

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 January 2023 18:49
To: reviews
Subject: North Hertfordshire Boundary Review - feedback on recommendations
Categories: Submissions, Harry

To the review officer (North Hertfordshire),

I am a resident of North Hertfordshire and live on Hurst Close in Baldock East ward. I am writing to provide feedback on the draft recommendations published by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England on the electoral wards of North Hertfordshire.

As a resident of Baldock I was most concerned to see the Commission's recommendations to include the new developments in Baldock East in a proposed rural ward of Ashwell & Weston. I strongly urge the Commission to reconsider this proposal.

I support North Herts Council's recommendation to adjust the boundaries of the existing Baldock wards to accommodate the new developments and increase the number of councillors to 5 for Baldock East and Town. If this is not entirely achievable, then I support a position that ensures that the Baldock community (including new developments) is maintained within district wards.

Baldock is currently split into two wards along the A507. The majority of properties in Baldock East ward are geographically separated from the main road, and the communities of Baldock Town by the schools, garden centre and fields. Despite a number of significant roads in Baldock, few can readily be identified as being a clear boundary between communities.

However, significant residential development is planned to the north-east and east of the town. These areas will be predominantly urban in nature, and very different to the rural parishes where the developments will be built. These areas should become part of the town wards serving Baldock, with Baldock East in particular expanding to accommodate the new developments.

The details of the proposal are as follows:

The Baldock North site identified in the Local Plan as BA1 to be included in an expansion of the Baldock East ward.

Local Plan Site BA2 located to the South of Baldock Town ward to be included in an expansion of the Baldock Town boundaries.

Local Plan Site BA3 to the South of Clothall Common in Baldock East ward to be included in an expansion of the Baldock East boundaries.

Local Plan Site BA4 to the East of Baldock East ward to be included in an expansion of the Baldock East boundaries.

Local Plan Employment sites BE2 and BA10 to the North of Clothall Common to be included in an expansion of the Baldock East boundaries.

The rationale for this is as follows:

Baldock East

This is the area to the east of the A507. The current boundary at the south is extended to the A505 and then runs north along the A505 until the junction. Here it heads north along the new development link road, then around the major new residential development boundary to re-join the existing boundary on the A507 north of the town. Some houses along North Road, Royston Road and in Bygrave Road would now fall within Baldock East instead of Arbury ward.

Baldock Town

This is the area to the west of the A507. The current boundary at the south is extended to the A505 and then runs south to the parish boundary between Clothall and Weston, then follows this north back to the existing ward boundary.

The Baldock developments will encompass a primarily non-residential area during the development. The affected parishes don't have parish wards, so there won't be issues in having a district boundary crossing the area.

The Local Plan has proposed that the new housing will be part of Baldock, and its proximity will incorporate the development completely into the Baldock community in any case.

The new residents of this development will interact with, and be part of, Baldock, regardless of the parish boundary. Therefore, they cannot be incorporated into a ward that does not have the same demographic, interests, or type of populated area.

This new development will not be a rural or village neighbourhood, it will be an urban area with attachment to Baldock primarily through use of the town's community and facilities.

It could not be said that this new development is an extension of any of the villages around Baldock, so it must be part of the town including in the allocation of new or changed wards.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback.

Best wishes,

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