

Boundary Commission Objection to extension and change of boundary to Lenham and Harrietsham Ward.
31 March 2022

The present boundaries of the Lenham and Harrietsham Ward include Platts Heath, Lenham Heath and Sandway. These areas must be kept within Lenham and Harrietsham Ward for the following reasons:

1. Road connections between Platts Heath, Lenham Heath and Sandway to Lenham and the arterial routes of M20 and A20 are well established whereas road links to Headcorn are frequently closed, are poorly serviced and in places winding, visually poor and proven dangerous. By taking this area out of the Lenham and Harrietsham Ward to include this area into the very edge of the Headcorn Ward will reduce the interest in the condition of these roads and will take the power from the Lenham and Harrietsham Ward to make any difference.
2. It appears that Maidstone Borough Council's support for the proposal to take Platts Heath, Lenham Heath and Sandway out of Lenham and Harrietsham Ward is an underhand addition to remove any power from Lenham and Harrietsham to oppose their (Maidstone Borough Council) housing plans for Lenham Heath, which MBC refer to as "Heathlands Garden Community".
3. Lenham and Harrietsham Ward is a vibrant community, with many clubs and community services that include Platts Heath, Lenham Heath and Sandway. The proposed boundary changes, particularly to the south of Lenham will change this vibrancy, the railway station is close, the buses between Maidstone and Ashford are close, the medical services are centred on Lenham, the Lenham Cricket Club is well represented in these places as are the youth organisations and activities for older people. The Boundary Commission's proposal to move these areas out of the control of the Lenham and Harrietsham Ward will break apart this community.
4. Should this proposed boundary change be made, then the frustration of the local community to the continually negative attitude of the MBC will surely damage the morale of the local people. The disregard and lack of respect by the MBC towards all the work by the local councils of Lenham and Harrietsham, including the Lenham Local Neighbourhood Plan and the local council's opposition to the proposed development at Lenham Heath referred to by MBC as "Heathlands Garden Community" will appear to also be the Boundary Commission's attitude, and the Boundary Commission would be playing into the hands of the MBC and not the people of Lenham and Harrietsham.
5. **Should Hollingbourne and Eyehorne Street be included in the proposed new ward? No.** These two areas presently west of the Lenham and Harrietsham Ward are far closer to Bearsted and to Leeds Village, with more defined routes over the Downs to Wormshill and Broad Street. Secondary education for Hollingbourne's pupils is centred on Maidstone.

31st March 2022

