

**Holt, Nicole**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 January 2023 15:33  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** Boundary Review North Herts

**Categories:** Submissions, Harry

I write on behalf of the North East Hertfordshire Constituency Management Committee. We have looked at the Boundary Commission proposals and also the response of the North Hertfordshire Council and would wish to make the following submission being the outcome of our discussions.

We strongly object to the proposed new Ashwell & Weston Ward. The proposals are just an extension of the town of Baldock which is completely different to rural Bygrave. Many of our committee are present/previous councillors and I myself previously Leader of the Council for a decade, and can confirm that the issues residents face are totally different and the new settlement proposed will look to Baldock and not the villages that the Arbury Ward currently represents. Bygrave currently represents 200 electors, but the new development will contain around 1500 electors, totally overwhelming the rest of Bygrave Parish.

The current proposal will lead to dissatisfaction for all. The new Baldock residents will want to address issues connected to Baldock and be of an urban nature. The villages have completely separate issues of a more rural nature. The ward will be dominated by residents who will identify as Baldock residents and use and rely on Baldock's infrastructure of schools, shops, pubs and transport links. This would occur if the new settlement electorate were attached to the current Baldock East Ward, which is already linked geographically and the number of councillors increased there by one.

The proposed Ashwell & Weston Ward is geographically very large, and the two sets of Villages (form Arbury and Weston & Sandon) are separated by a major road, the A505. More importantly this will create a ward with 11 parishes. Unsustainable as far as an elected councillor is concerned. Fair and equal representation for all 11 parishes plus a large portion of new electors with completely different priorities in Baldock is unthinkable and undemocratic.

During my term as Leader of NHDC a similar situation occurred in North Herts with the Great Ashby ward. The combination of new town style development being forced together with villages failed and the outcome was changes which resulted in the formation of a Community Council to meet Great Ashby's more urban needs and requirements.

Just a few small adjustments to the Lgbce recommendation, to allocate an extra councillor to Baldock East and incorporate the new Baldock Development and leave both Arbury and Weston & Sandon as they are, would solve all the above mentioned problems and makes common sense both numerically and culturally.

Lynda Needham  
Chairman  
North East Herts Constituency Association