



13<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Review Officer (Lewes)  
London Government Boundary Commission for England  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor Millbank Tower  
Millbank  
London  
SW1P 4QP

**RE: Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Lewes District Council:  
Chailey and Barcombe & Hamsey Wards.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to draw the Commission's attention to the opinion of Barcombe Parish Council regarding the proposed boundary change for the wards of Chailey and Barcombe & Hamsey. The Parish Council appreciates the reason of electoral balance being a significant driver for proposed boundary changes. However, the proposed changes do not support the needs of the electorate in the area. The suggested new ward of Chailey, Barcombe & Hamsey could undermine social cohesion, decrease the District Councillors' understanding of local issues and impair their ability to respond suitably. We feel these concerns are much more important than reaching an arbitrary 'acceptable level of electoral equality'.

The key points that are important to our electorate are as follows:

- Barcombe and Hamsey residents have a different geographical 'pull' to the Chailey community. Barcombe residents use Lewes for employment, transport and leisure services. Chailey residents use Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill for these activities.
- There is no direct public transport linking villages in Chailey ward with Barcombe.
- Will make a huge geographical area for Councillors to cover.
- Majority of residents of Chailey ward live in the north of the ward near to Wivelsfield. Only the villages of South Chailey and South Street could be said to be near to the west and north of Barcombe & Hamsey ward.

If the Boundary Commission is unwilling to leave the existing Chailey/Wivelsfield ward as it is because the average electorate number per councillor is too large, then our preferred option is that some part of Chailey ward, made up of part of South Chailey village and/or South Street Village, be transferred to Barcombe & Hamsey ward.

Yours faithfully

Julia Shelley

Clerk to the Barcombe Parish Council