

Stevenage Borough Council**Personal Details:****Name:** Adam Mitchell**E-mail:** [REDACTED]**Postcode:** [REDACTED]**Organisation Name:** Stevenage Conservatives**Comment text:**

On behalf of the Conservative group on Stevenage Borough Council, please see our final boundary suggestion for new ward boundaries at: https://rds.statmap.co.uk/map/map.html?login=stevenage2_viewer&scenario=CONSERVATIVE_GROUP_FINAL_SUBMISSION&sid=18b91ba200fca4d2bf793f89133d2a97
In addition, please see our attached supporting documents outlining the reasons for our suggestions. Cllr Adam Mitchell

Uploaded Documents:

[https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1646000397 Conservative+Boundary+Submission.zip](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1646000397%20Conservative+Boundary+Submission.zip)

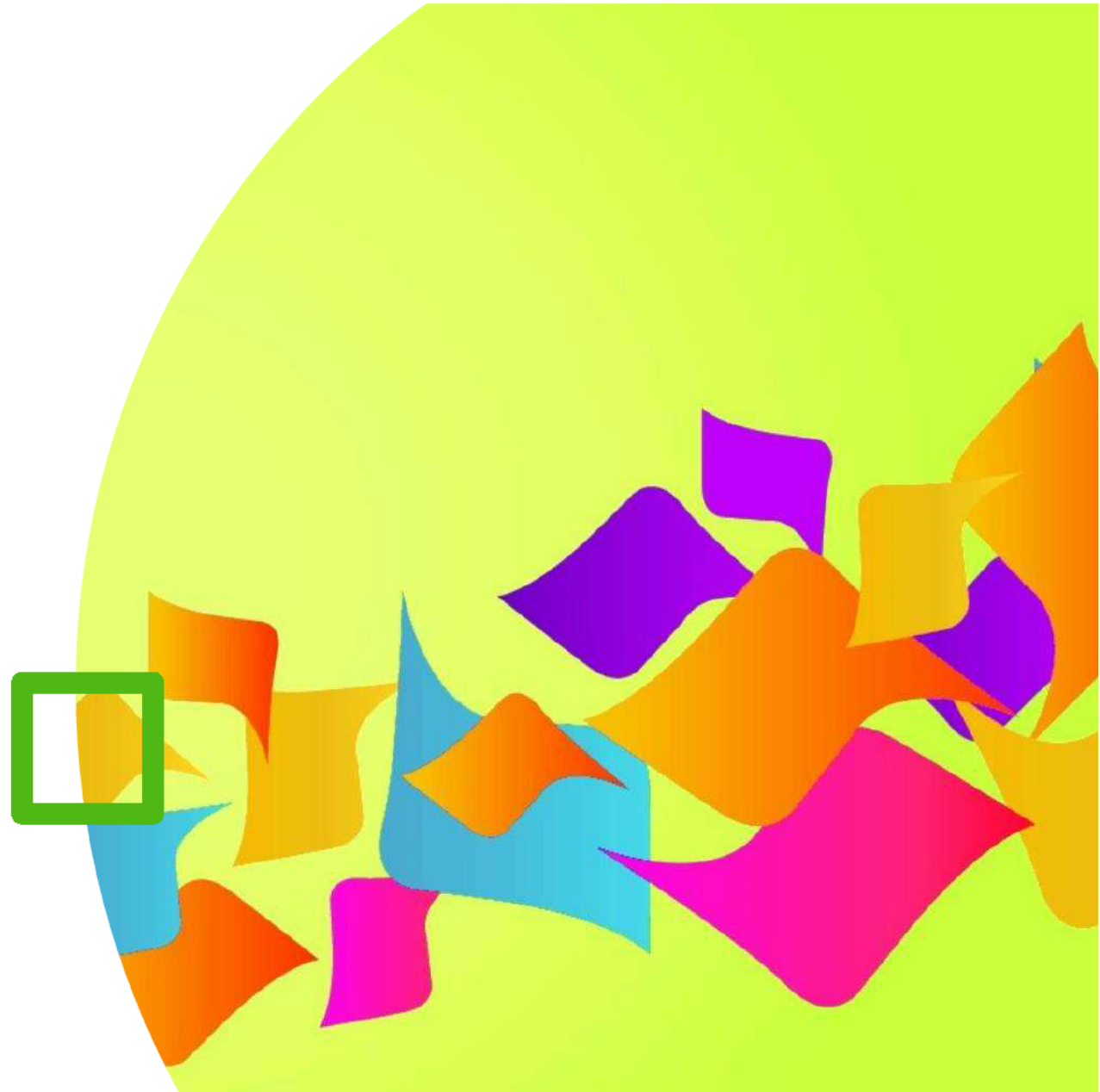


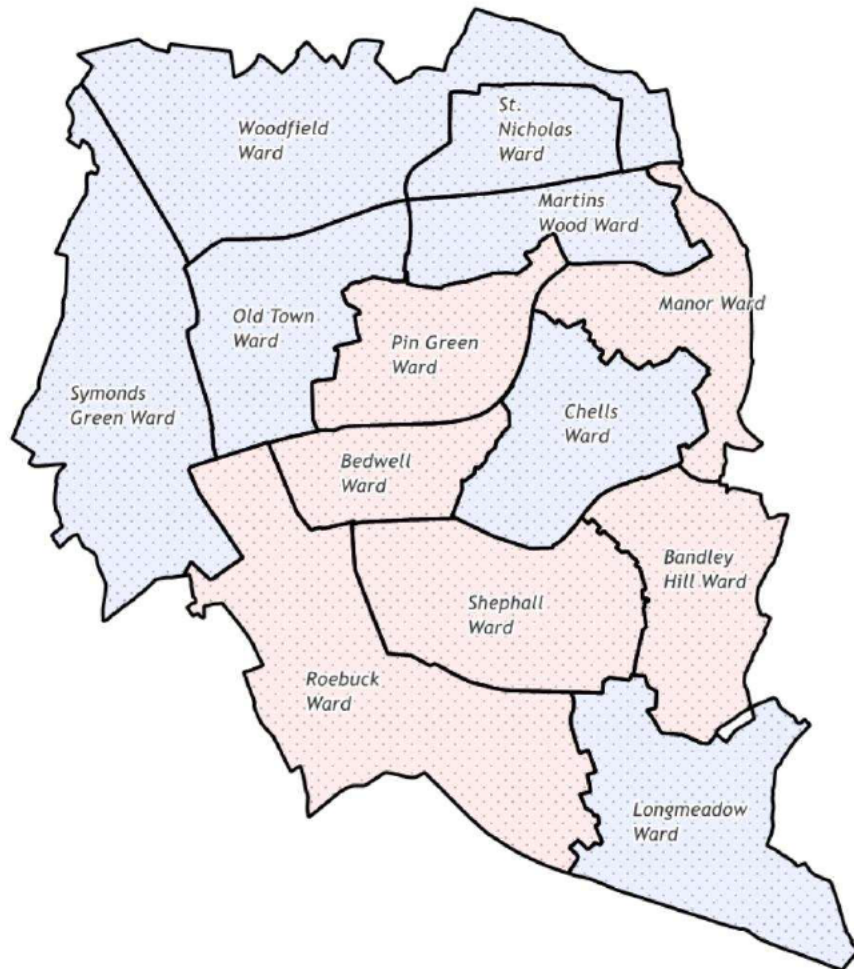
Boundary Review

Conservative Group
Proposals



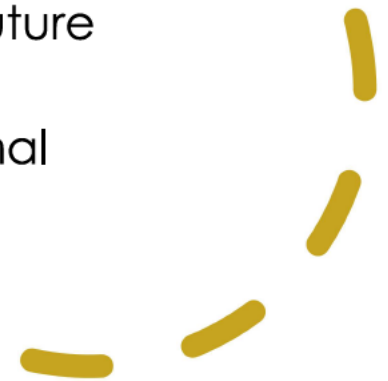
February 2022





Principles

- Preserve the historical and cultural nature of wards
- Reduce variance in wards
- Utilise existing natural boundaries
- Tries to include open space in each ward
- Looking forward to future development
- Keep changes minimal



Balanced Wards

Variance kept to within **5%**

Bedwell is kept to **0.8%** to allow for future development in the Town Centre

% of wards above 10% threshold:

0% (0)

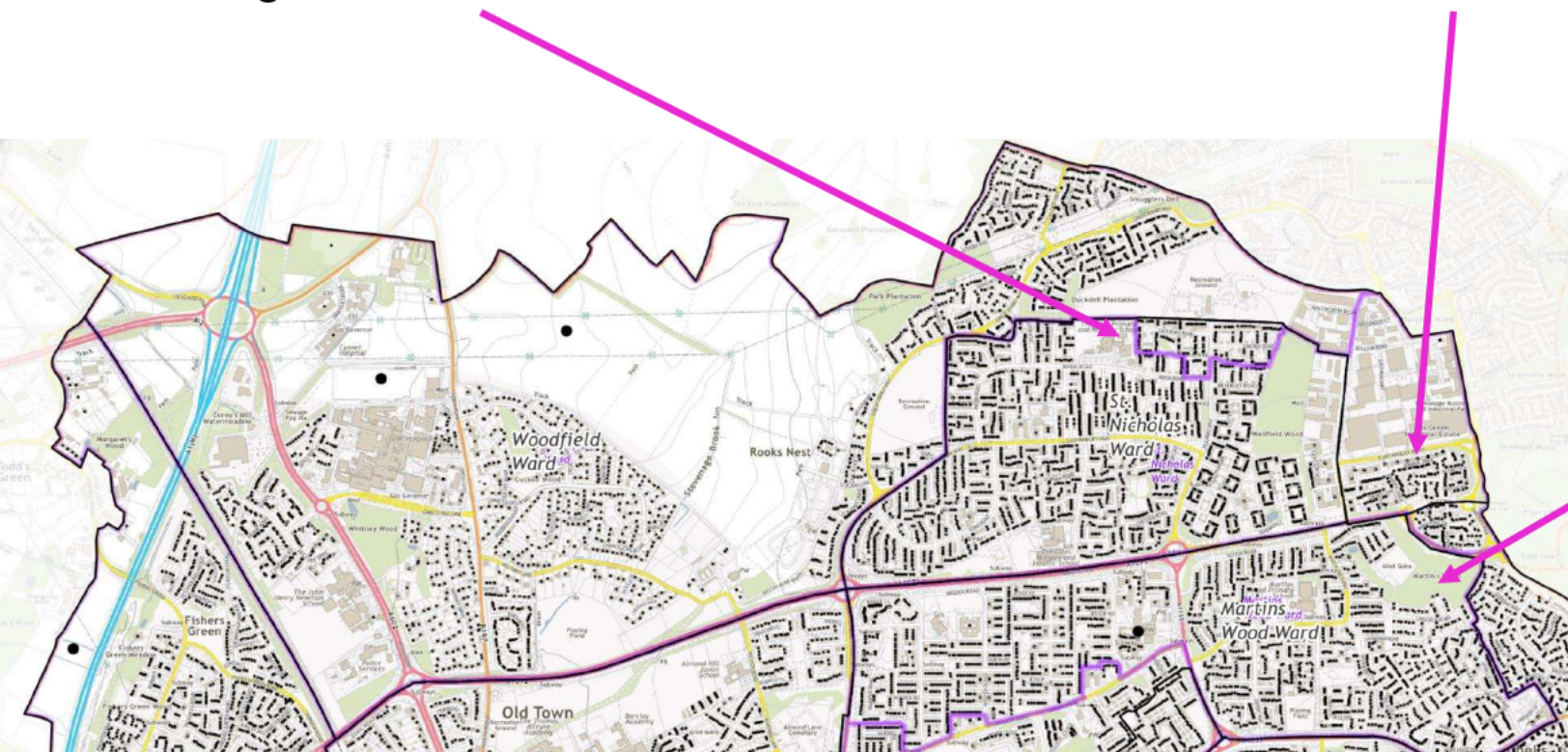
Ward	Elector count (Deviation)	Difference	Councillors: 39
Bandley Hill Ward	5612 (+191)	+3.5%	3
Bedwell Ward	5466 (+45)	+0.8%	3
Chells Ward	5308 (-113)	-2.1%	3
Longmeadow Ward	5169 (-252)	-4.6%	3
Manor Ward	5595 (+174)	+3.2%	3
Martins Wood Ward	5361 (-60)	-1.1%	3
Old Town Ward	5415 (-6)	-0.1%	3
Pin Green Ward	5556 (+135)	+2.5%	3
Roebuck Ward	5428 (+7)	+0.1%	3
Shephall Ward	5663 (+242)	+4.5%	3
St. Nicholas Ward	5246 (-175)	-3.2%	3
Symonds Green Ward	5395 (-26)	-0.5%	3
Woodfield Ward	5253 (-168)	-3.1%	3



Woodfield / St Nicholas / Martins Wood

We have returned **Sailbury Rd** and **Lincoln Rd** to **St Nicholas** where it belongs.

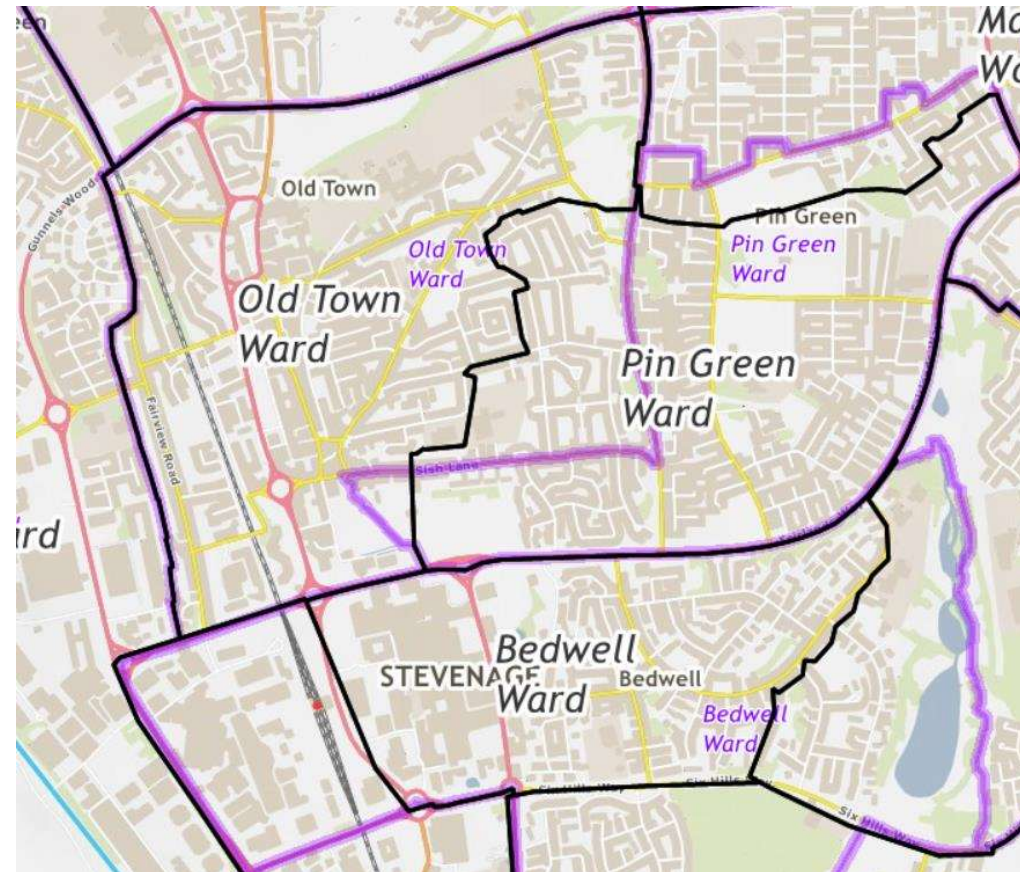
Most of the new development around **Cartwright Road** is added to **Woodfield** as a compromise to balanced numbers. This new build area has yet to develop its own identity.

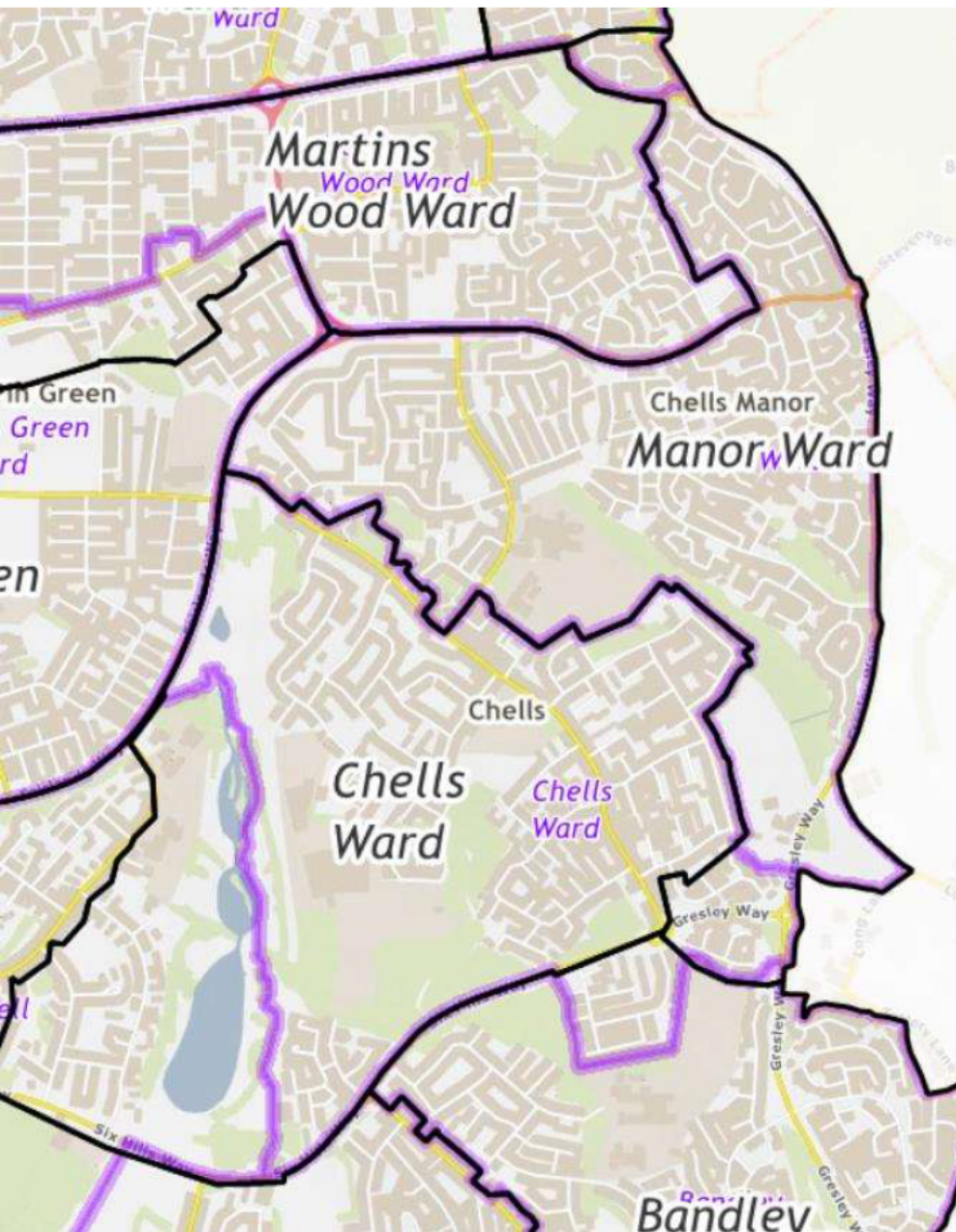


Martins Wood
must keep the
wood

Old Town / Pin Green / Bedwell

- **Bedwell** reduced due to high density development. It retains the culturally important **Town Centre** and all **Bedwell Crescent**.
- **Old Town** loses it's South East section to Pin Green but retains the roads around the war memorial that are long associated with the Old Town.
- **Pin Green** loses **Vardon Rd** to Martins Wood. It gains from Old Town areas for which shopping centres such as **Popple Way** and **Lonsdale Rd** are used in preference to the High Street. This allows Pin Green to keep it's longstanding cultural identity separate from Bedwell.





Chells / Manor / Bandlev Hill

- **Chells** expands West as Bedwell shrinks. Chells regains the lakes that are long associated with Chells, as is **Brittan Way** to the South.
- **Manor's** "hammerhead" shape is accentuated with new build areas to the North and South
- **Chells** loses the **Cromwell Rd** area to the South to Bandlev Hill

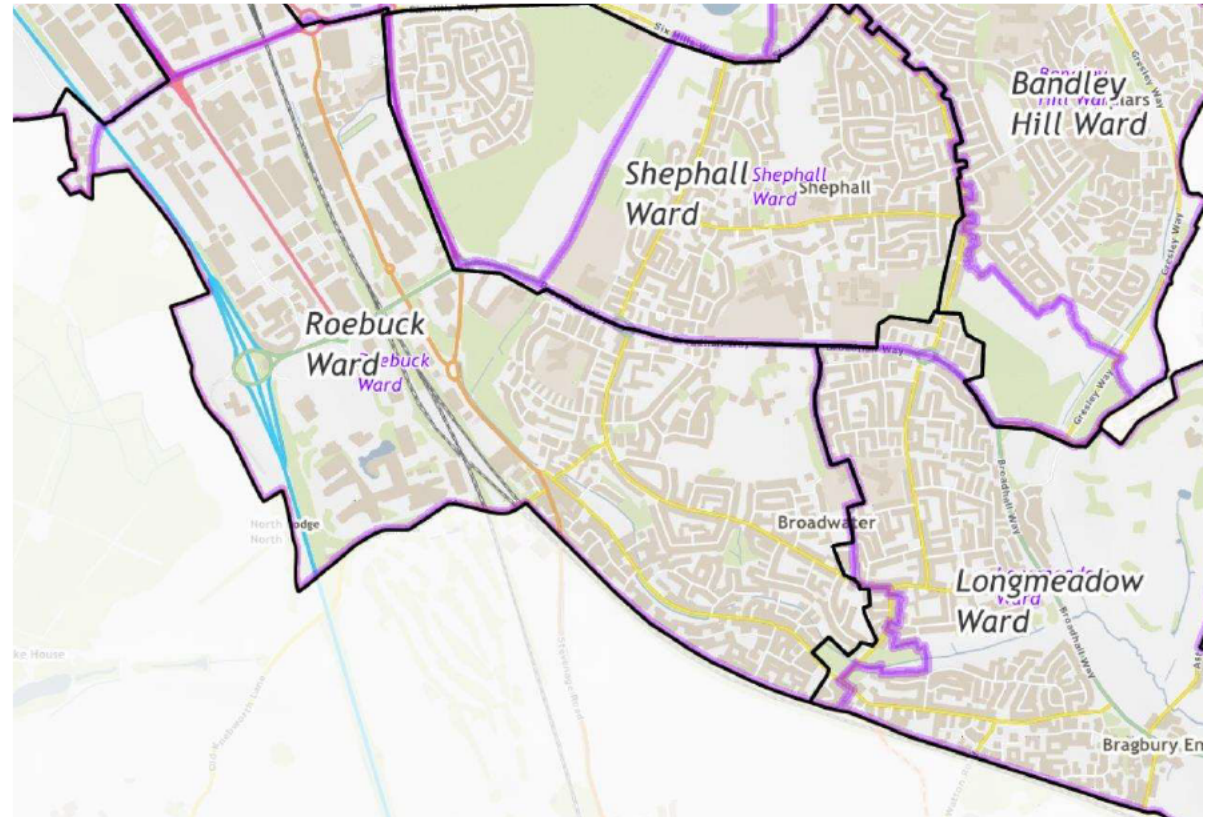
Longmeadow / Shephall / Roebuck

Roebuck takes in the proposed new developments on the Leisure Park

Norton Green is an old village with it's own identity so is included to balance variance with Symonds Green.

Shephall extends West to include **Rockingham Way** to infill a shrinking Bedwell. As this used to be the old Monkwood ward prior to 1998, this has presence.

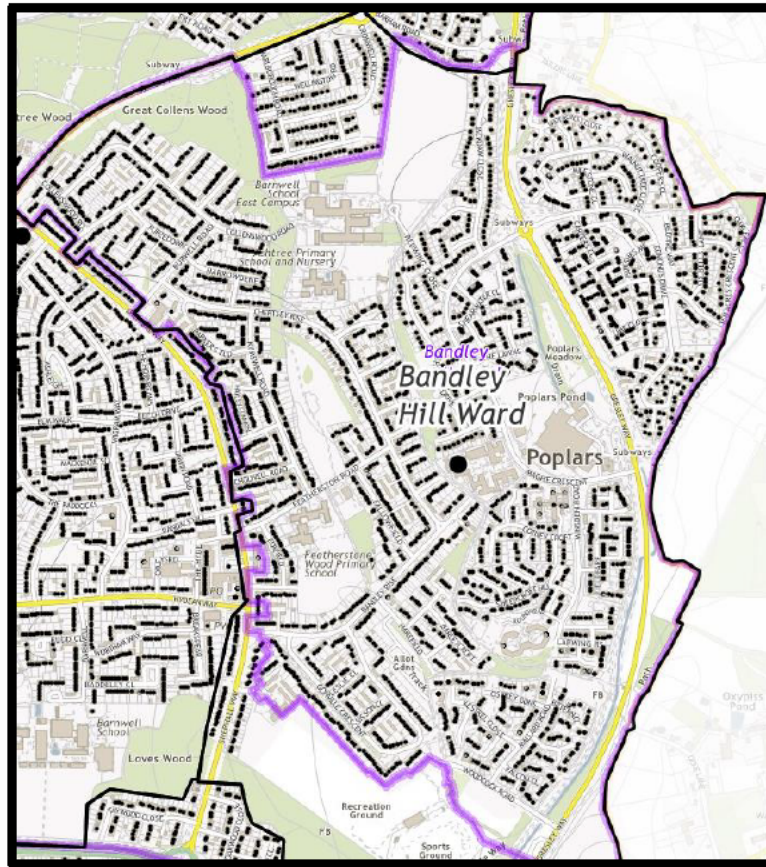
To the East it retains the majority of **Shephall Way**.



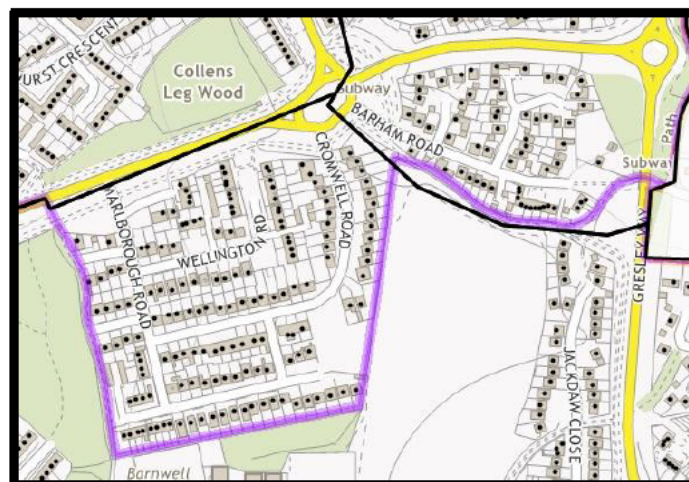
Longmeadow has to move North and West because of it's external boundaries

It gains the bottom portion of **Shephall Way** which has natural wooded boundaries and proximity to **Oaks Cross**. It extends West a little along **Broadwater Crescent** and now takes in all of the Longmeadow

Bandley Hill Ward



In our proposal we have sought to create logical boundaries for the ward by using main roads as well as the borough boundary, as seen in the image above.



We propose the addition of Wellington Road, Marlborough Road and Cromwell Road in the north of Bandley Hill. While there would be an argument to include Barham Road, this would affect the population distribution between the two wards.

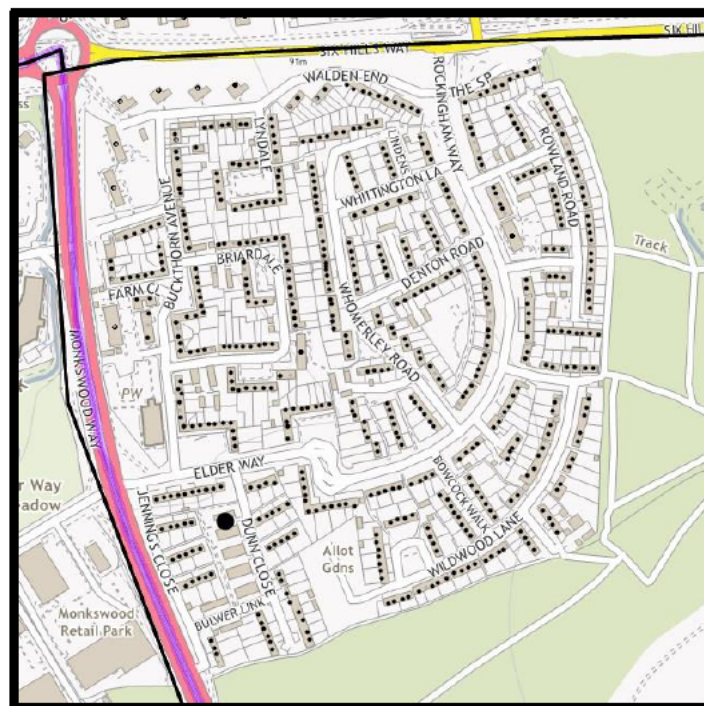


Shephall Way is a natural boarder between Shephall and Bandley Hill wards, as such we have largely maintained the boundary along this road. We propose the addition of the lower half of Shephall Way, from the mini-roundabout junction at the eastern end of Hydean Way down to the southern end of Shephall Way where the road runs through Loves Wood/Ridlins Wood. This must happen to balance out the population targets between Shephall and Bandley Hill, also this small portion of Shephall Way is at the base of the 'Bandley Hill' itself and so has a logical association with the area.

Bedwell Ward

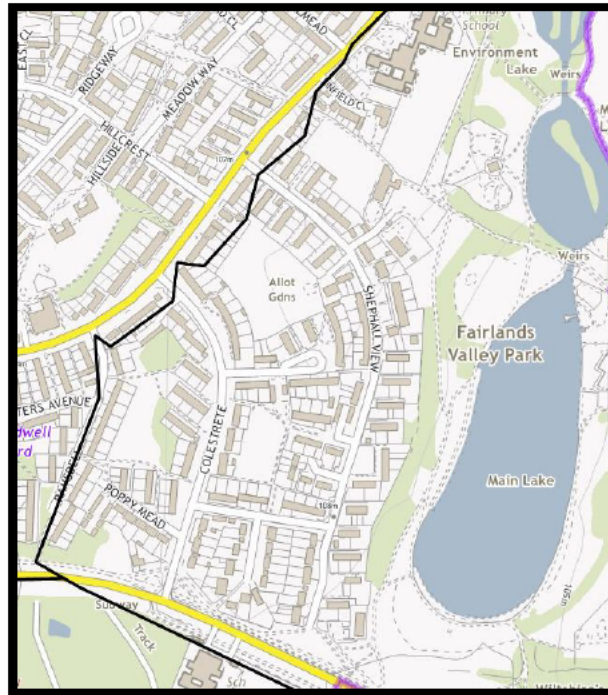


Bedwell has had to change dramatically, the existing ward is vastly oversized. This is due to the high density developments in and around the town centre. As a result, it is difficult to keep all of the areas historically associated with Bedwell within the ward. Culturally, Bedwell must include the Town Centre and Bedwell Crescent. To remove either of these areas from the ward would be inappropriate to the historic and cultural geography of the area.



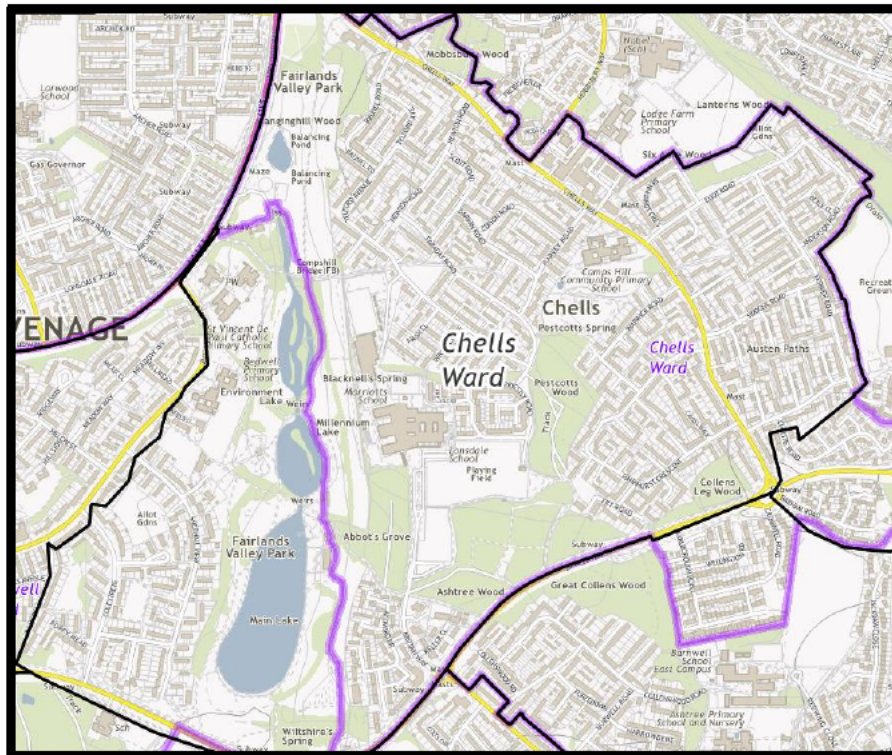
We have had to remove the Rockingham Way area from Bedwell to Shephall, while we accept that this area does not have a major connect to Shephall, Bedwell must be downsized to reach its population target and the Rockingham Way area is already detached from the main body of Bedwell. The case for

this is further strengthened by the fact that this area was previously a ward in its own right. This area was previously the central focus of the Monkswood ward, which was merged with the Bedwell Plash ward in the late 1990s. Therefore, a precedent has been set historically which separates this area from what is traditionally considered to be Bedwell.

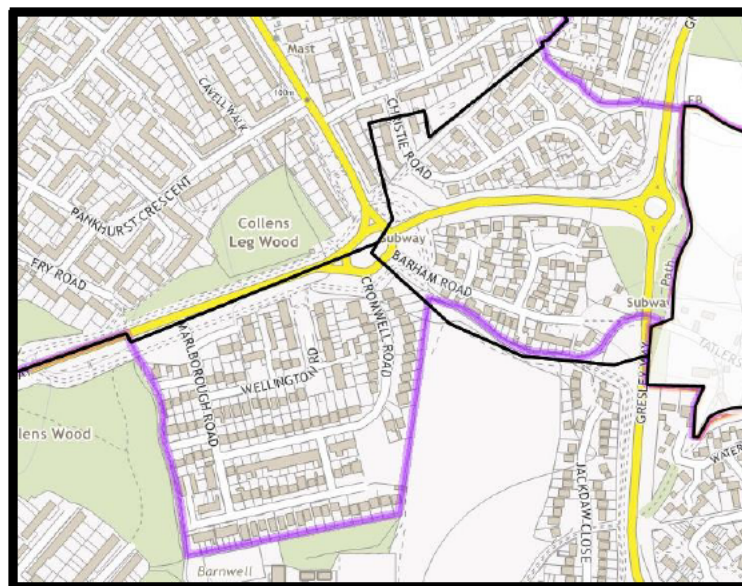


We would suggest that Colestrete, Shephall View and connecting roads be allocated to Chells. We accept that these areas would not usually be considered part of Chells, but Chells is undersized and thus requires the extra roads. Furthermore, they are only separated from Chells by the Fairland Lakes, so these streets share the geographical proximity to Fairlands lake.

Chells Ward

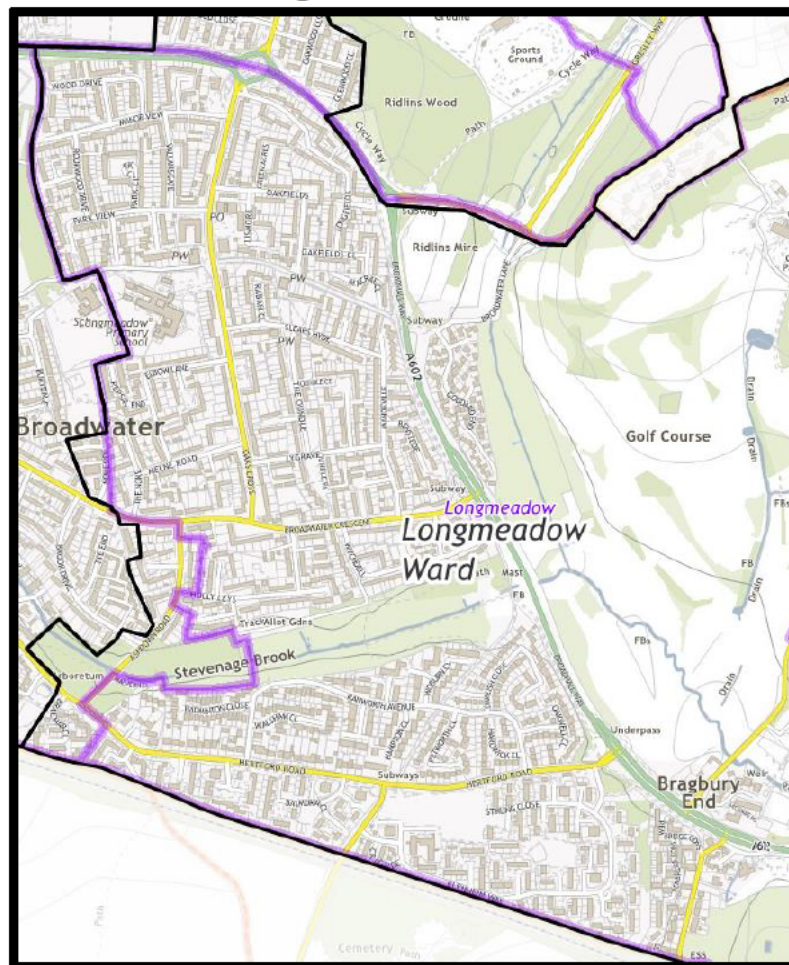


Due to the required changes to surrounding wards, Chells has to undergo some notable alterations.

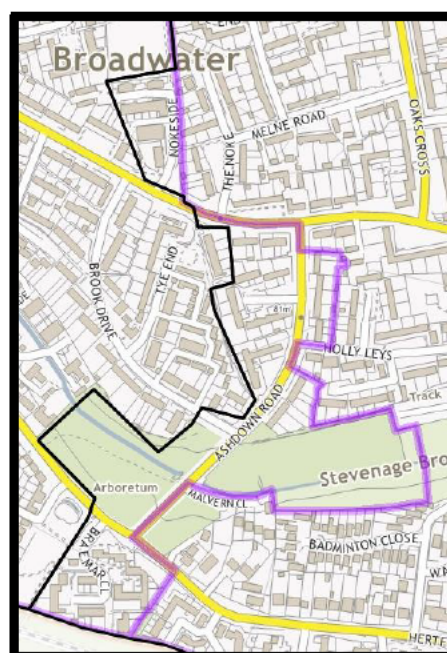


We suggest Chells loses Cromwell Road, Wellington Road and Marlborough Road to Bandley Hill, due to Bandley Hill being undersized. We propose that Chells also loses Barham Road and Christie Road to Manor, which is also undersized. This creates a natural border along Six Hills Way and Ferrier Road.

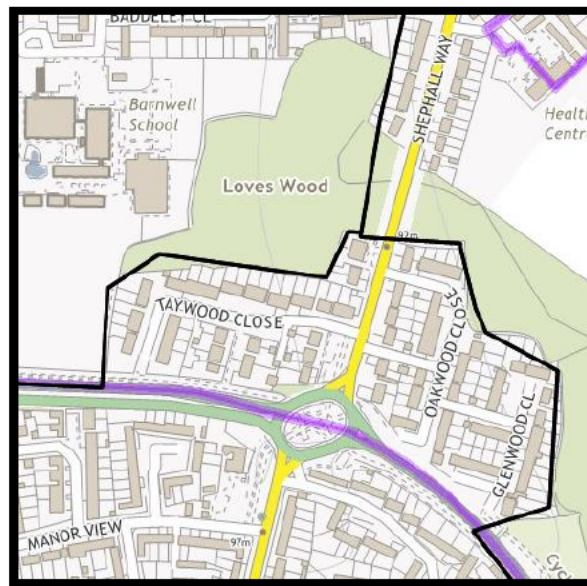
Longmeadow Ward



The existing Longmeadow is currently 12.7% under populated, meaning the ward must expand. As Longmeadow is in the southeast corner of Stevenage, and is bound by the fixed borough limits on two sides, the ward can only expand to the west and north.



We suggest that Ashdown Road and Braemar Close should move into Longmeadow. These two roads were already a natural boundary between Longmeadow and Roebuck and have simply moved from being a Roebuck weighted boundary to a Longmeadow weighed boundary. We also propose that eight properties from the southern side of Broadwater Crescent move from Roebuck to Longmeadow. This is a logical proposal since the houses directly opposite these eight properties are currently within Longmeadow. Longmeadow contains The Noke already, but the relatively new developed adjacent to this street, called Nokeside, is currently in Roebuck. We propose that Nokeside moves into Longmeadow so that it is in the same ward as its older namesake, The Noke. Braemar Close is separated from the rest of the Roebuck section of Hertford Road by a sizable area of open green space as well as a runoff pit for rainwater. This creates a natural boundary between Braemar Close and the rest of Roebuck ward.



We propose the inclusion of three streets to the northern tip on Longmeadow, which are currently in Shephall. The roads in question are Glenwood Close, Oakwood Close, and Taywood Close. These streets are separated from Shephall by a natural geographical border on all sides. To the north and east of these roads is woodland, while the roads are abutted by school fields to the west. These roads are only separated from the existing Longmeadow by Broadhall Way (A602) but are geographically closer to Oaks Cross shops than The Hyde shops in Shephall. Therefore in terms of residents everyday lives, they will look to Longmeadow based amenities rather than those in Shephall.

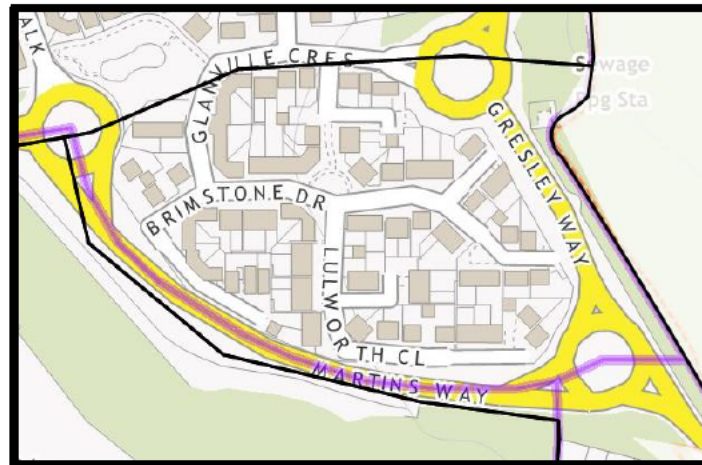
Manor



We believe Manor ward is largely acceptable on its current boundaries, with the addition of a handful of roads to bring the population variance closer to the target.

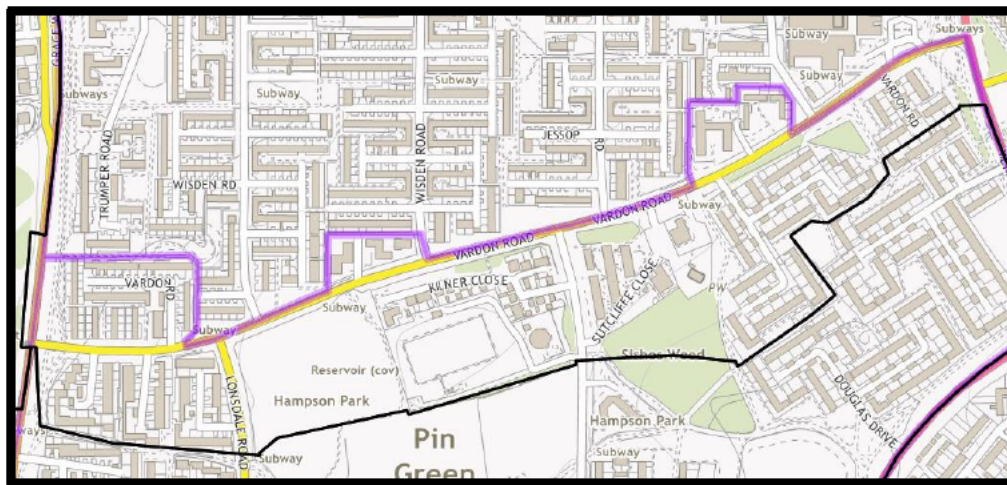
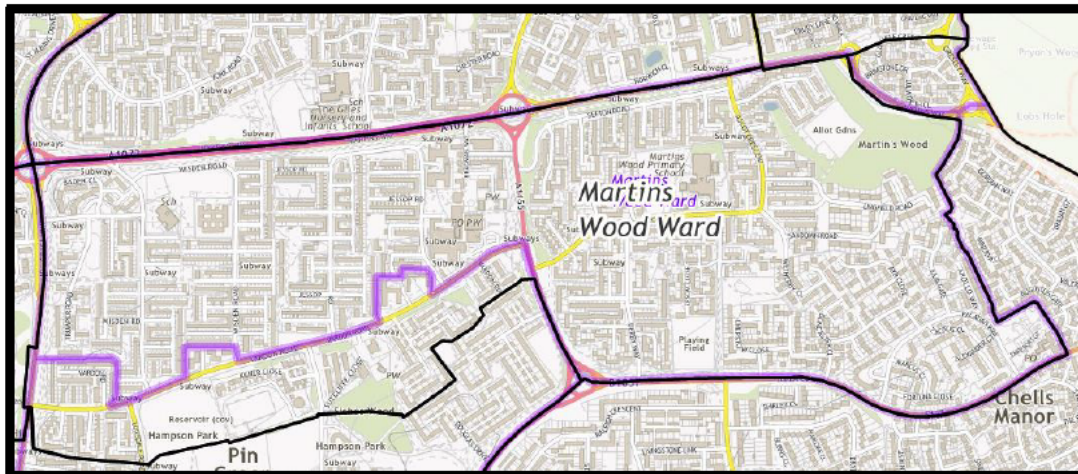


We propose adding Barham Road and Christie Road from Chells into Manor, these, largely, newer roads will be in keeping with the fact that much of Manor is a 1990s development. Barham Road is in keeping with this more modern character of the Manor ward as the road is much newer than most of Chells.



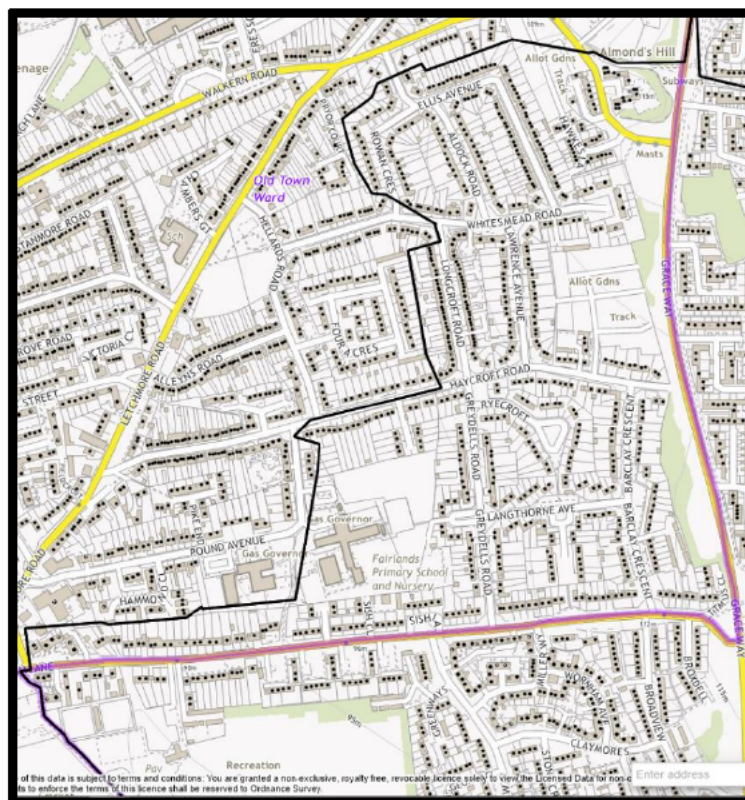
Furthermore, we propose the additions of approximately a third of the Chrysalis Park estate to Manor. This would be in keeping as it is a new build estate, which fits the more modern character of Manor ward. Also, this area is wedged between St Nicholas, Manor, Martins Wood and Great Ashby, and has not yet developed any identity with anyone of these wards. This means that splitting Chrysalis Park will not cause any offence to historic or cultural boundaries.

Martins Wood



We propose relatively minor changes to Martins Wood. We suggest that Vardon Road in its entirety should be added to Martins Wood from Pin Green. Vardon Road already runs the length of the Martins Wood boundary and has some cultural recognition to the area. For the sake of a neat boundary, we proposed that Martins Wood gains the ancillary roads off Vardon Road which are Kilner Close and Sutcliffe Close. This also means that Martins Wood will be close to the target population.

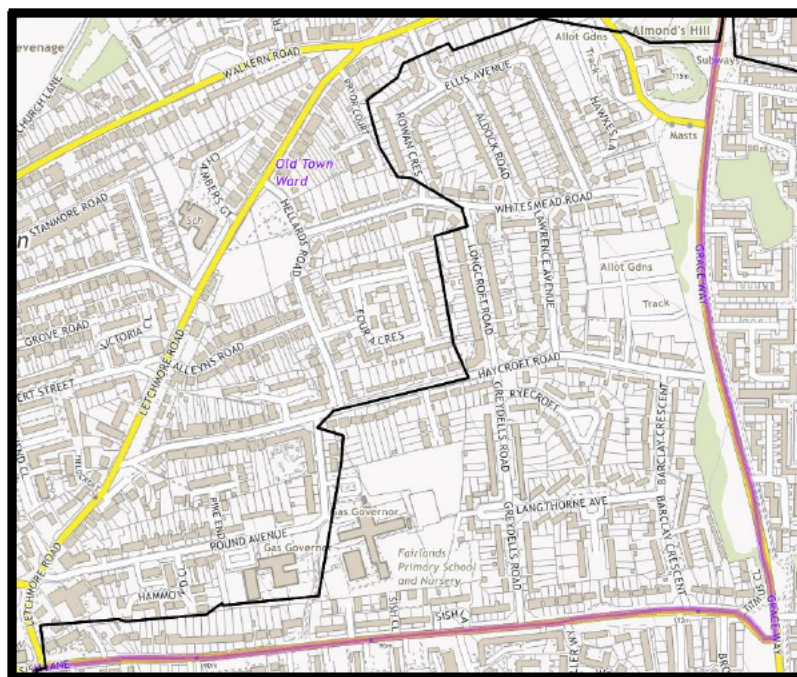
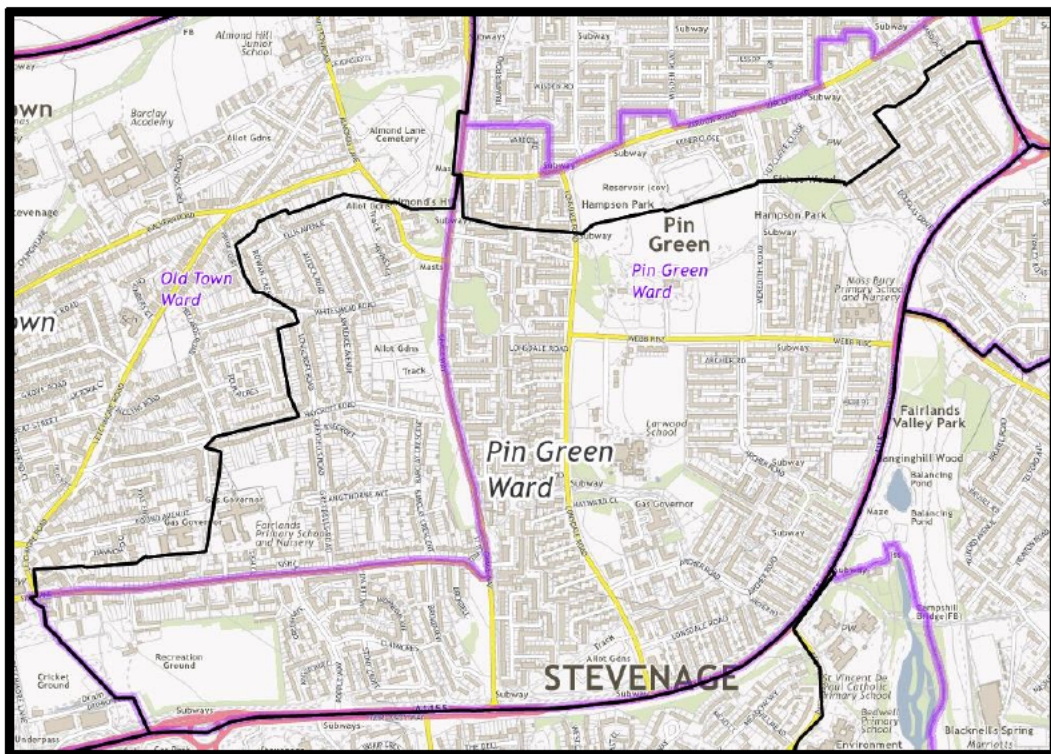
Old Town



We acknowledge that there must be substantial change to Old Town since it is oversized in terms of population. As such we proposed removing Sish Lane, Langthorne Road, Barclay Crescent, Ryecroft, and Greydells Road. These roads are already surrounded by Pin Green to the east and south.

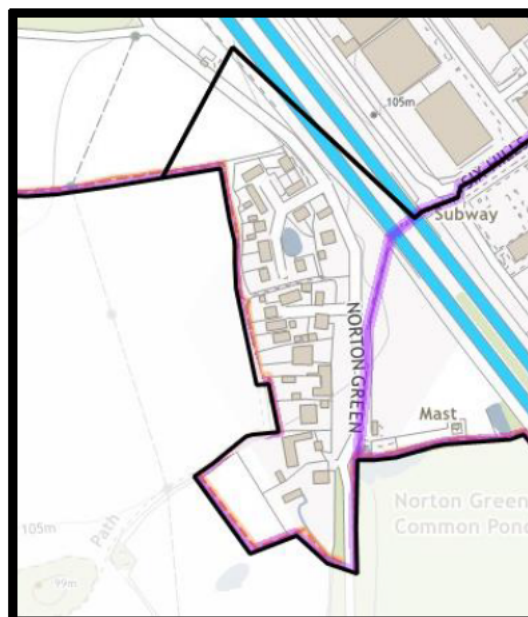
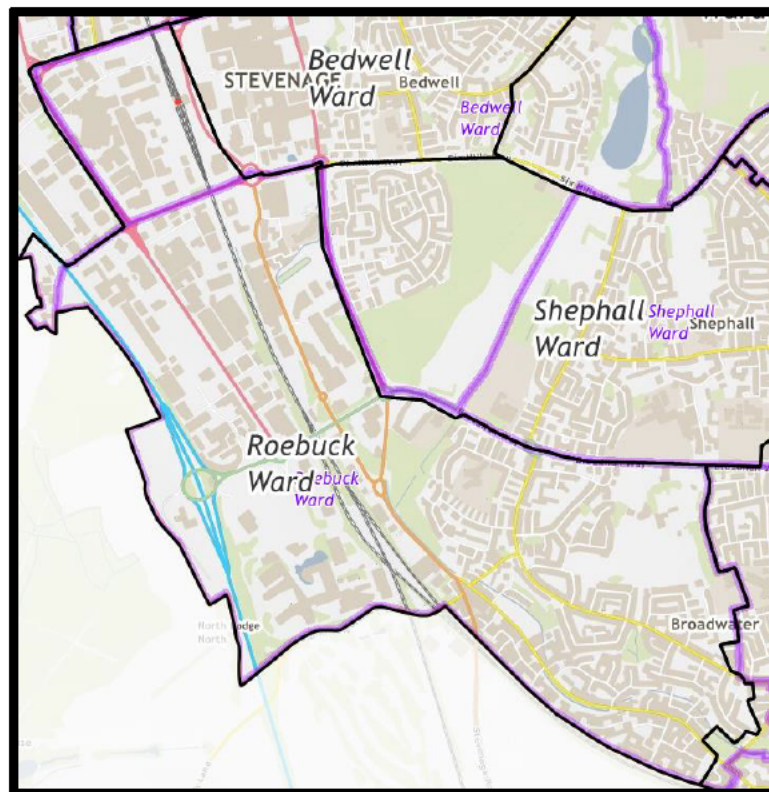
Furthermore, residents' local shopping centres would be Popple Way and Lonsdale Road as opposed to the high street. We also propose removing further streets from this section of Old Town and into Pin Green. We also propose the removal of the eastern section of Haycroft Road and Whitesmead Road as well as the connecting roads like Lawrence Avenue and Longcroft Road. We would also recommend that Ellis Avenue, Aldock Road and Rowan Crescent are ceded to Pin Green. These streets, while associated with Old Town do have a geographical connect to Pin Green as well as not being neighbourhoods which are historically associated with Old Town. The High Street and bowling green, which are the historic heart of Old Town are some distance from this area. These streets are closer to Lonsdale Road shops, which shows how this area has a practical connection to Pin Green.

Pin Green

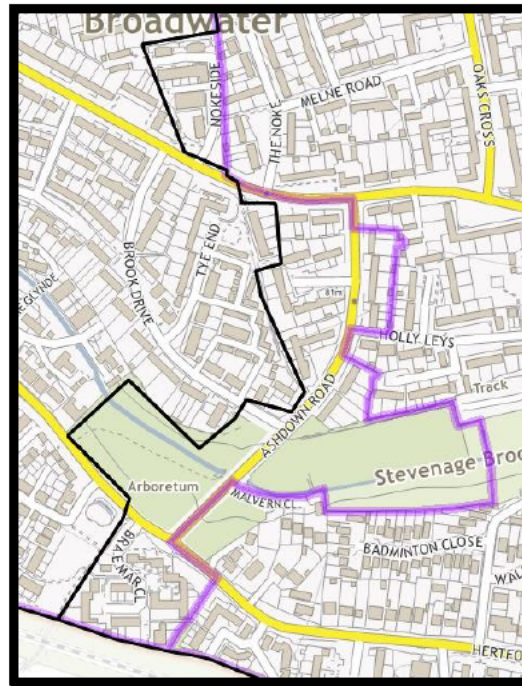


We propose gaining the south eastern section of Old Town around Sish Lane, Greydells Road, Haycroft Road and Ellis Avenue. This area proposed to go to Pin Green already borders the ward and for many of the residents in these streets, the community hubs at both Popple Way shops and the Lonsdale Road shops, will be closer than any Old Town. For this reason, while the proposal is not ideal from a cultural point, it is acceptable.

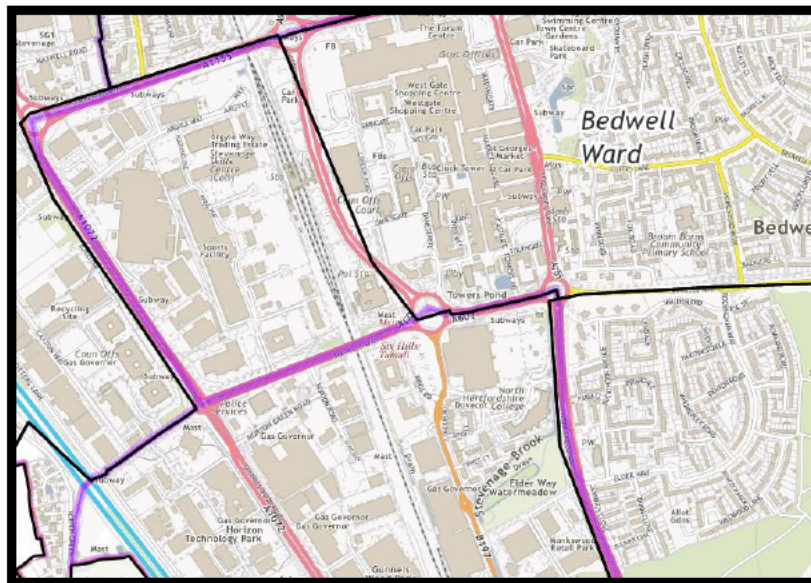
Roebuck



Under our proposals Norton Green would become part of Roebuck. This is justified as Norton Green is an independent village which has been absorbed by Stevenage's expansion. While the argument can be made that Norton Green has no relation to Roebuck, the same can be said of its current placement with Symonds Green. Also, by removing Norton Green from Symonds Green, this reduces the variance from the Symonds Green population target.

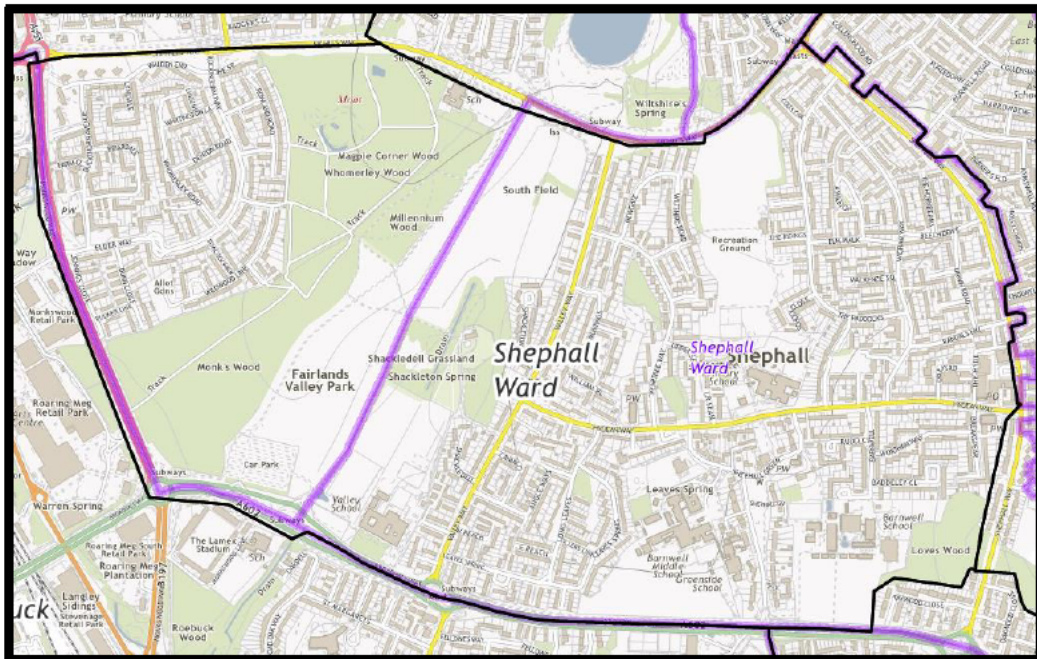


We suggest that Roebuck loses Braemar Close, Ashdown Road, Nokeside and eight properties from Broadwater Crescent to Longmeadow. This is a natural boundary, also Longmeadow must expand due to the ward being undersized.

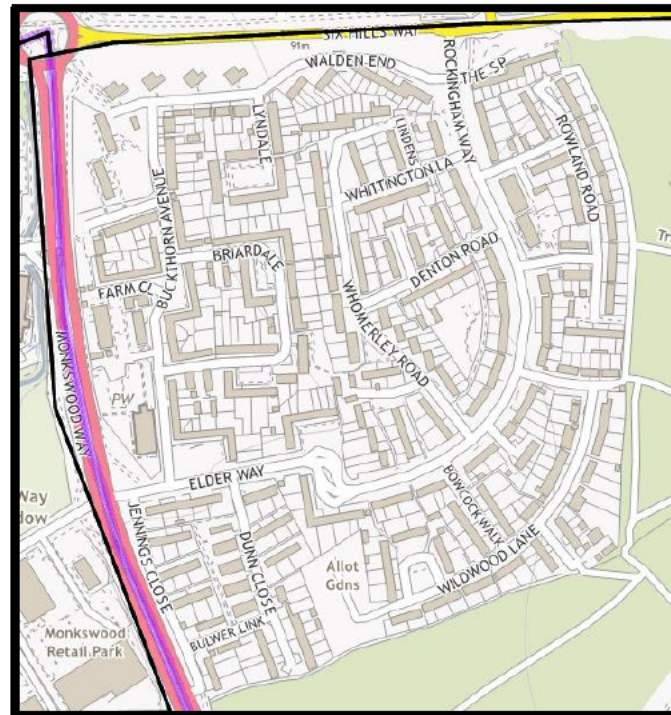


We recommend that Roebuck includes the Leisure Park. The Leisure Park has, rightly or wrongly, been designated for residential development in the coming years and already borders Roebuck along Six Hills Way, as a large part of Gunners Wood Road is within the existing Roebuck ward. While these properties have not yet been built, it is estimated that with the inclusion of this area, Roebuck almost exactly meets the required population target.

Shephall



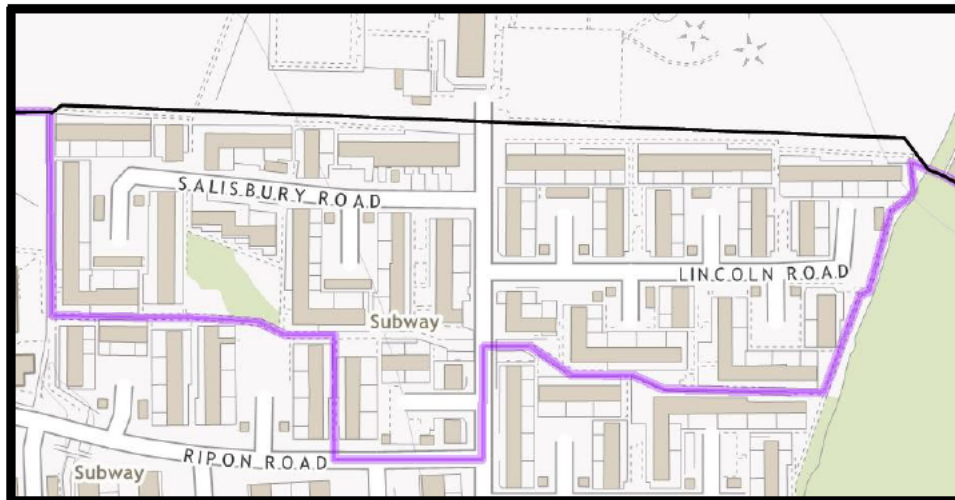
Firstly, the lower section of Shephall Way is removed and added to Bandley Hill, and secondly the three roads at the southern end of Shephall Way (Taywood Close, Glenwood Close and Oakwood Close) are removed and added to Longmeadow.



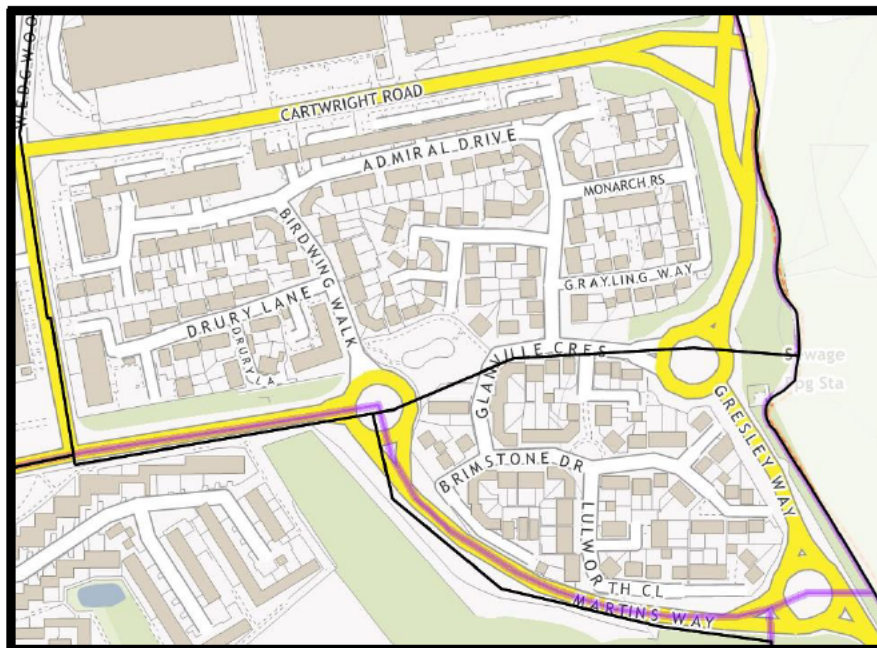
We propose the addition of the Rockingham Way/Elder Way area to Shephall from Bedwell. This can be justified by the fact that the Rockingham Way/Elder Way area has always been a community which is separate from the main body of Bedwell. There is also a historical precedent, prior to the 1990s boundary review, the Rockingham Way/Elder Way area was a ward in its own right, known as Monkswood. Therefore, we can justify the addition of this area to Shephall as it has a precedent of being culturally distinct from Bedwell.

St Nicholas

We propose only minor additions to St Nicholas.

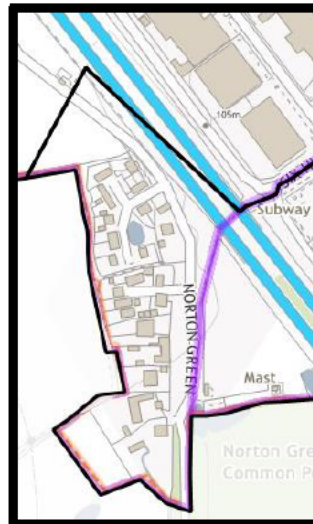
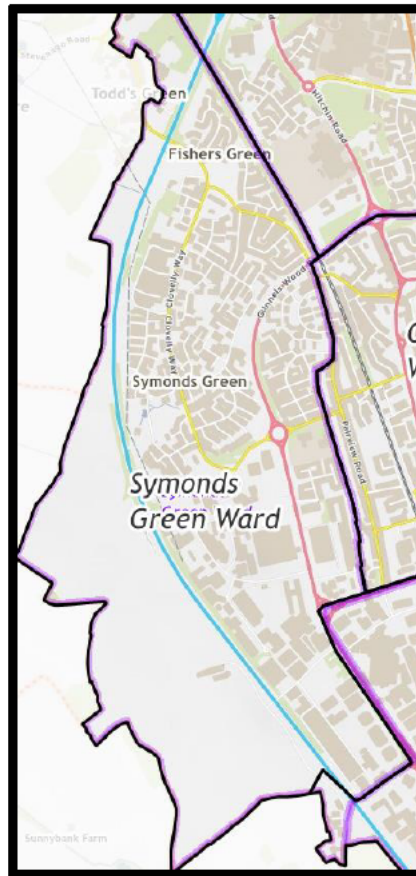


We propose the addition of Lincoln Road, Winchester Close and Salisbury Road to St Nicholas from Woodfield. This is justified by the fact that this area of Woodfield is completely isolated from the rest of the ward. The area is, and has always been, considered St Nicholas locally and can only be accessed by driving right through St Nicholas. The additions of these roads to St Nicholas would correct a historic anomaly.



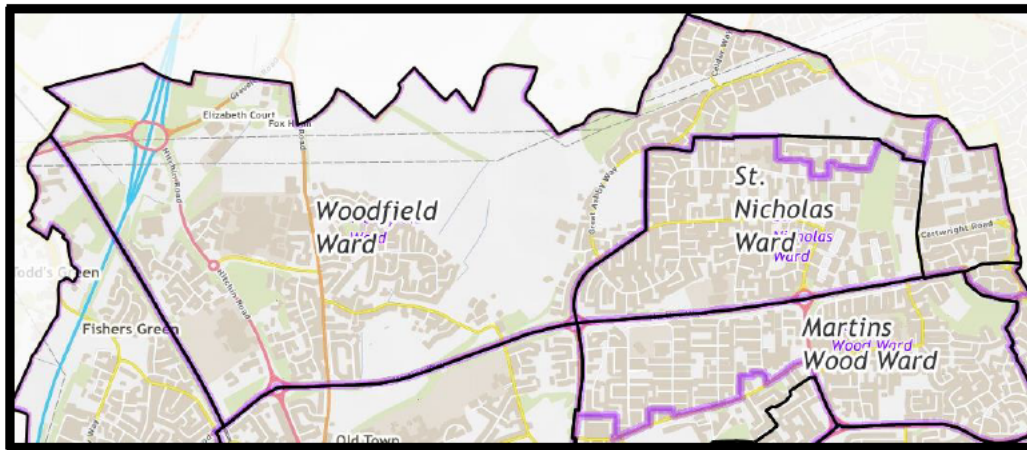
Furthermore, we propose the removal of the Chrysalis Park estate. This new build estate, built on the site of the former Dixon warehouses, is wedged between Martins Wood, St Nicholas, Woodfield, and Manor. The new estate has not really developed a cultural identity with any of the four wards. As St Nicholas at present is an oversized ward we propose the removal of this estate, after which it will be split between Woodfield and Manor wards.

Symonds Green

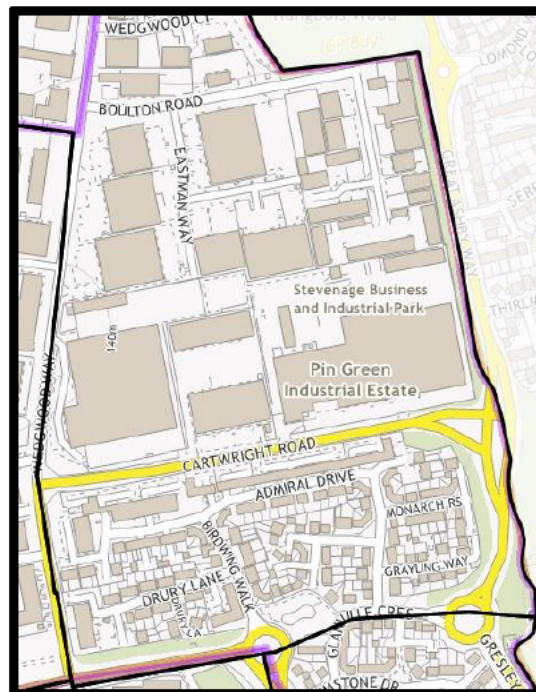


We propose the minor removal of Norton Green into Roebuck ward. Norton Green is a very small area, its removal brings Symonds Green closer to the required target population while boosting Roebuck in terms of population.

Woodfield



Our proposal only sees minor changes to the existing ward boundaries.



The existing Woodfield does need to gain several roads because the ward's population target is notably under the desired figure. Therefore, we propose the addition of the northern half of the Chrysalis Park from St Nicholas, this area is relatively favourable. Finally, we propose the removal of Salisbury Road, Winchester Close and Lincoln Road, which are enclosed by St Nicholas. The fact that these streets have been in Woodfield has always appeared as an anomaly on the map as they have always been recognised by residents as well within the St Nicholas estate and can only be accessed by driving right through St Nicholas. Their removal from Woodfield creates a more logical boundary.