. This area is heavily used by dog walkers from both areas. Additionally, grassroots football teams from both areas play and train at Waterhall and Hove Park.

The ward as proposed has strong, identifiable boundaries. The railway line, Withdean stadium and the Withdean Woods provide a strong eastern boundary to this community of interest.

Eastwards of this Boundary, the community of interest changes with the Patcham & Hollingbury ward using the Hollingbury industrial and shopping areas as its community centre of interest. The south-eastern boundary provides a strong transition to the distinctive Tivoli and Prestonville areas that are within the Preston Park station catchment and are within the proposed Preston Park Ward.

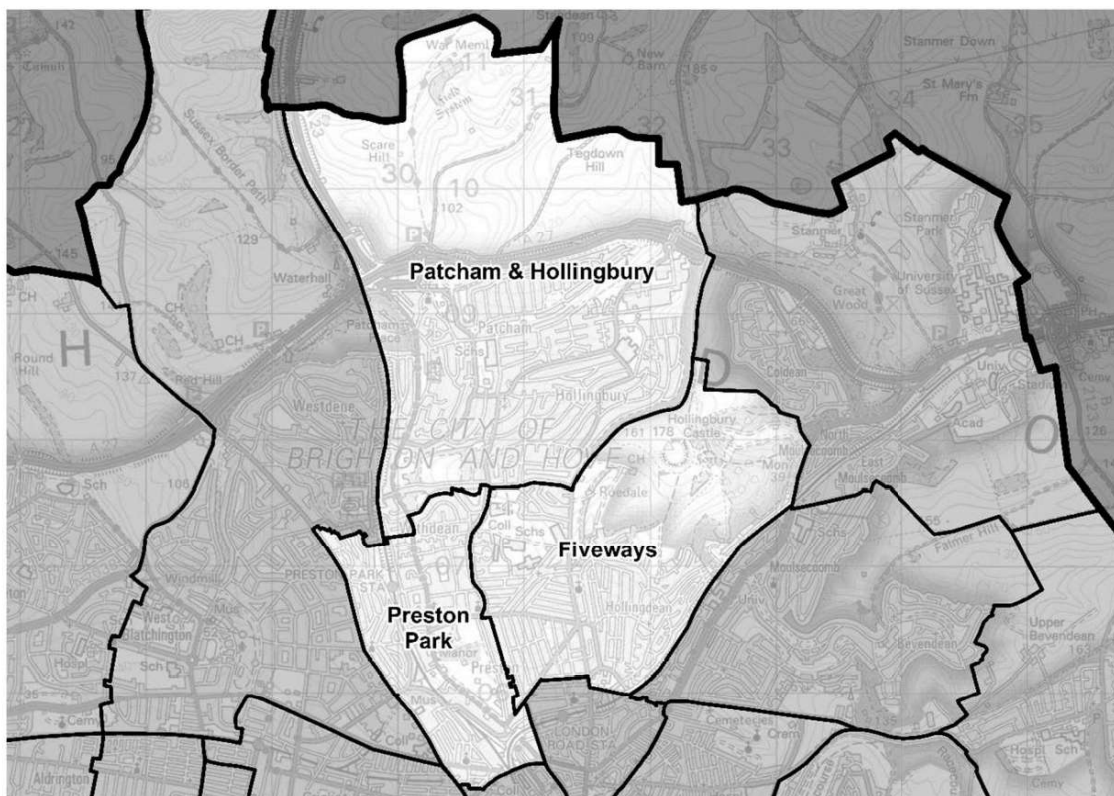
King George VI Avenue is the major arterial road which defines the Western side of the ward and separates Hove Park and Westdene from the Hangleton & Knoll Communities.

The common interests between the areas are recognised by local community groups, with the proposed boundaries for this ward, Westdene & Hove Park, attracting support from the Goldstone Valley Residents Association in their recent newsletter.

The Goldstone Valley Residents Association wrote to all its members in March as part of its monthly newsletter noting that the GVRA's Committee would be responding to the Boundary Commission agreeing with their proposals for Hove Park ward joining Westdene to become Westdene & Hove Park ward with three councillors. The GVRA noted that there was clear connectivity between the two and how the two areas shared use of facilities such as the Three Cornered Copse, Hove Park, Green Ridge, Coney Woods and Waterhall.

In our view, the proposal from the Commission for a Westdene and Hove Park ward provides for more effective and convenient local government in this part of the city, and better reflects what unites Hove Park and Westdene. We therefore recommend to the Commission to confirm the draft recommendations and adopt this ward proposals as part of the final recommendations. We have not seen or been notified of clear alternatives which do not affect other wards.

Fiveways, Patcham & Hollingbury and Preston Park



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Fiveways	3	2%
Patcham & Hollingbury	3	-4%
Preston Park	3	-7%

We support the configuration and current boundaries for Fiveways, Patcham & Hollingbury and Preston Park wards and recommend the Commission makes final the draft recommendations.

Fiveways

We support the Boundary Commission's proposal for Fiveways ward which provides an accurate description of the local area and invite the Commission to confirm the boundaries of the draft recommendations for this ward.

One indicator of how this ward reflects the community of interest is provided by the main free local magazine the Brightonian, which is distributed across Brighton and defines the communities it delivers to as: 'Fiveways, Hanover, Queens Park and Kemptown'. Inside it has a page devoted to who the Councillors are for each community and includes a page entitled 'Fiveways Councillors', clarifying to residents who the Councillors are within the Fiveways area (see below). This is one indication

of how the Fiveways community is considered a community of interest by local residents and how the Boundary Commission's new ward would unite this community that was previously divided and provide for more effective and convenient local government.

Figure 1: Representation of Councillors for the Fiveways area in the local free magazine

Your local representatives...
7

FIVEWAYS

Fiveways councillors

The councillors for Preston Park ward (to the west of Ditchling Road) are Amy Heley (Green), Siriol Hugh-Jones (Green) and Leo Littman (Green).

Their contact details are:

Amy Heley:



Amy.Heley@brighton-hove.gov.uk
tel: 07562 437616

Siriol Hugh-Jones:



Siriol.Hugh-Jones@brighton-hove.gov.uk
tel: 07562 437623

Leo Littman:



Leo.Littman@brighton-hove.gov.uk
tel: 01273 291152

The councillors for Hollingdean & Stanmer ward (to the east of Ditchling Road) are Theresa Fowler (Labour), Martin Osborne (Green) and Zoë John (Green).

You can contact them at:

Theresa Fowler:



Theresa.Fowler@brighton-hove.gov.uk
tel: 07562 437605

Martin Osborne:



Martin.Osborne@brighton-hove.gov.uk
tel: 07510 500383

Zoë John:



Zoe.John@brighton-hove.gov.uk
tel: 07708 492596

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The Fiveways ward has a well-defined central high street, reflected by iconic local signage, which is defined by The Times as a great example of what a local high street can be *‘from vintage clothes, sustainable homewares and household goods at Store to butchers, bakers and delicious homemade grub at the Fiveways Deli or Tilt, which serves some of the best coffee in the city.’*

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/why-brighton-east-sussex-best-place-to-live-uk-vhwfst5hv>.

This High Street has a cluster of four ‘Fiveways’ Branch Estate Agencies.

In addition to having strong local meaning and recognition, the Fiveways community is also has strong recognition at a national level. The Times has listed Fiveways and Preston Park as ‘neighbours’ that are one of the top 10 places in the country to live,

indicating that wards proposed by the Boundary Commission have a good degree of external recognition and appropriate names. Fiveways has also been a regular feature on the programme *Location, Location, Location*.

Patcham & Hollingbury

We support the proposed Patcham & Hollingbury ward and its boundaries.

The ward fully encompasses the recognised communities of Patcham & Hollingbury, allowing for complete representation of these two communities within a single ward. The name of the ward is therefore appropriate and accurately reflects the communities within the ward.

The area shares schools, parks and green spaces, including the urban fringe.

Local issues such as school places and the environment are relevant across the ward. These common issues have been reflected in recent community petitions signed by residents in Patcham & Hollingbury, including a petition to save the urban fringe from development and a petition to save school places at Carden primary school. Both these petitions were signed by over 1,500 people. The area includes a stretch of the A27, which has issues with litter, presenting a problem. The ward is also united by its proximity to the South Downs, with easy access to the downs from both Hollingbury and Patcham, and also with views from all parts of the ward, giving everyone a sense of shared geography.

There is also a strong community identity enhanced by the services they share. The ward is served by four Local Authority schools, three of which are in Patcham, and one, Carden Primary School in Hollingbury, all serving children across the whole ward. For example, Carden Primary is proud of its many Traveller children, and the Traveller site is based in north Patcham.

The ward has two very active community centres which serve people from across the ward as they offer distinct provision - Old Boat Corner Community Centre has an emphasis on children and young people, while Patcham Community Centre caters more for adults. There is the Nautical Training Corp in Hollingbury, while there are Scouts in Patcham - so people regularly visit both communities.

There used to be two Local Action Teams, one for Patcham and one for Hollingbury - now there is one, and people from across the ward attend it. Likewise, there is one Neighbourhood Watch group, and two PCSOs who work across both communities. Facebook is used by thousands of residents, and there are at least three groups: Patcham Community Noticeboard, (5.7K members), Residents of Patcham & Hollingbury (2.3K members) and Hollingbury Matters (2K members). There are others, but residents frequently post across all three groups no matter where they live in the ward.

There are local shops dotted around the ward - some in the Old Village, and some, including a supermarket, in Carden Avenue, right at the heart of the ward serving

both communities. However, all residents go to the largest supermarket, Hollingbury Asda, as well as the other shops in the retail park.

Patcham & Hollingbury has four main churches - Anglican, Methodist, Catholic, and Pentecostal, all towards the Patcham side of the ward, and all within 15 minutes' walk of each other, and all serving people across the whole ward, especially because there is only one religious meeting, Messy Church, for young children, serving Hollingbury, which meets in Old Boat Corner Community Centre.

There are four main parks, Mackie Park, Carden Park and Withdean Park and Patcham Place Recreation Ground. Hollingbury's closest parks are Carden Park and Withdean Park, which also lie very close to Patcham and provide very different experiences - Carden Park provides a space for football and funfairs for the whole ward, while Withdean Park is for dog walkers and woodland enthusiasts.

There are a number of community events which bring Patcham & Hollingbury residents together. Patcham Duck Fayre, named for historical reasons, and because it is in Patcham, is a three-year-old annual fayre which is held in Patcham High School grounds. The organising committee is made up of people from across the two communities, and it is advertised by leaflets delivered to houses across the whole ward, and attended in excess of 5000 people, the vast majority locals in the ward.

The ward has a semi-natural boundary to the south provided by the large open spaces at either end – Withdean Park and the playing fields at Varndean school. Beyond those the housing type transitions into an urban feel.

The ward also has a natural boundary to the east – Ditchling Road and the Hollingbury Golf Course.

The Western boundary incorporates the area between the railway line and London Road, which identifies as Patcham. Mandalay Court, opposite Withdean Park for example, includes Patcham in its postal address as do the other building in this area. It is appropriate that this area is included in the Patcham ward.

Preston Park

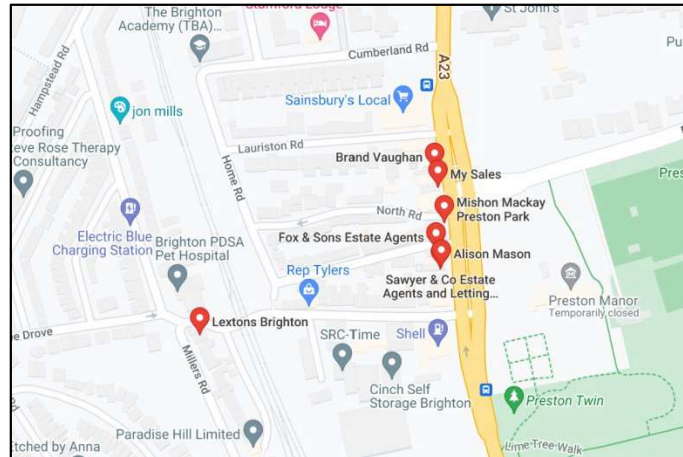
We support the proposed boundaries for the Preston Park ward and invite the Commission to confirm the boundaries of the draft recommendations.

The ward is successful in uniting the distinct Preston community and has a strong identity. This identity is reflected in the cornerposts of the ward: Preston Circus in the south-east to Prestonville in the south-west, north to Preston Park station and east to Preston Park.

These areas are built around the unifying transport corridors of London Road and the railway line that runs through Preston Park station. These transport links make the area very popular with commuters.

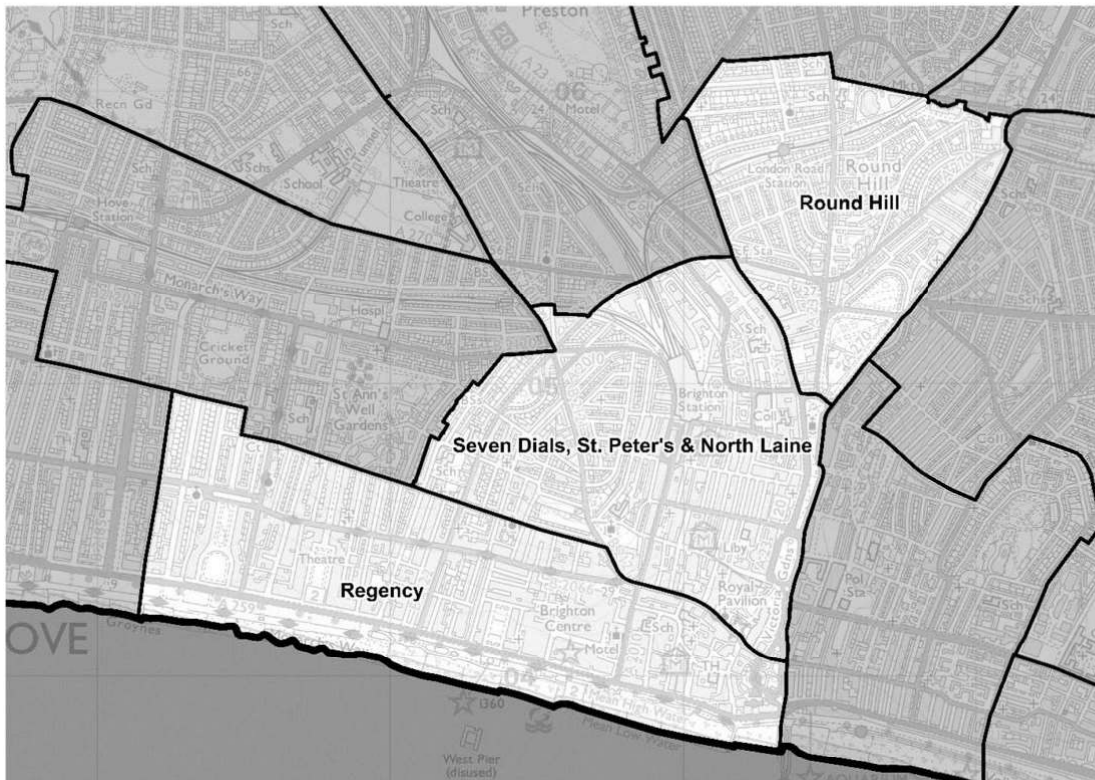
The defined community of interest is reflected in the hub of six Preston Park 'branded' Estate Agency's located in Preston Village and either side of the railway line.

Map 3: Location of Preston Park branded estate agencies



The eastern boundary of the Preston Park ward is well-defined and is supported by distribution boundaries of the community magazine the Preston Pages. The Eastern Boundary of the proposed Preston Park ward matches the eastern delivery boundary of the Preston Pages community magazine; suggesting that this is a meaningful transition point between Preston Park and Fiveways wards.

Central Brighton & Hove



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Regency	3	5%
Round Hill	2	7%
Seven Dials, St. Peter's & North Laine	3	-7%

We support the Boundary Commission's proposals for Central Brighton and Hove, which bring together unite several well-established communities of interest and community identities for the first time.

Round Hill

We support the proposed Round Hill ward and invite the Commission to confirm the boundaries of the draft recommendations for this ward.

The well-established Round Hill community of interest is perfectly incorporated within the boundaries of this ward. The boundaries are strongly drawn and defined to the east and south-west. The north-west boundary is appropriate as it marks the point where the area changes to Preston Circus, in the Preston Park ward.

Round Hill is an area with a very strong community identity, which is visible on the streets with community noticeboards placed by the Round Hill Preservation Society.

The area is recognised by real estate agents. There is a local row of shops along Ditchling Road which includes the Round Hill pub and an estate agency and barbers. The local magazine defines Round Hill as a distinct community.

London Road Station is a shared transport hub for the ward as is Ditchling Road, which provides a central point for bus routes.

We note that the proposed ward perfectly encloses the Round Hill neighbourhood as area which is defined in the Urban Characterisation Study. https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sites/default/files/migrated/article/inline/downloads/conservation/UrbanStudy_Round_Hill_final.pdf

Incorporating the northern portion over the railway line is appropriate. There is connectivity across the railway line at this point via a pedestrian overpass. Residents on either side of the railway line share local facilities such as the well-known pub on Springfield Road, the Open House. There are some other shops on Springfield road.

We therefore propose that the Boundary Commission makes these boundaries for Round Hill final.

Seven Dials, St Peter's & North Laine

We support this ward, which accurately includes the well-established St Peter's and North Laine communities, paired with Seven Dials. We support the proposed ward and invite the Commission to confirm the boundaries of the draft recommendations for this ward.

North Laine has its own community identity and character, as defined by its own residents association and this area is united within the same ward.

Incorporating Seven Dials makes sense and recognises another unique part of Brighton & Hove in the ward name.

Regency

The Regency ward unites for the first time the Regency architecture, developments and communities across the seafront, spanning Regency Communities from Brunswick Square to Old Steine Gardens.

This ward includes Brunswick Town which has been described as one of the finest examples of Regency and early Victorian planning and architecture in England.

It's an anomaly that the term Regency was being previously for the Regency ward, covering a partial footprint of the Brighton and Hove Regency heritage. The Boundary Commission have corrected this anomaly with its proposal.

This is shown most clearly by the history of the Regency Society in Brighton and Hove was founded to stop Brunswick Square regency buildings being knocked down:

“In Hove, then run separately, there were proposals to demolish Brunswick Square which led to the formation of the Regency Society in 1945.

Campaigners won the day on that proposal but ten years ago they lost the fight to save the buildings in St Ann’s Well Gardens from the axe.

More demolition took place in the 1960s. In Brighton Churchill Square was built on the site of charming streets which undoubtedly would be highly sought after today had they survived.

The bland King’s West centre was built on Brighton seafront. The Regency Gothic National School in Church Street was shamefully demolished.

Several buildings were lost along Brighton seafront including the Bedford Hotel to fire in 1964. Meanwhile in Hove featureless flats began to replace handsome Victorian houses in Kingsway and Grand Avenue.

Source: <https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/14721399.nostalgia-how-hopes-to-demolish-a-square-in-hove-led-to-the-formation-of-the-regency-society/>

Recommendation 3: This submission from the Conservative Group is proposing to amend the name of the ward as proposed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to ‘Regency & Brunswick’.

This proposed name confirms historical and community ties to the name, and this submission proposed that this better reflects the community here.

The Commission has already accepted in its proposals the premise of wards that bring together communities of heritage and communities of interest e.g. Seven Dials, St Peter’s & North Laine and Hove Park & Westdene.

This new ward, Regency & Brunswick, unites a number of Regency heritage associations and societies from west to east, all of which are dedicated to and have a similar concern for the Regency character buildings and squares:

- Regency Society: <https://regencysociety.org/>
- Regency Town House: <http://www.rth.org.uk/>
- Regency Square Area Society: <https://www.regencybrighton.com/>
- Brunswick Town: <http://www.rth.org.uk/local-history/brunswick-town>
- The Friends of Palmeira and Adelaide: <http://www.fopa.co.uk/>
- Friends of Brunswick Square and Terrace: <http://friendsofbrunswick.co.uk/>

The Regency developments of Brighton and Hove have similar architecture which gives them similar set of local issues. This includes the maintenance of large communal public gardens and squares, which can often be challenging and difficult to maintain in a busy city. Old Steine Gardens for example has been subject to much

debate at council meetings and newspaper reporting concerning regarding the state of the gardens.

This ward also corresponds strongly to the Brighton and Hove City Council Urban Characterisation Study neighbourhood designation, with the ward defined within Central Conservation Areas neighbourhood. These areas have been appraised in individual Conservation Area Character Statements (see www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/conservation) and in Brighton and Hove: Historic Character Assessment Report, Sussex Extensive Urban Study). There are a number of Conservation areas within this ward with Brighton and Hove City Council proposing a review of these and a possible consolidation in recent policy reports.

This Regency & Brunswick ward shares the major tourism frontage of Brighton & Hove, running from the Pier to the Hove Lawns, including the i360. This area also includes of the city's seafront hotels.

Regency & Brunswick shares a well-defined central shopping precinct, centred on Western Road corridor, which provides central services and running the entire length of the ward.

Landsdowne Road provides a good northern boundary, marking a transition point away from Regency buildings towards more suburban flats in the Goldsmid ward, where the distinctly classical Regency architecture in Regency & Brunswick was lost to flats, as noted above.

The western and eastern boundaries are appropriately drawn to mark the points at which the architecture turns to CBD apartments and flats surrounding the Avenues, including Grand Avenue in the west and Grand Parade and Valley Gardens in the east.

The western boundary is given more meaning by the fact it corresponds roughly with the location of the Lawns Café. This café is know locally as the end of the central seafront tourist section of Brighton & Hove and is used walkers as a turning point for their walks, either coming from the west or the east.

East Brighton



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
East Brighton	2	3%
Hanover & Elm Grove	3	9%
Kemptown & Marina	2	-7%
Queen's Park	2	10%

The Conservative Group proposes a change to build on the Commission's proposal to better reflect communities of interest in this area and provide more effective and convenient local government, by for the first time uniting the entirety of the Kemp Town area within a single ward.

Issues with the current proposal

1. The distinctive Kemptown community of interest is split between two separate wards

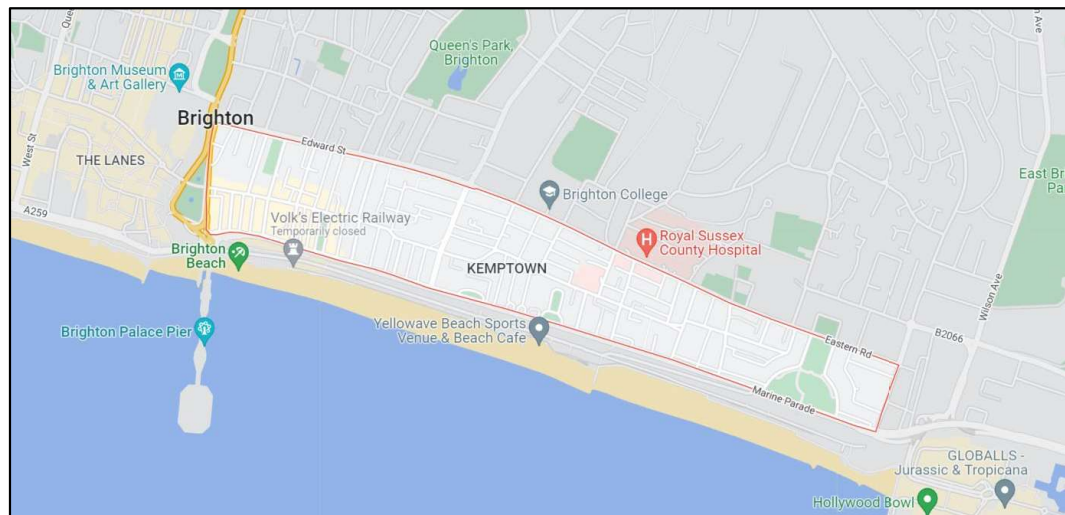
The draft warding arrangements split the recognised Kemptown area between two wards – Queen's Park and Kemptown & Marina.

Kemptown is perhaps the strongest and most recognised community of interest in City of Brighton & Hove and should be contained within a single

ward. The community ties in this area run deep and are economic, social and cultural and are reflected in the Council issues that

The geographical definition of Kemptown is well-understood by local residents and reflected in the definition currently provided by google maps and Wikipedia (see Map 4).

Map 4: Definition of the Kemptown area according to google maps.



This definition is supported by the addresses of businesses in this area, which all contain 'Kemptown' in the address. For example, in the portion to the west of Upper Bedford Street, which the Commission currently has placed in Queens' Park ward, hotels and guesthouses, restaurants and places of worship all list their addresses as being Kemptown on their websites. Examples include The Ambassador Hotel at New Steine Brighton Boutique Guesthouse on Lower Rock Gardens, The Parish Church of St Mary's Kemptown has Kemptown listed as its address also. This confirms that the Boundary Commission's current proposals have split Kemptown in two.

Similarly, this definition as drawn in map 4 is supported by major cultural events in Kemptown. The well-attended Pride Village party, a major part of Brighton Pride, is described as being in Kemptown:

The Pride Village Party in Brighton's famous Kemptown when business across St James St & Marine parade come together to celebrate Pride and raise extra funds for the Brighton Rainbow Fund and Pride Social Impact Fund.

Source: <https://www.brighton-pride.org/pride-village-party/>

A map of the event shows its location it is held. It is worth noting that this entire 'Kemptown' branded event is in the portion to the west of Upper Rock Gardens:

Map 5: Location of the Pride Village Party, described as being in 'Brighton's famous Kemptown'.



Source: G-Scene: <https://www.gscene.com/news/calling-all-karaoke-queens-at-brighton-pride/>

Kempton has its own community of interest. It has central services located along St James' street, which acts as the local high street uniting the area, becoming Upper St James' Street, Bristol Road and then Upper Bristol Road; including a supermarket, pharmacies; and even its own council offices offering housing services at Lavender Street.

Kempton has a very strong cultural identity. Historically known as an actors' and artists' quarter, it has a sizeable LGBT community and a network of streets with specialised shops, hotels, cafés and pubs.

The Kempton area is further united by its proximity to the seafront, bordering the length of Madeira Terraces and the seafront. Residents face similar

The overriding identity of people in this area as living in Kempton is reflected in the local free magazine, the Brightonian, where Councillors for Kempton are grouped together.

The magazine shows how under the previous boundaries Kempton community of interest is split between three different wards. Under the Boundary Commission's current proposals Kempton is divided between two wards, which would still generate confusion to residents.

Figure 2: Representation of Councillors for the Kemptown area in the local free magazine

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Your local representatives...

Councillors for Kemptown

Queen's Park ward


Nicholas Childs (Labour)
Nicholas.Childs@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Tel: 07562 437628

Amanda Evans (Labour)
Amanda.Evans@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Tel: 07562 437629

Clare Rainey (Green)
Clare.Rainey@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Tel: 07562 437626

East Brighton ward

Nichole Brennan (Independent)



Nichole.Brennan@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Tel: 07704 314863



Nancy Platts (Labour)
nancy.platts@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Tel: 07717 302956


Gill Williams (Labour)



Gilliane.Williams@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Tel: 07704 314864

Rottingdean Coastal ward

Bridget Fishleigh (Independent)



Bridget.Fishleigh@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Tel: 07562 437631

Mary Mears (Conservative)



mary.mears@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Tel: 01273 294370

KEMPTOWN



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2. Kemptown and the Marina/Roedean do not share a community of interest

The character of Kemptown is distinct from the Marina and Roedean parts of the proposed Kemptown & Marina ward.

While Kemptown is highly urbanised with lots of homes of multiple occupancy, Roedean is semi-rural, with standalone properties bordering the countryside.

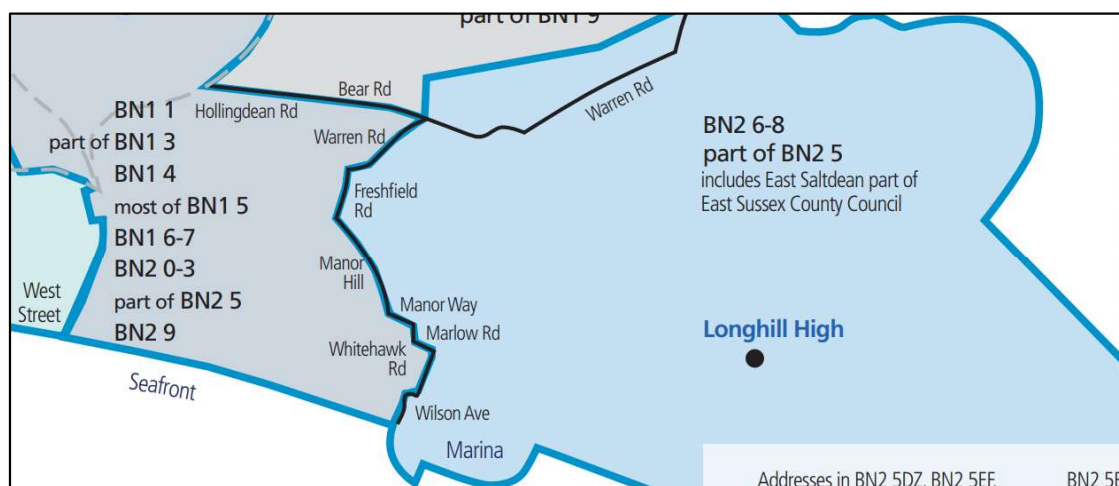
The Kemptown Preservation area is also very different from the modern apartment developments at the Marina.

These differences are reflected in distinct communities of interest. Roedean and the Marina areas have a distinct local economy with residents having their own supermarket and services at the Marina, unlike Kemptown's high street. The [Marina shopping precinct](#) includes an Asda, dental services, hairdressers and chiropractic services.

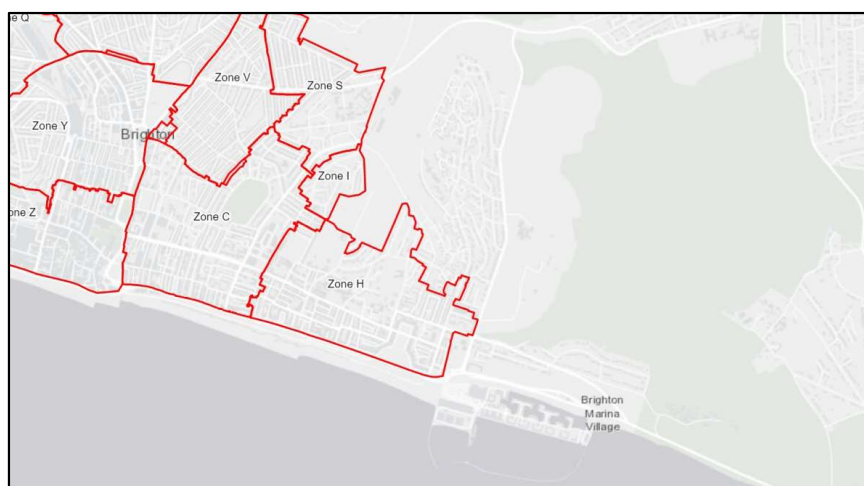
The different communities are underlined by the fact that Kemptown is used as an administrative boundary by the Council dividing west and eastern parts of the City.

This is reflected in the Brighton and Hove City Council using Kemptown as the boundary for its school catchment zones (see Map 6) and also the boundary for the City's parking control areas (see Map 7), separating the inner city from the outer suburbs.

Map 6: Brighton & Hove City Council school zone catchments, showing a division at the edge of Kemptown



Map 7: Brighton & Hove City Council parking control area, showing a division at the edge of Kemptown



The urban characterisation study also supports the view that the eastern edge of Kemptown is a meaningful division. The urban characterisation study recognises the edge of Kemptown before the Marina as the end of Central Conservation Areas.

Alternative proposal from the Conservative Group

The Commission's proposal provides an opportunity to unite Kemptown in a single ward with good electoral equality. We note that the Commission did feel that there was merit in the Conservative Group's argument for a united Kemptown ward in paragraph 124 but was concerned about the electoral variance of the first proposal.

With the decision having been made to abolish Rottingdean Coastal, there is now an opportunity to include Sussex Square within Kemptown ward and resolve this issue of electoral equality.

Under our proposals, the four wards in East Brighton area would be configured as follows as:

- Hanover & Elm Grown (no change)
- Queen's Park & Craven Vale
- Kemptown
- Whitehawk & Marina.

Map 8: Alternative warding proposal from the Conservative Group



Kemptown Ward

The new proposed Kemptown ward includes the entirety of the recognised Kemptown area of Brighton for the first time.

Its eastern boundary marks the point of transition from the inner city to the eastern part of Brighton, which begins at Black Rock. This point of transition is reflected in many ways, including the end of car park permit zones and the transition in school zones (see above maps). It also reflected by the end of the central conservation zone areas defined by the Urban Characterisation Study. The ward would provide a balance to the Regency ward covering the Conservation areas in the west of the city.

The ward would also unite the entirety of Madeira Drive in one ward including two major Council restoration and rejuvenation projects: Madeira Terraces restoration and Black Rock Rejuvenation projects. The Madeira Terraces, that extend along

Madeira Drive, are currently awaiting restoration, with funding for the first two phases of the project (£16 million) having been found, enough to restore 80 of the 151 arches. Black Rock seafront is also undergoing its own major £16 million rejuvenation project. Both these projects have their own Council Task and Finish Groups attended by ward councillors and stakeholders. Under the previous boundaries Madeira Drive cut across three different wards. Uniting these projects within a single ward would make sense from an administrative point of view.

Madiera Drive hosts several important events in the city, including all the historic motoring events – many of which have taken place for at least a decade – including the Ace Café Reunion and the Brightona motor cycle rally, speed trials, the Classic Car Run, Brighton Breeze – for VW owners – and rallies for Mini and historic commercial vehicle owners. A study by Sussex University estimated that the Veteran Car Run alone brings in £1.1 million to the local economy. The event attracts 10,000 people, with day visitors spending an average of £50 each and overnight visitors £200. Madeira Drive hosts the Brighton Marathon as well. There With this comes challenges for the council and contentious local issues. The closure of Madeira Drive and changes to road layout have led to multiple petitions from residents, which have reached the threshold for full council debate. Again, it would aid effective and convenient local government if the whole of Madiera Drive is included in a single ward.

Similarly, major annual cultural events such as the Pride Village Party event would be in the same ward (See Map 5 above).

Whitehawk & Marina

The proposed Whitehawk & Marina ward reflects a better defined community of interest as the first eastern ward outside of the city centre area.

We note that the Boundary Commission states in Paragraph 123 that Whitehawk is likely to continue to look south for its local amenities and this is correct.

Residents from Whitehawk gravitate to Brighton Marina for their shopping, where there are local facilities such as Asda and other services.

The ward includes the Roedean area which contains a similar residential housing area that is also more in touch with the eastern area than the city centre. Facebook groups confirm Roedean's east-facing identity, including one for local news which covers Roedean with Rottingdean:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1087075528142860>

Whitehawk Hill provides a strong western boundary for this ward, marking a change in urban characterisation as reflected in the Urban Characterisation Study.

Queen's Park & Craven Vale

This ward unites the distinctive Queen's Park and Craven Vale communities into a single ward.

Craven Vale is a well defined part of Brighton with its own active residents association and regular media coverage of local issues, including housing matters. We note that in the Boundary Commission's draft report (paragraph 121) that a local resident argued that Craven Vale should not be included in East Brighton ward, a sentiment that reinforces the view that Craven Vale is better connected to the Queen's Park community of interest.

Queen's Park Conservation area is recognised by the Council in planning documents: <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/planning/heritage/queens-park-conservation-area>. It's area is defined by this map: <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sites/default/files/articles/2020-05/Queens%20Park%20Conservation%20Area.pdf>.

It is important to note that Queen's Park is distinctive from Kemptown as defined by map 4.

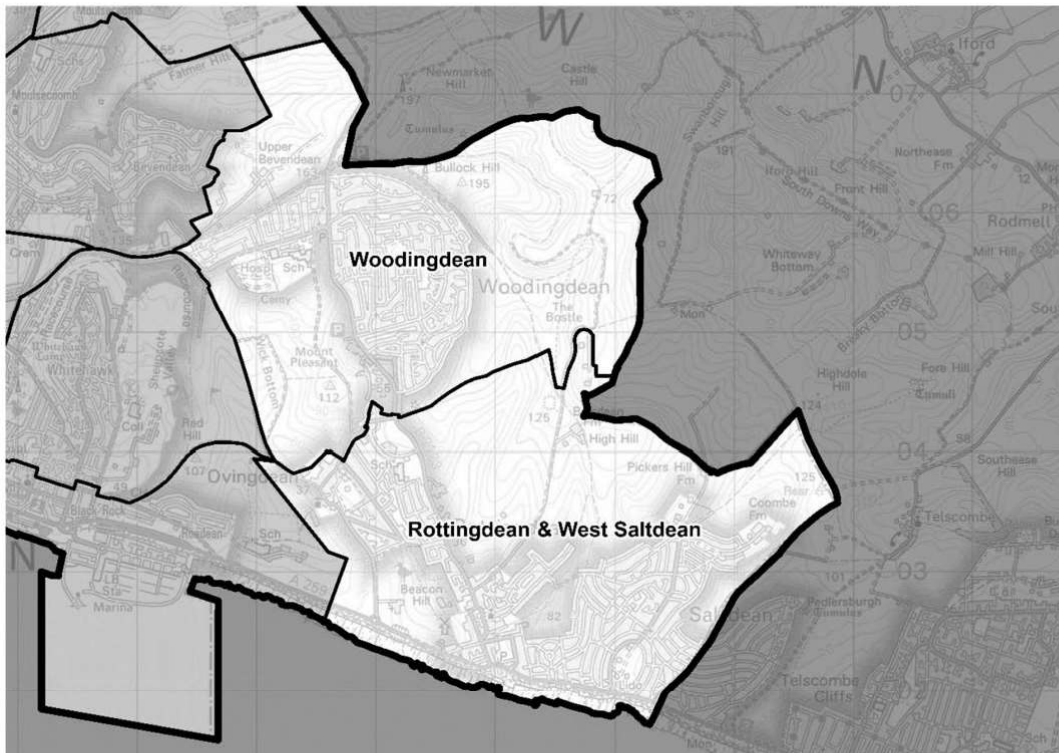
These adjacent areas of Queens Park and Craven Vale share the characteristics of being inner eastern urban parts of Brighton. This is reflected by the fact that they are both subject to controlled parking zones (zone C and zone I respectively, see map 7) with Craven Vale marking an eastern edge of controlled parking to the area to the east of Craven Vale not subject to parking control.

Hanover & Elm Grove

We propose no change to this ward, which reflects the strongly defined Hanover and Elm Grove communities.

Recommendation 4: That the Commission consider adopting the above alternative proposal from the Conservative Group for the four wards in the East Brighton section.

Rottingdean & West Saltdean and Woodingdean



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Rottingdean & West Saltdean	2	4%
Woodingdean	2	-9%

We support the Boundary Commission's proposals for Rottingdean & West Saltdean and Woodingdean wards.

Woodingdean

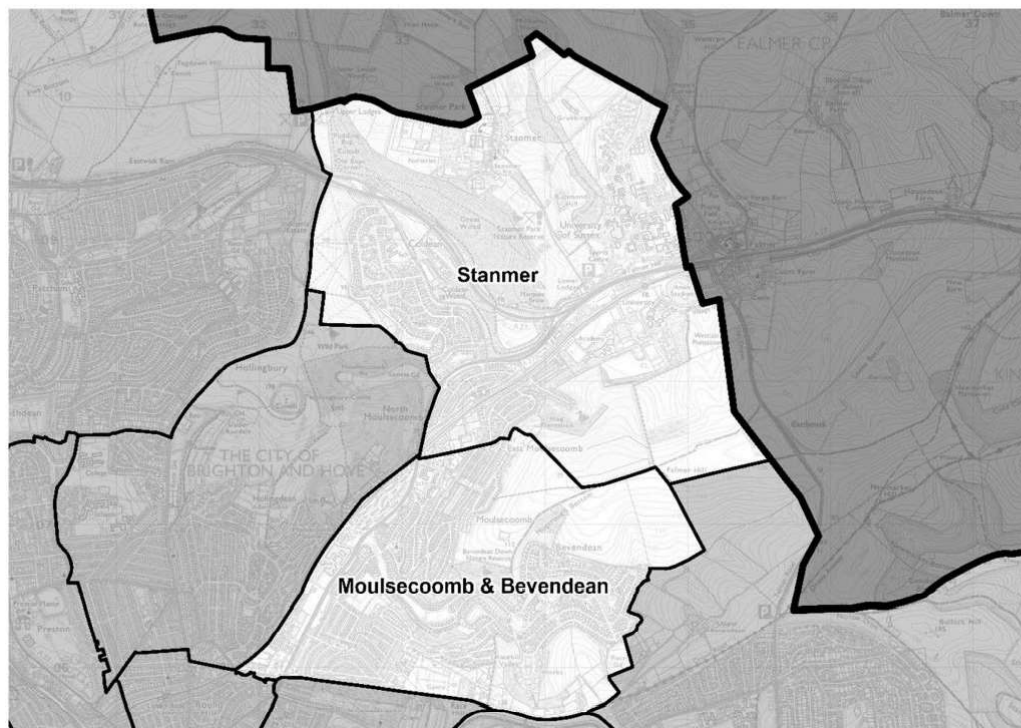
This ward is well defined by its geography, whereby it is separated from its surrounding communities by green land. It has its own character as a village within the urban fringe, with its own centre and services.

Rottingdean & West Saltdean

We support the Boundary Commission's proposal for this ward which includes the villages of Ovingdean, Rottingdean and the suburb of West Saltdean. The communities share similar interests and Coastal geography and form a continuous urban area.

There is good electoral equality and the Rottingdean Parish Boundary is included in its entirety.

Moulsecoomb & Bevendean and Stanmer



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Moulsecoomb & Bevendean	3	10%
Stanmer	2	5%

We support the Boundary Commission's proposals for Moulsecoomb & Bevendean and Stanmer and submit that the Boundary Commission has selected very strong and meaningful boundaries for these wards, which will unite similar communities that were previously divided.

Stanmer

The Stanmer ward combines the well-defined Coldean, Stanmer and North Moulsecoomb communities.

Coldean has always identified with North Moulsecoomb due to their similar housing types of larger family homes and in a general sense as communities on the edge of the city. Putting them together therefore makes sense and will give them a larger voice.

The areas share a combined community of interest with the Universities precinct, which generates common council issues around planning, including transport issues

related to the growing university precinct and housing issues. There is ongoing campaigning by local residents such as the Coldean Residents Association around protecting the urban fringe from development. There is always a higher than average number of objections from residents to planning proposals that come before the planning committee from these communities.

The boundary drawn along Moulsecoomb Way below the commercial precinct is a meaningful boundary for residents for a number of reasons. This boundary has been used for many years as the boundary for the North Moulsecoomb Residents Association. Residents have always perceived this as the natural boundary, with separate Residents' Associations to the south. It also identifies a threshold for local services, with residents in North Moulsecoomb less likely to do their shopping in the more urban Lewes Road central place and more likely to take the busses to ASDA instead. The commercial precinct is also a natural land use transition point between two ward.

Moulsecoomb & Bevendean

We support the proposed boundaries for Moulsecoomb & Bevendean which combine the neighbouring communities of Moulsecoomb and Bevendean and invite the Commission to confirm the boundaries of the draft recommendations for this ward.

While Bevendean has a distinct identity and a semi-rural feel (for example being outside a controlled parking zone), it does share major facilities with neighbouring Moulsecoomb.

These communities do share some major recreation facilities, such as Bevendean Recreation Ground with its many football pitches and Moulsecoomb Park by Auckland Drive.

We support the inclusion of the portion to the west of the A270 in the ward which unites communities of interest. For example, the Bates Estate, split from Moulsecoomb under the previous ward boundaries, decided join the local action for Moulsecoomb and Bevendean as its Residents Association (The Bates Estate enants & Residents Association) believed that they had more in common with Moulsecoomb than Coldean, with whom they were previously paired. The Boundary Commission's proposals for Moulsecoomb & Bevendean therefore unite communities that were divided by previous ward boundaries and will allow for more effective local administration in future.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Reflecting on twenty five years of Brighton & Hove – Press release (01/04/22)

From: Corporate Email Broadcast <[REDACTED]>
Sent: 01 April 2022 11:08
Subject: Twenty five years of Brighton & Hove



Line managers - please ensure front line staff without access to email are made aware of key information.

Our silver anniversary

April marks the twenty fifth anniversary of our organisation. We were established as a unitary authority in 1997 by bringing together Brighton Borough Council, Hove Borough Council, and parts of East Sussex County Council. In 2001 Brighton & Hove was granted the title of a "city" by the Queen.

Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis, Executive Director for Governance, People & Resources was working in the legal department of Brighton Borough Council as a solicitor before it merged with Hove Borough Council in April 1997. He was instrumental in the preparations for the merger, including helping in drafting the constitution for the new authority and as well as contractual agreements with ESCC to deal with property, staffing and other matters.

Below Abraham reflects on what has been achieved in the quarter of a century of unification for Brighton & Hove as we mark the organisation's silver anniversary.

Reflecting on twenty five years

Dear colleague,

It is now exactly 25 years since Brighton & Hove was created as a unitary authority. I think it would be hard to explain to our younger people who have grown up in or moved to the city why we were ever two separate boroughs in the first place.

Before the merger in 1997 Brighton & Hove were separate boroughs and part of a two-tier system under the County of East Sussex. Our schools were part of the East Sussex school system.

All our secondary schools and nearly all our primary and special schools are now rated 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted. And they're working in ever closer partnership with each other to achieve further improvements.

Let's not forget that the seafront between the piers was a dark and unwelcoming place back in the mid-1990s.

But it's now a key part of our night-time economy and a huge factor in making Brighton & Hove a gloriously popular and successful tourist destination of international renown.

I think we should all celebrate the growth of our city's arts and cultural sector. Over the last 25 years this has become an important engine of our economy and city's identity.

We're often cited as being one of the happiest places to live and the best places to start a business. We now have a dynamic international reputation as a digital hub and a hothouse for new business start-ups.

Our city has withstood the pressures of Covid and changing shopping habits better than most. Our range of independent and often eclectic shops is the envy of our rivals.

And let's not forget that Covid didn't care if you were in Brighton or Hove. The city council's public health team has worked tirelessly to provide a coordinated response focused on our integrated urban area along with so many other teams across our organisation.

The city council was a key factor in helping Brighton & Hove Albion football club survive the dark days of the late 1990s and 2000s.

Their years at the council's Withdean Stadium helped get them through until the building of the Amex Community Stadium.

In 2014 UNESCO acknowledged our commitment to protecting and improving our local environment when the city was designated as part of its urban biosphere reserve, The Living Coast.

The redevelopment work we're doing at Black Rock is making that stretch of coastline more ecologically friendly as well as more attractive.

We've got the Women's World Cup to look forward to in the summer – a massive event that will put us on the global stage.

I'm proud to have worked for the Brighton & Hove local authority ever since its formation in 1997. Throughout that time council staff and services have been supporting Brighton & Hove's diverse communities and looking to do our best for the city and each other.

I'm confident that united as one Brighton & Hove we can continue to go from strength to strength – and that we're in a stronger position to respond to the many varied challenges our region and country faces.

Best wishes,

Abraham Ghebre-Ghiorghis

Executive Director – Governance, People & Resources
Brighton & Hove City Council

The Communications Team