

Stevenage Borough Council

Personal Details:

Name:

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I am a resident of, [REDACTED] the Old Town ward and my comments solely concern the proposed changes to the Old Town ward boundaries. [REDACTED] I understand fully that the Old Town ward needs to be reduced in size in comparison to the other wards and broadly agree with the majority of changes proposed. However, I have an issue with a number of specific changes which I believe do not protect the integrity and unique historical position of the Old Town within Stevenage. On the North West corner of the ward, the dual carriageway and roundabout of Martins Way provides a logical and physical boundary for the Old Town at present. The streets of Franklins Road and Dewpond Close contain low-density, detached bungalows with a large static, elderly population who strongly identify with the old town and these streets are connected directly to the High Street by a pedestrian footpath. Additionally, Essex Road and part of Julians Road are original Old Stevenage streets within 3 minutes' walk of the High Street and are made up of period houses, visually contributing to and very much a part of the Old Town. This small area should be left as is rather than being moved to Woodfield ward, with the logical and natural barrier of the dual carriageways to separate the wards. Obviously, the High Street itself is the focal point of the Old Town ward, is a Conservation Area and has a very clear identity. As such, it makes sense to ensure original old-Stevenage roads surrounding the High Street are included in this ward and those built in the 60s as part of the new town development are reassigned. I agree entirely with your proposal to move the south east corner of the ward, including streets such as Barclay Crescent, Langthorne Avenue, Ellis Avenue, Greydells Road, Lawrence Avenue etc to Pin Green where they match the housing style and distance from the High Street and therefore, lack any shared identity with the Old Town. However, the streets of Alleyne's Road, the bottom of Haycroft Road and all of Letchmore Road and are very much part of the Old Town and should not move to Pin Green. Alleyne's Road is one of the original streets built in Old Stevenage (and shares a name with the Tudor-age school in the High Street), contains Victorian cottages, has narrow roads and no parking, as does the Victorian end of Haycroft Road. These streets are immediately visually identifiable as part of the Old Town and their residents certainly consider themselves as such. They are walking distance to the High Street which serves as their neighbourhood centre and it makes no historical sense to exclude these 3 particular streets from Old Town. They share no characteristics of, or relationship with, Pin Green and the history of these roads should be honoured. The random shape of the proposed Pin Green ward here is not logical and artificially splits Letchmore Road into different wards. This is illogical and will be confusing for residents, especially when attempting to identify which local councillor is responsible for which households and should be avoided. Lastly, and perhaps most egregious, is the suggestion to include the Leisure Park and part of the Stevenage New Town centre in the Old Town ward. This demonstrates a total lack of understanding of the differences between the two areas of the town, which bear no resemblance to one another, have their own individual characteristics and historical attributes and would be of great detriment to preserving the unique histories of both the New Town and Old Town communities. The large dual carriageway of Fairlands Way provides a very visible, sensible geographical dividing line between the Old Town and Bedwell and this should be retained at all costs. The large pedestrian bridge across this dual carriageway features a painted message on the pavement stating "Stevenage Town Centre", visually marking the boundary and reminding every person crossing that they have left the New Town and entered the Old Town and vice versa. The streets Danestrete, Danesgate, Swingate and The Forum consist of brand new high-rise flats, some not even yet constructed, and have zero connection to the old town either visually, historically or demographically. They belong in the New Town ward of Bedwell where they sit perfectly with other Bedwell streets as at present. Those residents will naturally use the New Town facilities as their neighbourhood centre, within the newly-renovated pedestrianised town centre area, so have no connection to the High Street either geographically or as a shared community. Stevenage doesn't

have much in the way of history, so what little we do have, we would like to be cherished and preserved. [REDACTED] I can attest to the wonderful community spirit we have in the Old Town, many of whose residents have lived here for generations. The High Street is the jewel in the crown of Old Stevenage and I would respectfully request that you reconsider the idea of eroding the valuable "village" feeling we share by not including hundreds of residents from Bedwell/New Town who have no connection to, or love of, our Old Town and its special place within Stevenage. Thank you for your time.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded