

*Professor Colin Mellors. (Tandridge)*  
LGBCE, PO Box 133, Blyth,  
NE24 9FE.

**Re: Boundary Commission Review, 2023, Tandridge, The North Downs.**

Dear Professor Mellors,

I write in response to the above review consultation stage to suggest a reconsideration of my original submission, enclosed herewith. In it I recommended the joining of two or three of the rural parishes on the North Downs, whose local interests overlap substantially, but whose representation has been poor for a number years, namely Woldingham, Chelsham and Farleigh and then also Tatsfield.

These parishes have either been separate and represented only by single ward councillors of their own, or have been attached to adjacent built areas with which they have little in common and whose ward councillors pay more attention to the concerns of their larger urban populations.

I note that in the current proposals for consultation that East Warlingham village is reduced in size, while West Warlingham village is increased in urban coverage. Yet East Warlingham remains attached to overwhelmingly rural Chelsham and Farleigh. The lessening, as it were, of East Warlingham makes the resulting ward a little more rural in balance, but since this is a compromise but not a complete step into a separation of these two very different areas – East Warlingham from Chelsham and Farleigh – it is unlikely, ultimately, to satisfy the different populations and landscapes concerned.

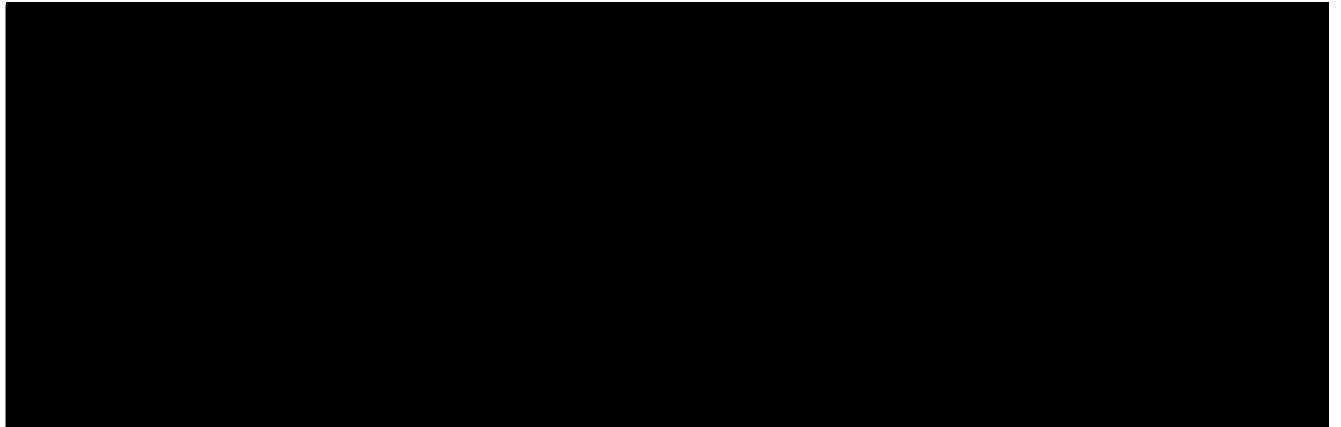
Far better, I would argue, to sever these two areas altogether, and unite Chelsham and Farleigh with adjacent Tatsfield, which I believe wants its own ward councillor and is objecting to being linked to the southerly and more populous ward of Limpsfield, where the district's dominant local councillors seek development in the north of the district on the North Downs and not in their own area. Chelsham and Farleigh was until the turn of the millenium joined with Tatsfield.

Moreover, also adjacent to Chelsham and Farleigh is Woldingham, which is rural and exceptionally wealthy (and consequently gets what it wants generally speaking). Woldingham has been allowed a ward councillor of its own as is currently the case, and to remain separate. Woldingham was favourably disposed towards a union with Chelsham and Farleigh, but the latter parish is dominated by East Warlingham, and although divided on a possible union did not reciprocate for precisely this local political reason.

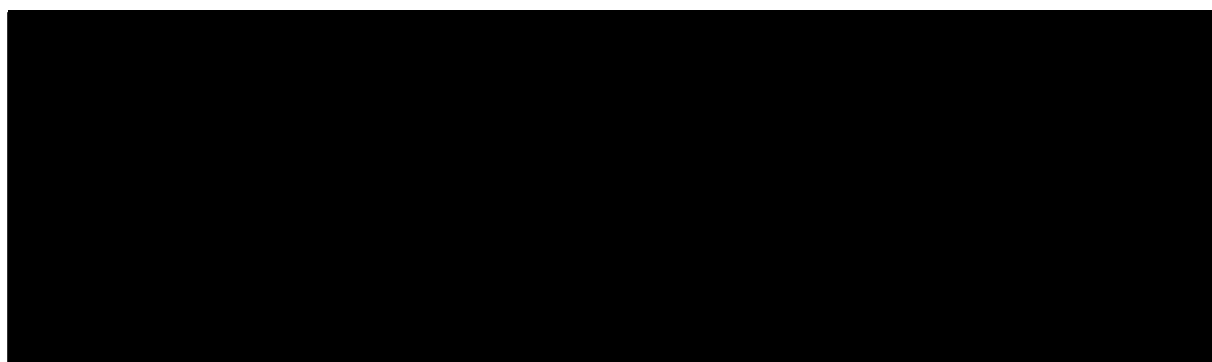
Surely it would be better for two or three of the above rural wards to be united, and I press the Commission and its advisors to seriously consider this suggestion from someone who

has served as a councillor on the North Downs as well as published widely upon natural history and culture. I urge that these wards have a great deal more in common than is being recognized in the current proposals, and could certainly make an effective rural ward on the North Downs where large swathes of countryside require much more effective electoral representation than is currently the case.

Sincerely



### Proposed Boundary Reform, Tandridge District.



### Personal Submission.

- Tandridge District has an uneven population distribution and varied landscape character, and is a somewhat rectangular Surrey district aligned north-south stretching from the North Downs to the High Weald AONB in the south. It is distinctive for the predominance of Green Belt that it contains, in which sit various settlements surrounded by countryside of high value.
- There are currently 42 ward councillors in the district spread across 20 wards. Tandridge currently votes in thirds, but nevertheless has an uneven mix of numbers of ward councillors per ward. At present there are 4 wards with 1 ward councillor; 10 with 2 ward councillors; 6 with 3 ward councillors. Tandridge currently has one of the highest ratios of ward councillors to electors anywhere in Surrey (see submission by Liberal Democrats of Tandridge 'Response to the Boundary Commission Review: Tandridge District Council for 2024'). Larger settlements are often split into more than one ward, with some rural parishes even being joined to settlement fringes.
- According to forecasts, on average in Tandridge there will be 1 ward councillor to 1,692 electors. The actual range varies between Warlingham West at 1,539 per ward councillor to Felbridge at 1,957 per ward councillor.
- The suggestions below eliminate single-councillor wards, creating nine two-councillor wards and eight three-councillor wards, thereby achieving a more even spread of ward councillors across the district. At the same time they bring together more wards of similar character so as to ensure better representation of shared interests in the areas concerned. Existing electoral boundaries are mainly used, except where some civic parish boundaries are suggested for new electoral ward boundaries. No other boundaries are introduced, so only historically established boundaries are relied upon, and overall changes are kept to a minimum. See table and map below.
- The result is 42 ward councillors across 17 new wards. Under this proposed arrangement Tandridge would therefore still rank among the highest districts in Surrey for the average ratio of ward councillors to electors.

### Proposed Boundary Reform, Tandridge District.

Ward Name	Forecast Electoral Pop.	New number of ward councillors	Approx. electoral Pop. per new councillor	Comment
Ward 1				

Warlingham East	4027	2	2013	Separate rural Chelsham and Farleigh from Warlingham East; consider dividing Warlingham village using only the B269 or await possible future development that may well occur on the western side of Warlingham (Local Plan); the boundary for Chelsham with Warlingham East might run the entire length of Harrow Road and not deviate at Daniels Lane
<b>Ward 2</b>				
Warlingham West	3077	2	1538	
<b>Ward 3</b>				
Chelsham and Farleigh	706	2	2055	Unite rural wards on North Downs, that are currently split or attached to settlements; shared concerns include countryside planning; Green Belt; AONB and AGLV; woodland, commons and greens; farming; Biggin Hill airport
Woldingham	1710			
Tatsfield and Titsey	1695			
	= 4111			
<b>Ward 4</b>				
Whyteleaf	3515	2	1757	
<b>Ward 5</b>				
Valley	3508	2	1754	
<b>Ward 6</b>				
Portley	3683	2	1841	
<b>Ward 7</b>				
Queen's Park	3183	2	1591	
<b>Ward 8</b>				
Westway	3759	2	1879	
<b>Ward 9</b>				
Harestone	3482	3	1682	Join these currently separate but adjacent wards
Chaldon	1564			

<b>Ward 10</b>				
Bletchingley and Nutfield	4859	3	1620	
<b>Ward 11</b>				
Limpsfield	3122	2	1561	
<b>Ward 12</b>				
Burstow, Horne and Outwood	5236	3	1745	
<b>Ward 13</b>				
Godstone	4924	3	1641	
<b>Ward 14</b>				
Oxted North	4336	3	1445	Tandridge removed from Oxted North; see below
<b>Ward 15</b>				
Oxted South	5200	3	1733	
<b>Ward 16</b>				
Tandridge, Crowhurst and Lingfield Parishes	570, 294 + 3823 = 4687	3	1562	Tandridge electoral ward matched to its civic parish boundary along with those of Crowhurst and Lingfield parishes
<b>Ward 17</b>				
Dormansland	2860			Restore Dormansland civic parish boundary (containing Felcourt); join to existing Felbridge electoral ward
Felbridge	1957 = 4817	3	1605	

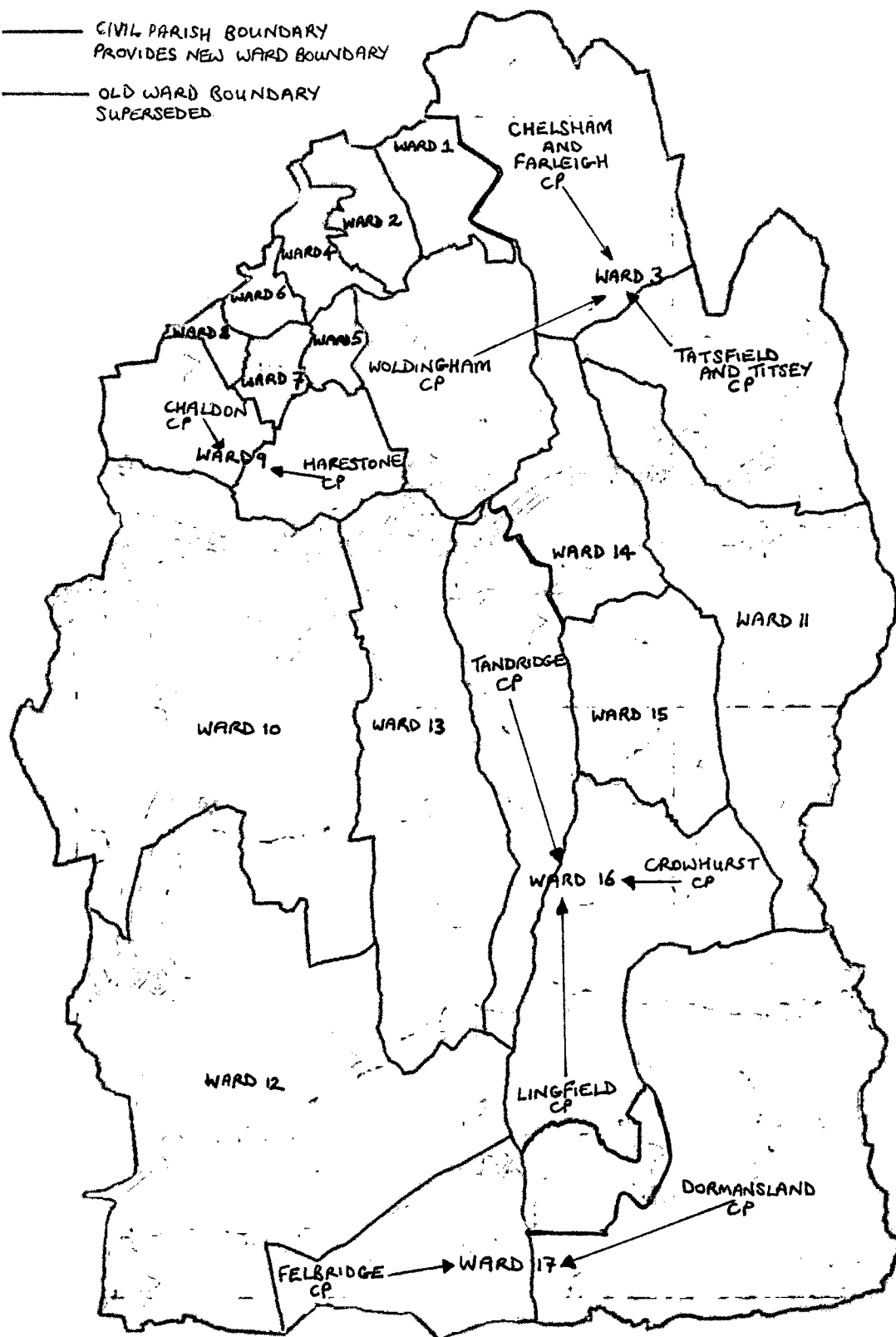
#### **A Note on Chelsham and Farleigh and on Warlingham, the North Downs.**


- At present Warlingham East is joined to rural Chelsham and Farleigh, which latter is entirely countryside consisting of dispersed hamlets and individual dwellings with no centre. The ward created by this incongruous union contains three ward councillors, but only one of them pays any attention to Chelsham and Farleigh (consult online minutes of parish council for written evidence), and he has stated that were a division to take place he would prefer to serve Warlingham where he lives. This union currently being the status quo, some support it, including in Chelsham and Farleigh, but given the considerable population of Warlingham East and its lack of similarity with Chelsham and Farleigh, it seems that this situation is a suitable candidate for a boundary change. Moreover, historically (up to 2000) Chelsham and Farleigh was joined in a

single ward with neighbouring rural Tatsfield and Titsey parish. In addition to which, neighbouring rural Woldingham parish now wishes to join with Chelsham and Farleigh.

- The shared concerns of these three parishes is clear, including: North Downs issues; countryside planning; Green Belt; AONB and AGLV; woodland, commons and greens; farming; Biggin Hill airport (to the east in Bromley, facing Tatsfield and thereafter Chelsham and Farleigh) etc. Such a ward made up of these three parishes would provide two ward councillors (see above) devoted entirely to shared rural North Downs interests, and ensure that for the first time in two decades Chelsham and Farleigh is represented by ward councillors concerned only with issues central to its major concerns. Built-up Warlingham would retain four ward councillors in two wards to concentrate solely on its own very different issues and larger population.
- It should be added that one of the declared aims of Warlingham West ward councillors is to expand their control into the neighbouring countryside parish of Woldingham in the west, while Warlingham East retains Chelsham and Farleigh. So as to justify such an expansion into the countryside, these Warlingham ward councillors have informed local people that the Boundary Commission seeks to introduce three-councillor wards across Tandridge because Tandridge votes in thirds. However, this does not seem consistent with a primary aim of the boundary review to bring together areas of similar interest in order to improve representation and governance, and nor would it be easy or satisfactory to implement in practice. Partly so as to rival nearby Caterham, these expansionist ward councillors (of different political outlooks) will exert their influence at local and district level to increase Warlingham's geographical control and, with it, their own. Rightly or wrongly, this will impact some key responses to the current boundary review for Tandridge.
- So will the Oxted and Limpsfield Residents Group (OLRG), who dominate the south of the district, and hold the balance in the district council, and as such favoured the current numbers and distribution of ward councillors in their lengthy response. Their agenda is based on resisting development in the south from the stalled Local Plan at the expense of other parts of the district.

- CIVIL PARISH BOUNDARY  
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- OLD WARD BOUNDARY  
SUPERSEDED





*Paul Kingsley. (Tandridge)*  
LGBCE, PO Box 133, Blyth,  
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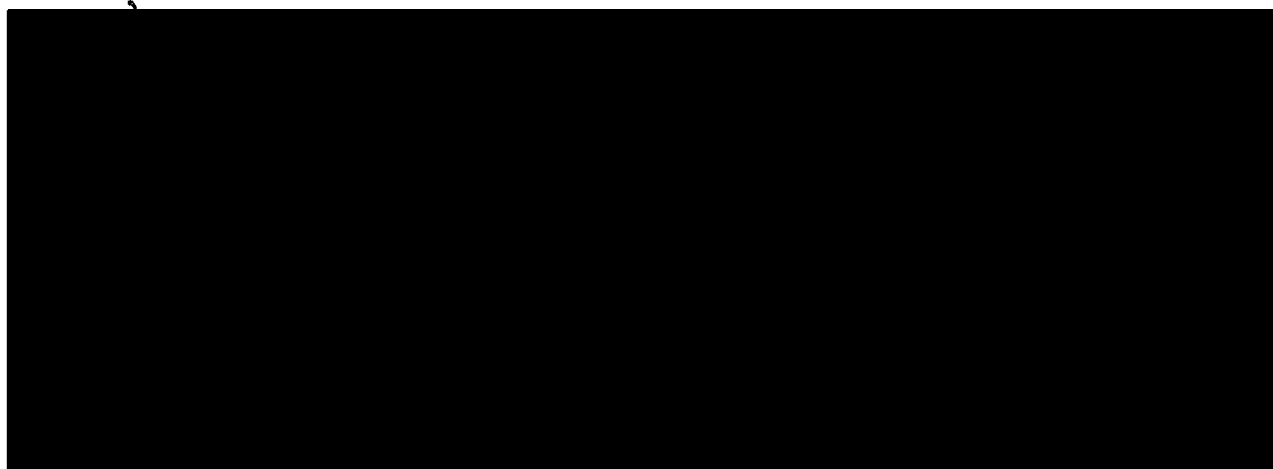
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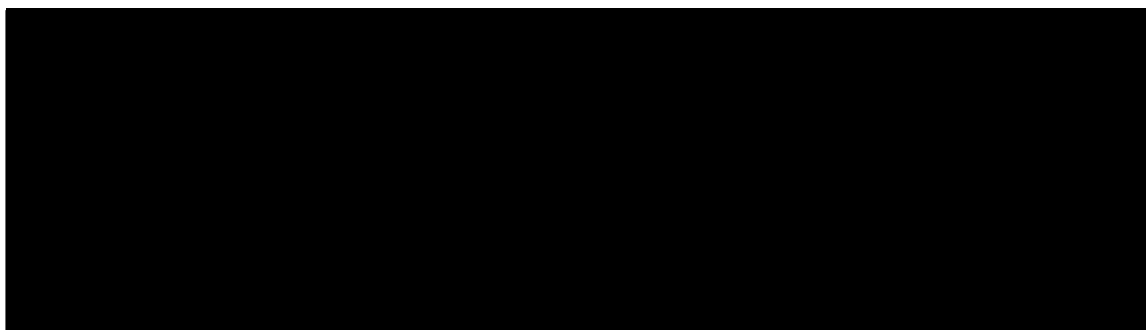


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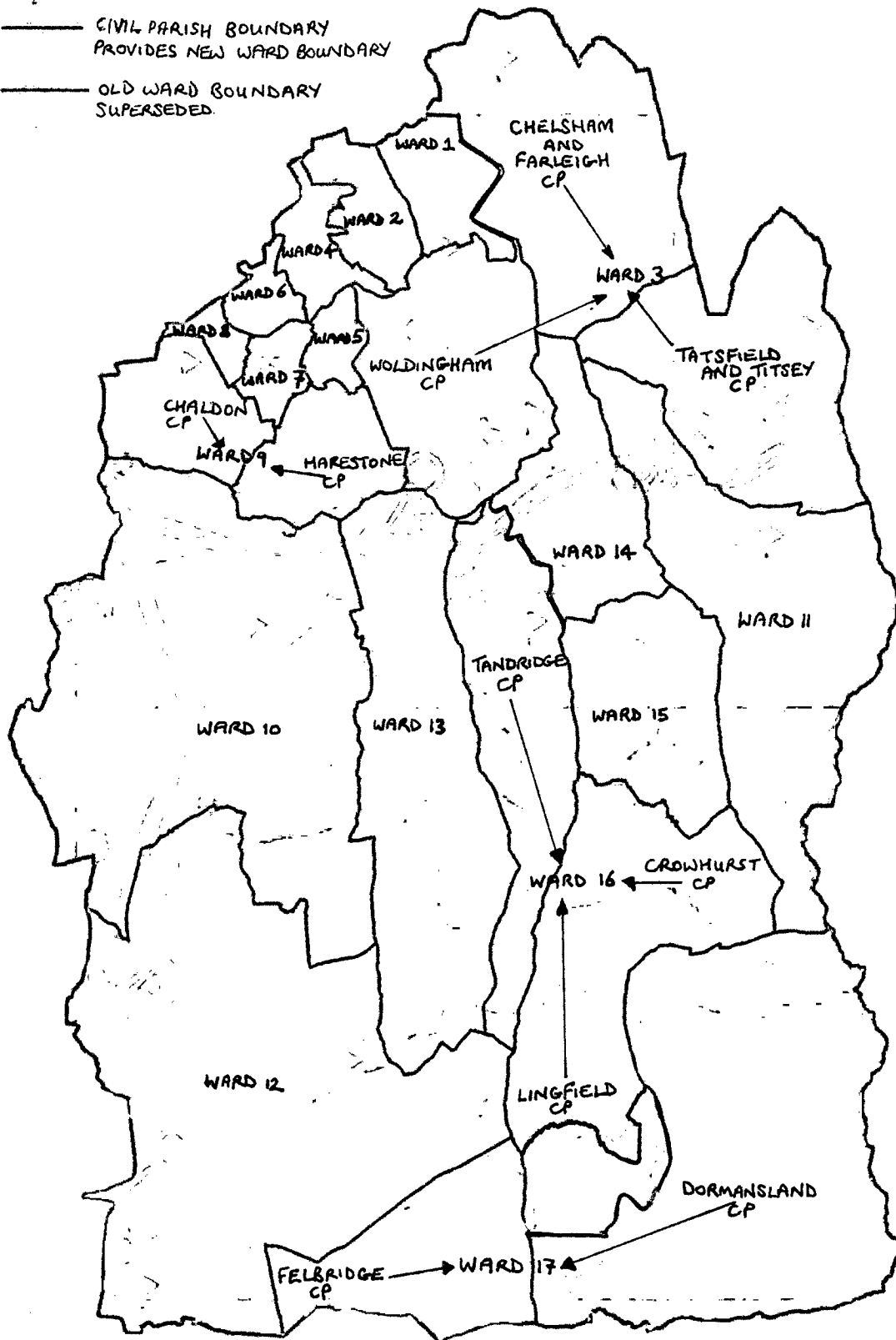
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SUPERSEDED



# Tandridge

## Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Postcode: [REDACTED]  
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

## Comment text:

See attachments

## Attached Documents:

- 0000387\_202308241011.pdf
- 0000388\_202308241011 - Tandridge.pdf