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24th June, 2010

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7 JUN 2010

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28 JUN 2010

The Review Officer,
Central Bedfordshire Review,
Local Government Boundary Commission,
76-78, Turmle Street,
London EC1M 5LG.

reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Dear Sir,

I am writing on behalf of Dunstable Chiltern Conservative Party Ward Committee. This consists of sitting Central Bedfordshire Unitary Authority and Dunstable Town Councillors, together with members who are residents of Chiltern Ward.

We wish to respond to the draft recommendations for Dunstable, which were discussed at our recent committee meeting. In particular, we are very concerned to see that the proposal is to dissolve Chiltern Ward.

The history of the Ward is as follows :-

- Chiltern Ward was established at the 2002 Electoral Boundary Review when mainly Central Ward electors were divided into a "new" Central Ward and a "new" Chiltern Ward. (Appendix 1)
- In 2008 when agreement had been reached that there would be a Central Bedfordshire Unitary Authority, Dunstable Central, Dunstable Chiltern and Dunstable Manshead Wards were amalgamated into Dunstable Downs Ward for Unitary Elections. Chiltern Ward remained as a single ward for town Council Elections. (Appendix 2)
- Now in 2010 the proposal is to amalgamate the current Watling Ward with a large part of Chiltern Ward into a two member Watling Ward. The remaining Chiltern Ward electors would vote in Central Ward.

We believe that the above proposal is very unfair to Chiltern Ward electors and if it goes ahead will mean that many of the electors will have been subjected to three changes of Wards in eight years. Building up a Ward so that electors feel part of their neighbourhood takes time and this has been constantly interrupted by them having to change Wards.

Our aim has always been to build a cohesive community and these constant changes make this more difficult to achieve. It also deters electors from voting or becoming more active in their local communities.

2.

- The proposed merger of Watling Ward with part of Chiltern Ward brings with it two diverse communities with different lifestyles. Some examples are :-
- Chiltern Ward electors shop at the large supermarkets and the Town Centre for most of their needs, but do on the odd occasion use the Langdale Road and West Street shopping parades for one-off items. They go no further than this, i.e. Langdale Road/Lowther Road junction.
- When they take a walk Chiltern Ward electors choose to go to Dunstable Downs or along Green Lanes. If they have young children they either take them to Bennetts Recreation Ground or Grove House Gardens in the centre of Dunstable. They do not use Watling Ward facilities.
- When they attend Church the majority of Chiltern Ward electors use the main Churches in the Town Centre and some worship at Totternhoe Parish and Langdale Road Churches.

In essence, Watling and Chiltern Wards have little in common. There is much more affinity between Central and Chiltern Wards.

We therefore wish to put forward an alternative proposal as follows :-

1. Make Watling Ward into a one member ward.
2. Accept the proposal as it stands for Central Ward in the draft review, and then amalgamate part of Watling Ward into Central Ward to make a two member ward.

We suggest that this could be done by :-

- (a) Adding together the projected numbers for Central and Watling Wards i.e.

Central	3712	(These figures include the current Chiltern Ward)
Watling	+ <u>7755</u>	
Total	<u>11467</u>	

- (b) Making Watling Ward a one member ward by taking all of the electors in W1, W4 and W5 polling stations and part of W3 polling station. All of these are in Watling Ward. (Appendix 3 for streets and Appendix 4 for map)

We believe this would give a total of approximately 3936 electors. Although this is higher than the ideal 3500 electors per Councillor, we believe it is manageable given that Watling Ward's lower super output

3.

areas are all in the least deprived 30% in England. (DCLG Indices of Deprivation – Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007)

- (c) Subtracting Watling Ward's one councillor number from the total electorate :

Total electorate	11467
Watling electors	- <u>3936</u>
Total	<u>7531</u>

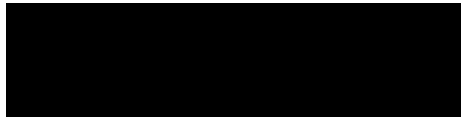
- (d) It follows that there would be 7531 electors to form a two member enlarged Central Ward, as proposed above, i.e. 3765 electors per Councillor.

We believe that this would be a much better outcome for the current electors of Chiltern Ward, especially as they are already working with Central Ward as part of Downs Ward for Unitary Elections.

We would like to inform you that we have consulted Central Ward colleagues and that they and that they are in agreement with our proposal.

We look forward to hearing the final decision.

Yours faithfully,



Cllr. Mrs. S. Newton,
Ward Chairman and Dunstable Town Councillor
On behalf of –
CBC Unitary Councillors, A.Green, N. Young and C. Hegley,
Dunstable Town Councillors, J. Anklesaria and E. Jones,
Residents, Ms. J. Cawdell, Mrs. E. Linsey and Mrs. J. Puddefoot

NEW WARDS - CENTRAL & CHILTERN

New Central Ward

The area of existing Central ward bounded by:

North of West Street from High Street North to Chiltern Road;
South East Side, and South and East of Chiltern Road to High Street North;
East of High Street North from Chiltern Road to Railway Line;
West of Railway Line to Church Street;
North of Church Street from Railway Line to High Street North

PLUS

East of High Street South to Britain Street;
North of Britain Street and Englands Lane to Station Road;
West of Station Road

Roads added are:

High Street South – East Side;
Wood Street;
Parkside;
Britain Street – North Side;
Wellington Terrace;
Englands Lane – North Side;
Priory Road;
Priory Court;
Church Street – South Side;
St. Peters Road;
Bigthan Road;
Alfred Street;
Station Road – West Side

New Chiltern Ward

The area of existing Central Ward less the area forming part of New Central Ward:

PLUS

South Side of Friars Walk;
South Side of First Avenue;
East Side of Langdale Road, to Appleby Gardens;
Appleby Gardens;
Ennerdale Avenue;
Grasmere Close;
Keswick Close
Penrith Avenue;
Remainder of Bowland Close

to be dissolved on 31 March 2009
With effect from 1 April 2009
CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

REGISTER OF ELECTORS 2009

CHILTERN WARD

Ward to be renamed on 1 April 2009
1 April 2009 Ward name

DUNSTABLE DOWNS WARD

In force from : 1 December 2008

European Electoral Area
Parliamentary Constituency
Polling District Letters

EASTERN
SOUTH WEST BEDFORDSHIRE
CT1, CT2, CT3

What the letters mean in front of electors names

- G** the elector can vote **only** at local government elections
- F** the elector can **not** vote at local government elections
- K** the elector can **not** vote at UK parliamentary elections
- L** the elector can **not** vote at UK parliamentary elections
- E** the elector can vote **only** at European parliamentary elections
- A date** before an elector's name shows their 18th birthday. The elector can vote at elections held on or after that date.

Note: If a name is crossed through with a double line, or the words "NAME REMOVED" appear instead of a name, it means that the elector has been removed from that address and is no longer registered there.

If your name is missing from the list

Ask a member of staff for a "Voter Registration Claim Form" or contact Electoral Services.

If you have any queries about voter registration or elections contact :-

Electoral Services, The District Offices, High Street North, Dunstable, Beds, LU6 1LF

JON RUDDICK
Electoral Registration Officer

Electoral Services Helpline : 0845 849 5971

APPENDIX 3

PROPOSED ONE MEMBER WATLING WARD –
STREET LIST BY POLLING STATION

W1*	W4*	W5*	Plus Parts of W2*
Ardley Close	Beech Road (Beech Close)	Abbey Mews	Cartmel Drive
Borrowdale Avenue	Birchside	Bibshall Crescent	Hilton Avenue
Brierley Close	Bowles Way	Graphic Close	Kirkstone Drive
Buttermere Avenue	Burges Close	Grovebury Close	Staveley Road
Candale Close	Churchill Road	Index Court, Index Drive	Tarnside Close
Carlisle Close	Garrett Close (The Pastures)	Index Drive	Ullswater Ropad
Derwent Drive	Lockhart Close	Leston Close	Langdale Road (odds 3-123)
Fox Dells	London Road	London Road (Half Moon Place)	
Furzen Close	Lowther Road	Lowther Road	
Gilded Acre	Seamons Close	Miletree Crescent	
Knotts Close	Southfields Road	Oldhill	
Lowther Road	Stipers Close	The Cheveralls	
Mardale Avenue	Watling Gardens	Tibbett Close	
Maundsey Close		Turnpike Close	
Mentmore Crescent		Valence End	
West Hill			

* All of these are in Watling Ward

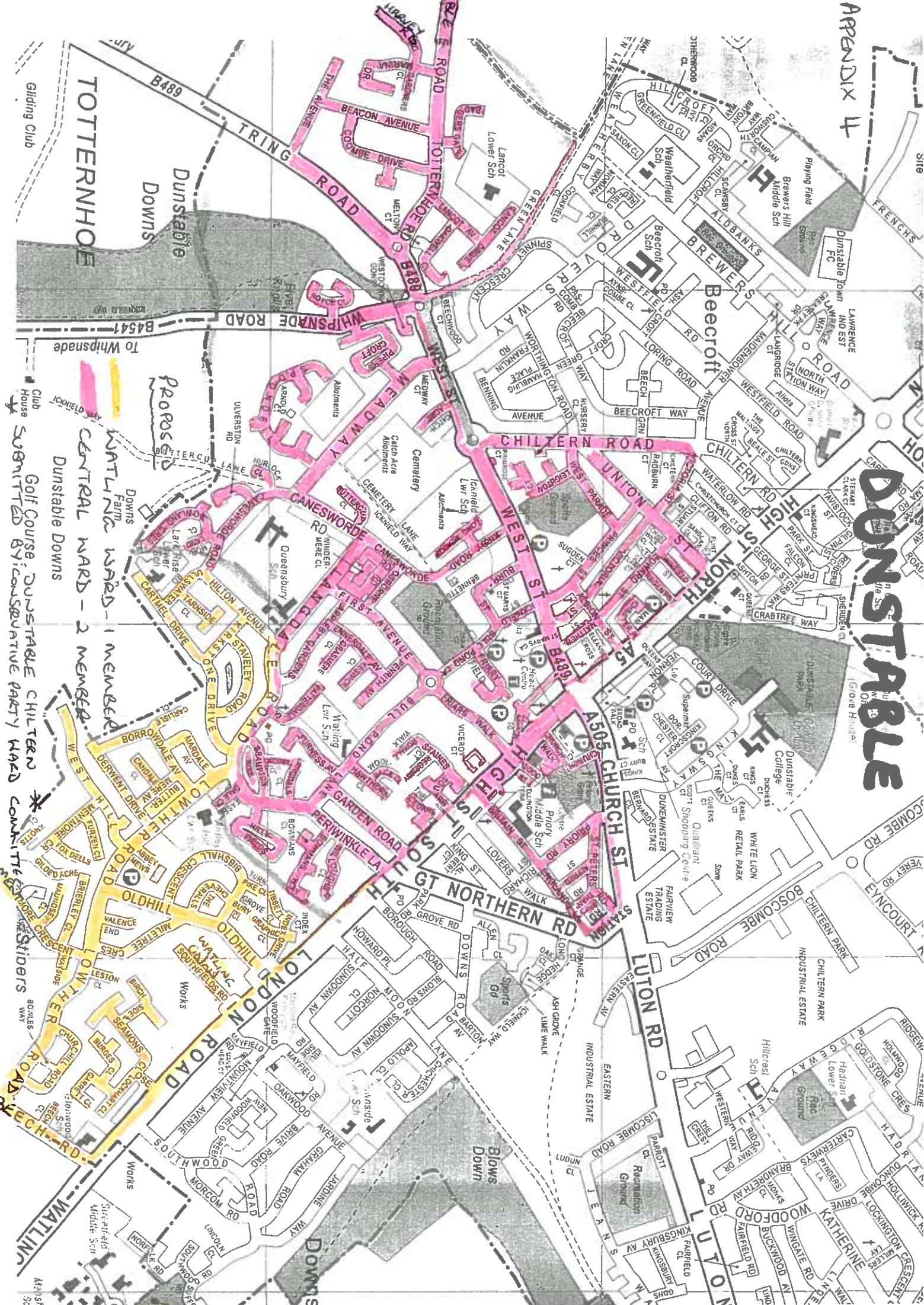
APPENDIX 3

PROPOSED TWO MEMBER CENTRAL WARD

Central Ward as proposed by the Boundary Commission, plus the whole of W2 (Watling) and part of W3 (Watling)

Central Ward as proposed by the Boundary Commission plus	W2	W3
	Bowmans Close Bowmans Way Bull Pond Lane Furness Avenue Garden Road Hawthorn Close High Street South Brittany Court Periwinkle Lane Periwinkle Terrace Regency Court Royale Walk Staines Square The Cedars Viceroy Court Willoughby Close Woolpack Close	Brampton Rise Crosby Close Easedale Close Hillyfields Langdale Close Langdale Road (odds 1-51; evens 2-66A) Patterdale Close

DUNSTABLE



WATLING WARD - 1 MEMBER

CENTRAL WARD - 2 MEMBERS

DUNSTABLE CHILTERN

Blows Down

Stickers

Submitted by: CONSERVATIVE PARTY WARD COMMITTEE