

***RE: Proposed Maidstone BC – Lenham Harrietsham Ward to Split Lenham Heath, Sandway, Platts Heath, Liverton Hill all moving to Headcorn Ward***

The changes proposed by Maidstone BC for the existing Harrietsham/Lenham Ward do not make sense as the size of the Harrietsham-Lenham Ward can be aligned within historic ward and parish borders. (Please see the proposal submitted by Lenham Parish Council which I strongly support).

However, the changes suggested by Maidstone BC are also not fit for the future. Maidstone Borough Council, as developer, proposes a new garden town in Lenham Heath. It is at the moment completely undecided whether this scheme will go ahead. If it goes ahead the Maidstone BC proposed border, will go through the new development. However, in any case, if the garden town (5000 homes) goes ahead, it will be so large, that it will require yet another ward and the concept of this 'Headcorn Ward' will be obsolete within a few years.

**Political Background**

I know that The Boundaries Commission is quite rightly non-political, but feel that it is only right to point out that the Maidstone BC plan put forward for the revised Harrietsham-Lenham Ward, has been seen, by many of the residents as being used to try to weaken the opposition to the Maidstone Borough planned "Heathlands Garden Town" in Lenham Heath. This proposed development of 5000 homes, which Maidstone BC is to be the Developer of, and have in the last 2 years so far, spent £650,000 on. There are a large number of residents of Lenham, Lenham Heath, Sandway, Platts Heath and Liverton Hill, who strongly oppose this development. Please see the SOHL web site <https://www.saveourheathlands.co.uk/>. It is not hard to see that this proposed ward change by Maidstone BC, to hive off Lenham Heath to the Headcorn Ward, would have many thinking that, to put the proposed development into a ward where the main population are 6 miles from it would:

- a) Reduce the opposition from the majority of the population in the New Headcorn Ward, Councilors and Residents, 6 miles away.
- b) With a Borough Council plan after the establishment of the new ward to review the Parish Boundaries in line with the new wards. It could be that if these 5000 homes are built 1.5 miles from Lenham, the parish precept from those would benefit Headcorn, whilst all the negative effects of them, Doctors, Education, Traffic, Parking etc; would fall on the Lenham Parish council.

All I ask is that when viewing the Maidstone BC proposal, you are aware of the potential political element to it.

Thank you

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3 April 2022