

[REDACTED]

From: Walsh, Simon <simon.walsh@gravesham.gov.uk>
Sent: 22 December 2021 11:35
To: reviews
Subject: Gravesham - Proposed new pattern of wards
Attachments: GBC Ward Arrangements FINAL Submission - December 2021.pdf

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

Please see attached a consultation response from Gravesham Borough Council.

Kind regards

Simon

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Draft Warding Arrangements Submission

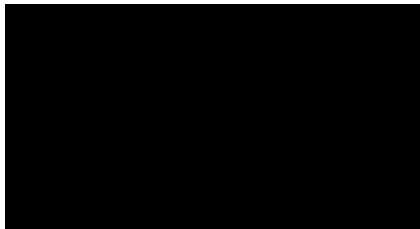
December 2021

Executive Summary

The council notes the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) draft warding arrangement and name proposals and welcomes the opportunity to respond.

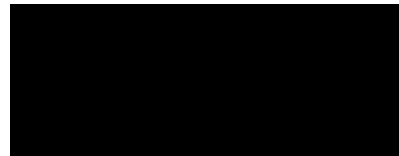
Overall, the council broadly supports the majority of the LGBCE's recommendations, although there are a small number of these that the council disagrees with and which it considers do not reflect the local communities. These have been set out within this document with rationale for changes to address this.

This response is supported by the Leader of the Labour Group and the Leader of the Independent Group.



Councillor John Burden

Leader of the Council



Councillor Harold Craske

Leader of the
Independent Group

Introduction

The council made its submission to the LGBCE on the warding arrangement for the borough in July 2021. After considering all submissions made during the consultation, the LGBCE published its drafting warding arrangements in November. It is recognised that some of these draft recommendations do reflect the council's submission and achieve the statutory criteria the commission seeks to achieve, whilst others do not.

There are some instances where the council feels strongly that either the LGBCE's proposals do not reflect the existing community identities of where the suggested boundary lines need to be amended slightly to follow natural boundaries or road lines. For ease of reference the council's response can be grouped into three categories below

The council does not have any fundamental concerns with the LGBCE proposals for the wards listed below:

- Coldharbour
- Istead Rise, Cobham and Luddesdown
- Meopham North
- Meopham South and Vigo
- Northfleet East and Rosherville
- Northfleet West and Springhead
- Painters Ash
- Pelham
- Shorne and Higham

The council proposes minor amendments to the LGBCE proposals for the wards listed below.

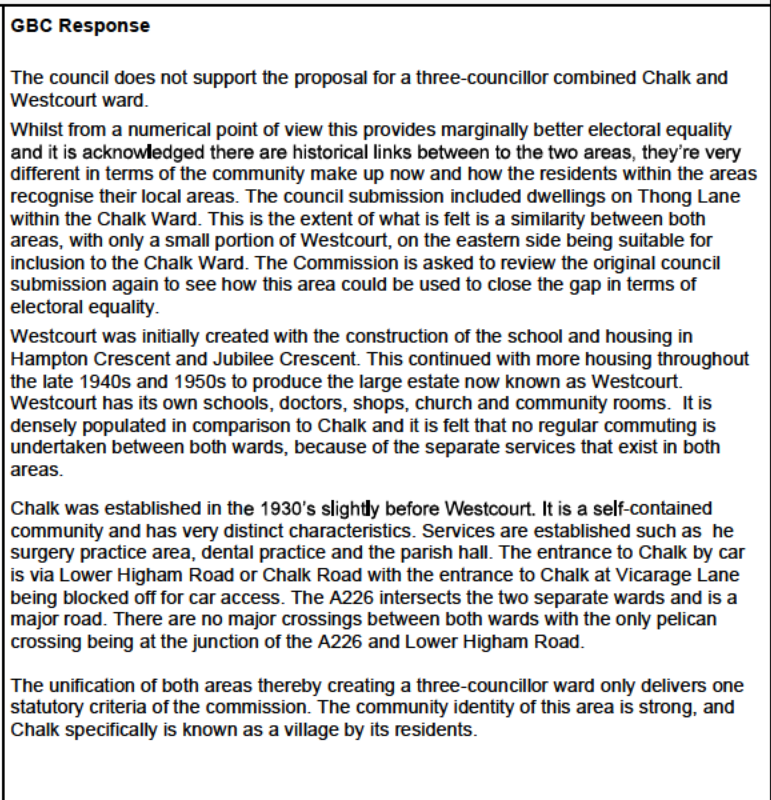
- Denton
- Singlewell
- Town
- Whitehill and Windmill Hill
- Woodlands and Kings Farm

The council requests more substantial amendments to the LGBCE proposals for the wards listed below.

- Chalk and Westcourt
- Riverview Park

The following pages set out the council's response to the LGBCE's draft recommendations on a ward-by-ward basis.

3 Councillors



4

2. Coldharbour

2 Councillors



GBC Response

The council does not have any fundamental concerns regarding the proposals for a two-councillor Coldharbour ward.

The council supports the proposed name of the ward.

Polling Districts - BI, BJ, BE

3. Denton

2 Councillors



GBC Response

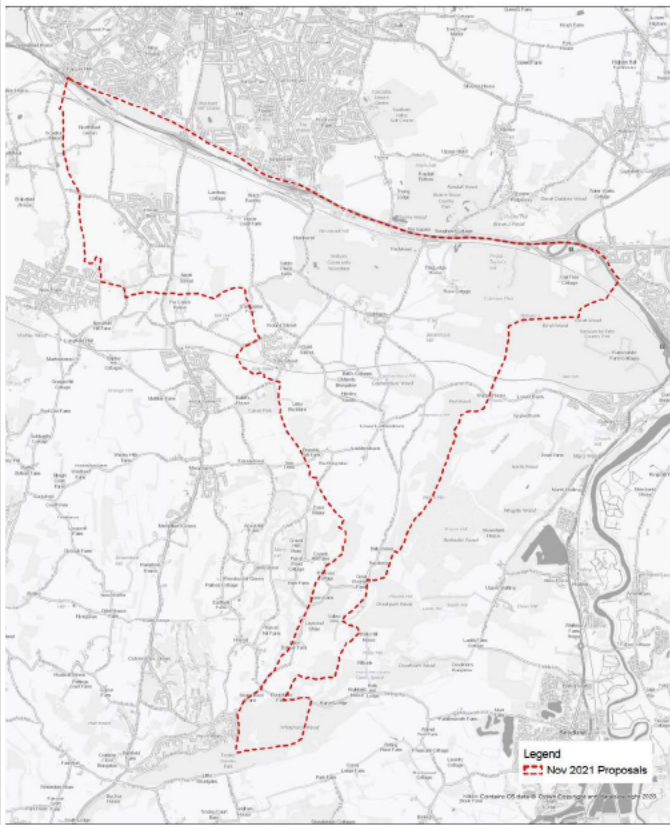
The two-councillor Denton ward does provide some concerns for the council which centre on the location of the proposed boundary to the west of the ward. This boundary currently intersects a large site that is expected to come forward for development and habitation just outside the period to 2027 (which the review is looking to regarding electoral forecasts). The proposed boundary does split that development area directly in two. This will no doubt cause some issues providing effective governance as the boundary will intersect the area.

To avoid this situation, and its impact, it is proposed the boundary is moved directly along Norfolk Road and towards the river along Mark Lane. This will ensure that the whole potential development site is moved into the Town Ward and ensure that the residents will elect and be represented by the same councillors across the whole potential development. It should also be noted that this boundary change would have a negligible effect on electoral equality as the area in question consists mainly of industrial units.

The council supports the proposed name of the ward.

4. Istead Rise, Cobham and Luddesdown

2 Councillors



GBC Response

The council does not have any fundamental concerns regarding the proposals for a two-councillor Istead Rise, Cobham and Luddesdown ward. The council proposed the amalgamation of the currently separated areas of Istead Rise and Cobham to achieved electoral equality.

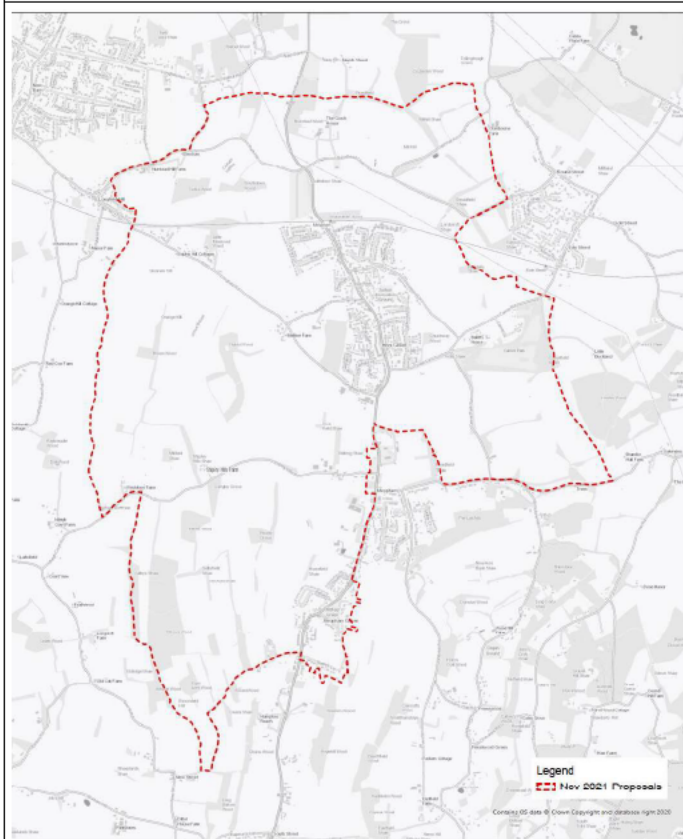
The addition of Luddesdown to that area does not create any concerns in the three statutory areas the commission needs to consider. It is also recognised that there was support from at least one parish council for the inclusion of Luddesdown and Cobham within the same ward.

The council supports the proposed name of the ward.

Polling Districts - CA,CB,CC,BK

5. Meopham North

2 Councillors



GBC Response

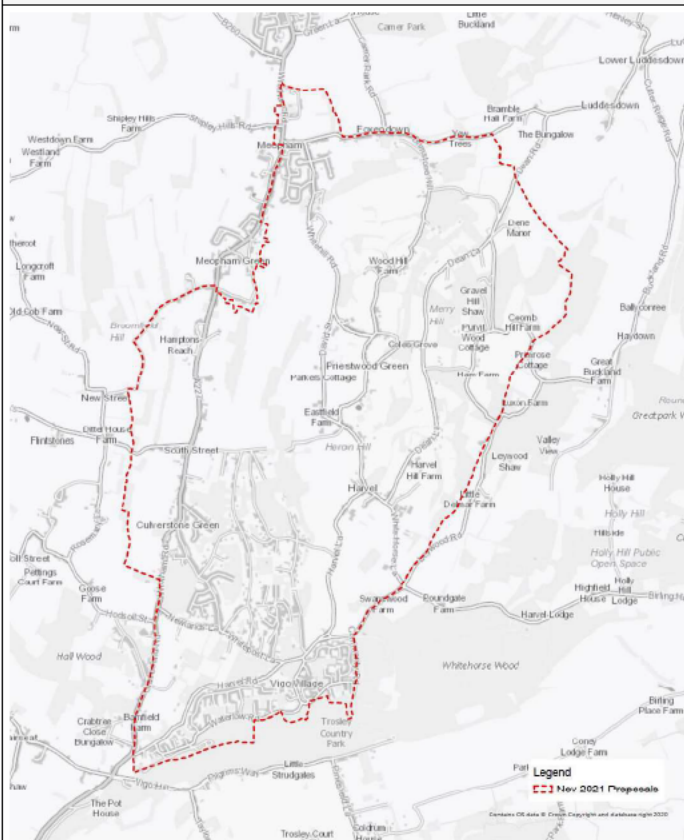
The council does not have any fundamental concerns regarding the proposals for a two-councillor Meopham North ward. The council proposal in this area was considered and adopted by the Commission.

The council supports the proposed name of the ward.

Polling Districts - CG, CF (MINUS 749)

6. Meopham South and Vigo

2 Councillors



GBC Response

The council does not have any fundamental concerns regarding the proposals for a two-councillor Meopham South and Vigo ward. The council proposal in this area was considered and adopted by the commission.

The council supports the proposed name of the ward.

Polling Districts - CH,CI,CJ,CK (plus 749 from CF)

7. Northfleet East and Rosherville

3 Councillors



GBC Response

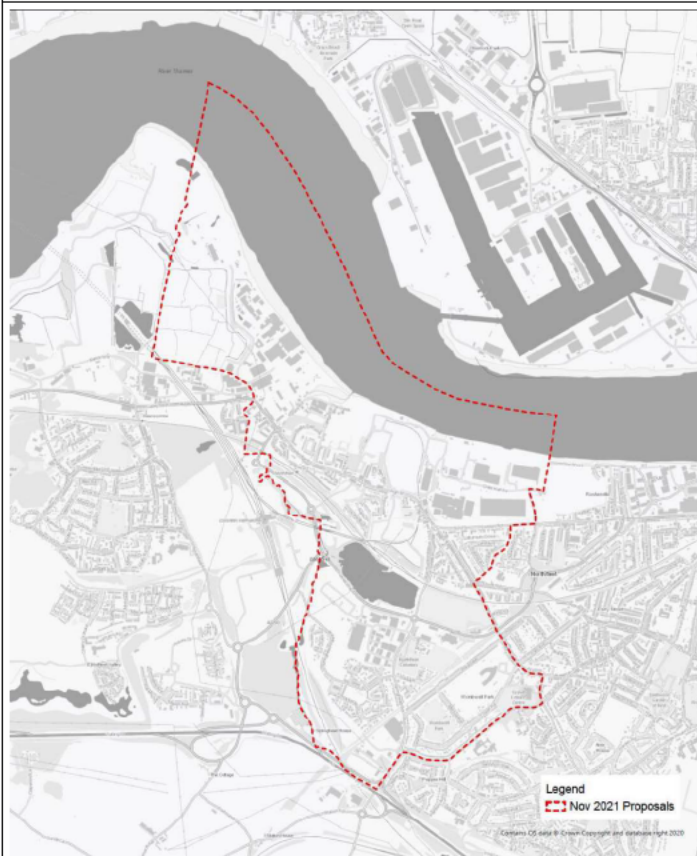
The council does not have any fundamental concerns regarding the proposals for a three-councillor Northfleet East and Rosherville ward.

The council supports the proposed name of the ward.

Polling Districts - BA, BAA, BF, D

8. Northfleet West and Springhead

3 Councillors



GBC Response

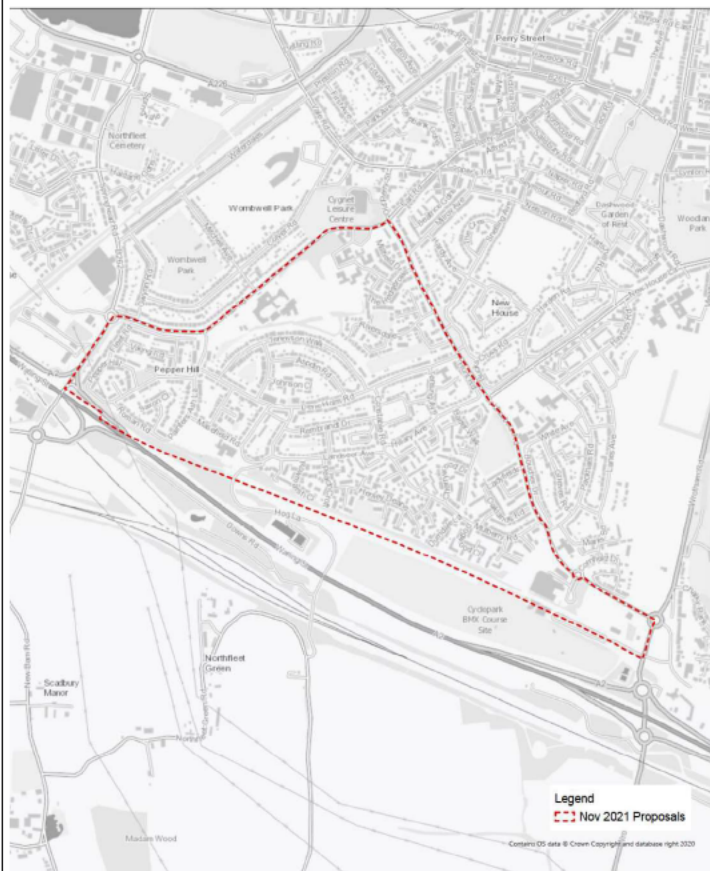
The council does not have any fundamental concerns regarding the proposals for a three-councillor Northfleet West and Springhead ward.

The council supports the proposed name of the ward.

Polling Districts - BB, BC, BD

9. Painters Ash

2 Councillors



GBC Response

The boundary of the ward mirrors the council submission - albeit that the boundary on the south side has been realigned to include the Cyclopark into the Istead Rise, Cobham & Luddesdown ward as it is now.

This change being justified to enable travel between Istead Rise and Cobham without necessitating leaving the ward and re-entering.

As largely this ward does reflect the council submission, it is not intended to suggest any alterations.

The council supports the proposed name of the ward.

10. Pelham

2 Councillors



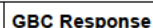
GBC Response

The council supports the recommendation for a two-councillor ward and the according reduction in the size of the Pelham ward. There is recognition that it largely follows the existing southern boundaries.

The council supports the proposed name of the ward.

Polling Districts - B,C and some added from M (203)

2 Councillors



The council supports the proposed name of the ward.

12. Shorne and Higham

3 Councillors



GBC Response

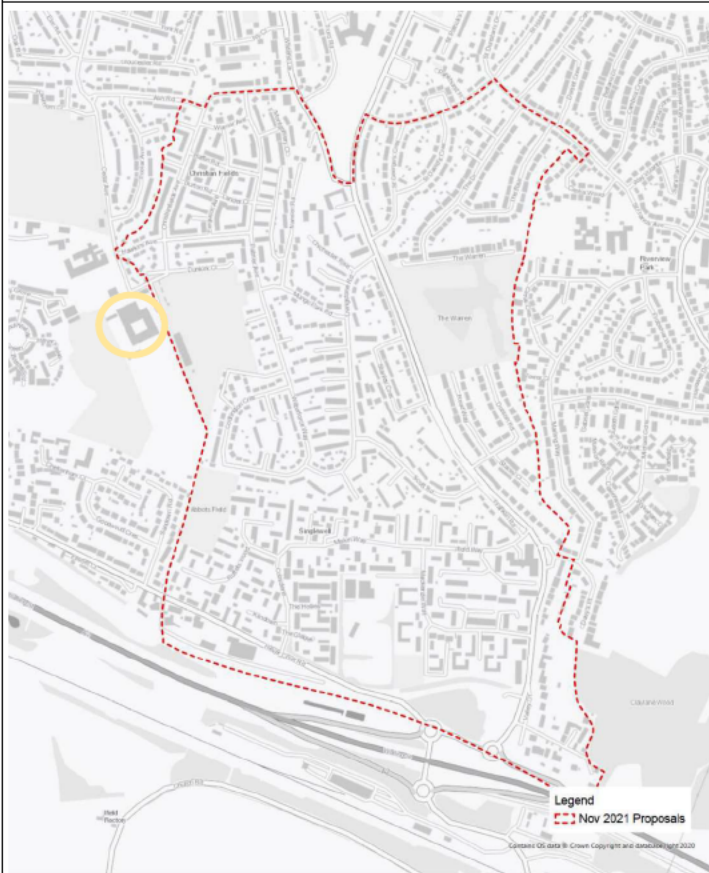
The council does not have any fundamental concerns regarding the proposals for a three-councillor Shorne and Higham ward.

The council supports the proposed name of the ward.

Polling Districts - CD, CE, CL, CM

13. Singlewell

2 Councillors



GBC Response

The council does not have any fundamental concerns regarding the proposals for the Singlewell ward.

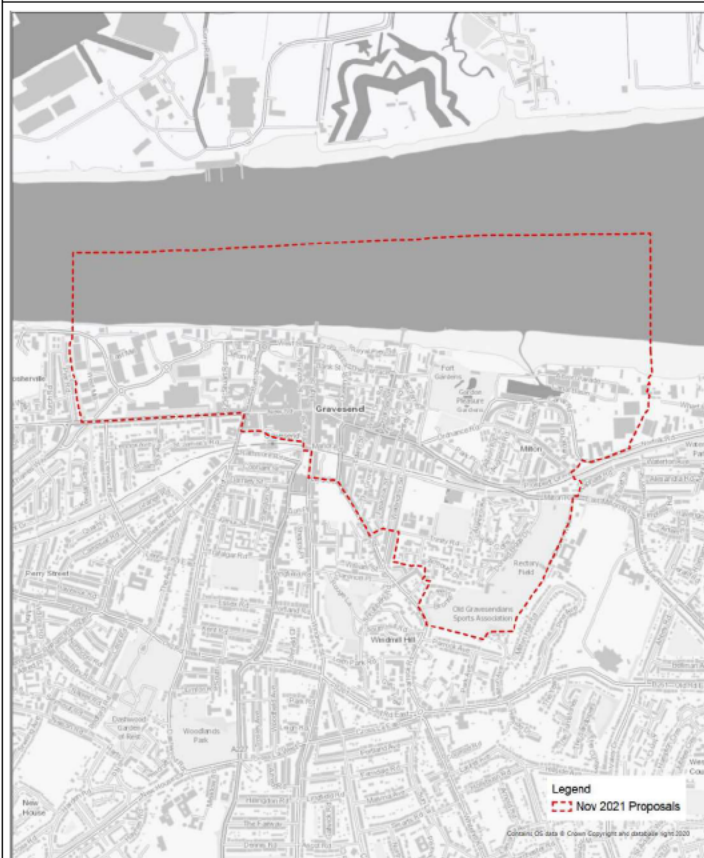
However, the Ifield School (circled on the map opposite) should be included within this ward and not the Woodlands & Kings Farm ward as the entrance for the school actually falls into the Singlewell ward. As such, the boundary should be redrawn to ensure that the school (and its grounds) are included within the Singlewell ward. Moving this boundary will ensure that if issues were to occur outside the school, that any councillors involved would be representing the area in which the school itself is in and also the external entrances and roads.

The council supports the proposed name of the ward.

Polling Districts - AB, AC, Z

14. Town

3 Councillors



GBC Response

The council does not have any fundamental concerns for a three-councillor Town ward but requests an amendment of the proposed boundary to the east of the ward. This boundary currently intersects a large site that is expected to come forward for development and habitation outside the period to 2027 (which the review is looking to regarding electoral forecasts). The proposed boundary does split that development area directly in two. This will no doubt cause some issues providing effective governance as the boundary will intersect the area.

To avoid this situation, and its impact, it is proposed the boundary is moved directly along Norfolk Road and towards the river along Mark Lane. This will ensure that the whole potential development site is moved into the Town Ward and ensure that the residents will elect and be represented by the same councillors across the whole potential development. It should also be noted that this boundary change would have a negligible effect on electoral equality as the area in question consists mainly of industrial units.

The council supports the proposed name of the ward.

Polling Districts - E, I, A, K

15. Whitehill and Windmill Hill

3 Councillors



GBC Response

The council does not have any fundamental concerns for a three-councillor ward but seeks an amendment to the boundary line around which runs along Waterloo Street and around the gardens of the rear of bottom half of Wellington Street. It is not felt this element of the boundary serves to provide a clear distinction to this entire road being either within the proposed Whitehill and Windmill Hill or the newly recommended Town Ward.

It is proposed that the boundary should continue along Parrock Street and then move behind the properties in Christ Church Gardens as it does in the draft recommendations.

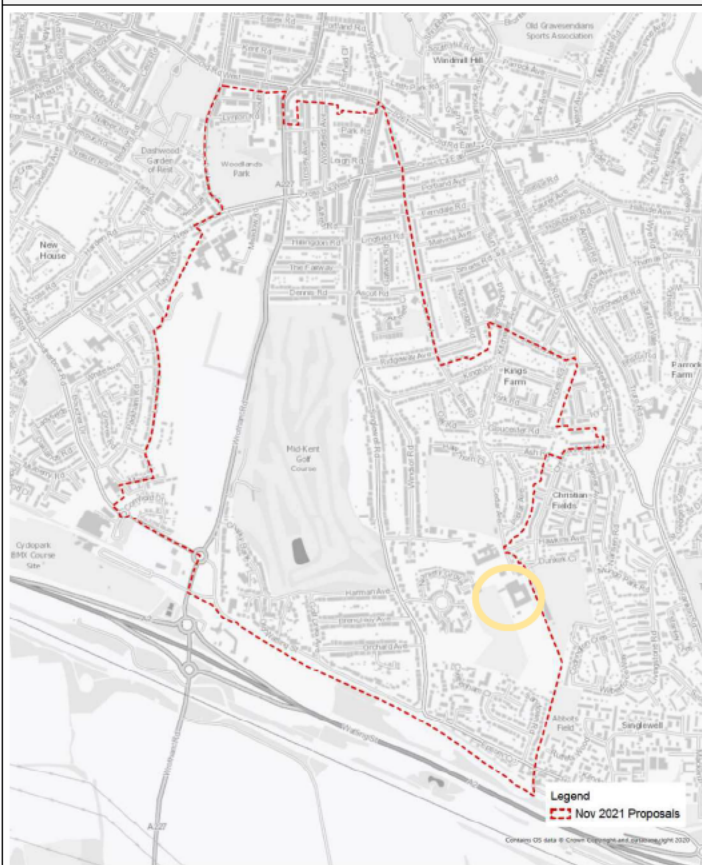
It is also proposed by the council that The Old Barrack building which is included within the ward (located off Armoury Drive and only accessible from there) should be removed and placed within the new Town Ward. The boundary would then run along the end of Christ Church Road.

The council supports the proposed name of the ward.

Polling Districts - L, J,W,X,Y

16. Woodlands and Kings Farm

3 Councillors



GBC Response

The council does not have any fundamental concerns regarding the proposals for a three-councillor Woodlands and Kings Farm ward.

Ifield School (circled on the map opposite) should not be included in this ward as the entrance for the school actually falls into the neighbouring ward. As such, it is requested that the boundary should be changed to ensure that the school (and its grounds) are included within the Singlewell ward. Moving this boundary will ensure that if issues were to occur outside the school, that any councillors involved would be representing the area in which the school itself is in and also the external entrances and roads.

Although it is recognised that an area of Kings Farm was included within the draft recommended ward, it is still felt that the Woodlands ward namely sufficiently covers the area within the majority of the ward. Therefore, the council proposes the name of 'Woodlands' for the ward.

Polling Districts - M (203 removed), N, O, AA

Parish Electoral Arrangement

The council does not have any fundamental concerns regarding the revised parish electoral arrangements for Meopham Parish Council.