

Final Report from the Boundary Committee

We accept the boundaries as recommended in the final report of the Boundary Committee however we have reservations on the names of two wards.

Ward Names

During the consultation with the public that resulted in the boundaries in the final recommendations for the South Eastern area of Hemel Hempstead there was no opportunity to offer names to the wards proposed in options A and B. Our proposals for the two wards amended in this consultation are as follows.

Bennetts End

In the final recommendation the Boundary Committee changed the draft name for this ward from Belswains & Bennetts End to just Bennetts End. Cllr Anderson of Kings Langley, who said, that the name would not be one that residents would recognise, prompted the name change by his submission.

We have taken the view that this name does not fully reflect the community the boundary covers. The Bennetts End community has been split in half by the proposed boundary with Leverstock Green Ward, the heart of Bennetts End is now in a neighbouring ward.

The lower part of the ward contains three references to Belswains, the historical name for this area (as shown on Victorian maps), Belswains Field, Belswains Primary School and Belswains Lane. Cllr Anderson ignored these three references and the historical name for the area in his submission. The area name is also used by businesses located in or near the proposed ward.

The Belswains area (mainly AQB & AEB polling districts) refers to the area of older housing in the south of the ward, which contrasts to the new town development of Bennetts End (AQA) in the northern part of the ward.

We believe this is strong evidence that there is a close association between the name Belswains and the area which local residents will recognise.

Because of the strong connection to the area to the name Belswains and the fact half of Bennetts End has been transferred to a neighbouring ward.

We ask the Electoral Commission to reinstate the draft name of “Belswains & Bennetts End” as the name for this ward. An alternate name could be “Belswains & Bennetts End West”.

Leverstock Green

The Leverstock Green ward has grown well beyond the recognised area known as Leverstock Green and now includes the Tile Kiln Estate, the Northend Estate and the central and northern Bennetts End. The proposed ward includes the historical settlements of Bennetts End, Tile Kiln and North End along with the original village of Leverstock Green as shown on Victorian maps.

As the modern community of Bennetts End has been split in two we believe the new ward name should reflect the addition of this substantial area. Nearly a quarter of the new Leverstock Green ward's population will come from the area that is geographically Bennetts End. Which in itself is over 60% of the core of the Bennetts End community (defined as mainly the AQA polling district).

The other distinct area in the ward in that the housing type differs from the majority of the ward is Northend (ALC), which makes up a significant minority, 10% of the population of the new ward.

We therefore propose the ward should be named “Leverstock Green & Bennetts End East” or “Leverstock Green & Bennetts-Northend”