

Maidstone Borough Council

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name:

Comment text:

We are strongly opposed to the proposal by Maidstone Borough Council (MBC) to change the boundaries of the current Ward of Lenham and Harrietsham to include Hollingbourne with the loss of Lenham Heath, Platts Heath, Sandway and Platts Heath to Headcorn Ward. We feel this is a cynical move by MBC to assist in their plans to develop Heathlands, a proposed 'Garden Village' at Lenham Heath. There is almost 100% opposition locally to these unsustainable proposals and it seems they intend to 'divide and conquer' by including the traditionally Lenham hamlets to Headcorn which is some seven miles from our village. The vast majority of those currently living in Headcorn will not be interested or affected by the Heathlands proposals whereas the opposite is the case for Lenham, parts of Heathlands would be less than a half a mile away from Lenham. The natural boundary between Lenham and Headcorn is the Greensand ridge, an escarpment overlooking the Low Weald which runs from East Farleigh in the west to Ashford in the east. The topography is obvious whereas the proposed boundary of the railway (the Maidstone Line less than 200m from where we live) is a poor choice as most importantly it conflicts with future development set out in the Lenham Village Plan. We have many friends and acquaintances in Platts Heath, bowls club members, former work colleagues and the Parish magazine (The Lenham Focus) of which we personally distribute 2000 copies each month to all of Lenham and the surrounding areas including Lenham Heath, Sandway, Liverton Hill and Platts Heath. We have lived in Lenham for six years and only know two families who live in Headcorn and Grafty Green and we know no one living in Hollingbourne. We have two excellent long standing Borough Councillors serving Lenham and Harrietsham who are both Independent and it seems to us that the major political parties are intent on changing the local democratic process due to their inability to make any headway with local voters. We are members of the local Heritage Society, Art Group and Bowls Club; we have no connections with Headcorn but many acquaintances live in the village and hamlets under threat. The proposals to change to Ward boundaries are ludicrous and do nothing to engender a sense of community which is so important today. Please see common sense and keep Lenham Heath, Platts Heath, Sandway and Liverton Hill within Lenham and Harrietsham Ward.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded