

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 April 2022 15:56
To: reviews
Subject: FTAO Review Office (Maidstone) - We oppose proposed Lenham / Harrietsham Ward Change
Categories: Submissions, [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

Along with our surrounding neighbours living in Lenham Heath, we are deeply opposed to the proposed boundary changes to our area.

The local community struggles to get recognised by MBC as a whole, through recent proposed developments MBC has shown a general disregard for the local community. We have grave concern that this is another blatant attempt to isolate and undermine the community through divide and conquer. It is only through Tom & Janettas Sams long standing intimate understanding of local needs, and close engagement with the local community, that we have any confidence that our interests are at least being represented.

It makes no sense when all our community services such as GP, police, community warden and social organisations are so deeply routed within the current Lenham & Harrietsham community to split this.

To be grouped under Headcorn which has its own very separate needs and understandably has little shared common interests with our area, would clearly be detrimental to the residents of Lenham Heath, Sandway, Platts Heath and Liverton Hill.

It is crystal clear that the proposed change would be a contradiction of the ward creation guidelines in terms of shared interests, transport, community groups, facilities - Lenham Heath is clearly part of the Lenham Community and what affects one, affects us both equally.

We strongly suspect this is very likely linked to the building proposal of 5,000 homes in the parish of Lenham. Such a sizeable development, will result in a clear increase in traffic on local roads, which are unlit and unpaved, which is what we want. These roads are heavily used by pedestrians young and old together with cyclists avoiding the A20. The increased overflow of traffic from the A20 will have a direct impact on health and safety of the local community. Also placing a such large new development furthest distance from policing hubs resourcing issues that we have seen no evidence of impact assessment.

It is absolutely essential that we maintain continuity of our existing ward at this time, to change at this stage could arguably be criminally negligent to the safety of the local community..

Our thanks for your careful consideration of the above points, please feel free to contact us if you wish to discuss anything.

Regards

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