

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 16 November 2021 17:08  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** Gravesham  
**Attachments:** Draft Response.docx

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

To whomever, it may concern,

My response to the draft proposals for Gravesham Borough Council is too large to upload, please accept the attached proposal as my proposal.

May I please get a confirmation e-mail once this attachment has been accepted as a submission?

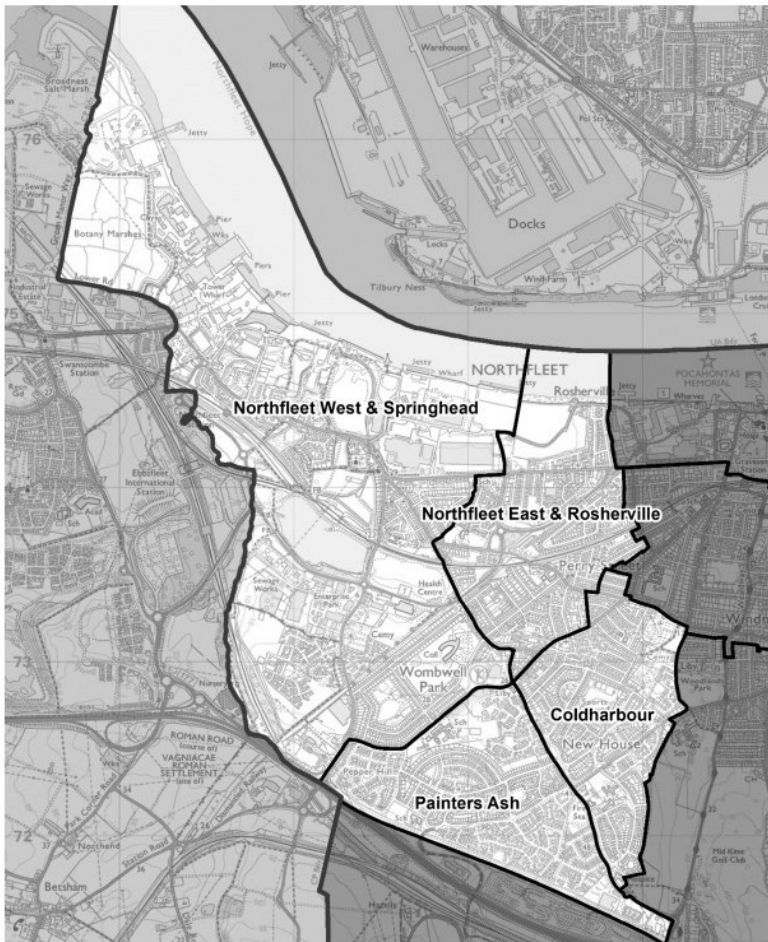
I am a member of the public representing no organisation.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Because the Commission has not realised a road-by-road breakdown of proposed 2027 electors, unless done on polling districts I will have to propose guesses based on community values. There should be an interactive house-by-house map for the 2027 electors to provide people and groups with better information to provide submissions. Because I do not know a road-by-road breakdown there will be times where I propose multiple things for the same area.

## Northfleet



I firstly want to state the Northfleet section of your report does not include all of

Northfleet as it misses out Istead Rise, which has historically always been in Northfleet.

### Northfleet West and Springhead

The Northfleet West and Springhead boundary represents three communities, around Northfleet/The Hill, Springhead, and Wombwell. This provides good electoral equality and can provide good local governance. My only suggestion would be to change the name to Northfleet, Springhead, and Wombwell.

### Northfleet East and Rosherville

There is a community barrier between “Northfleet East” and Rosherville. The Northfleet East part of the ward is in the BF polling district and is separated from the rest of the ward by the railway lines. The BF polling district would be better served not to be in this ward. However, the ward above the railway lines (which consists of the BA, BAA, and D polling districts) share a local Rosherville community identity. This ward should be renamed to Rosherville and should consist of the BA, BAA, and D polling districts only and should be represented by two councillors, this would currently have 3066 electors, rising to 4126 in 2027 and would be 6% below the average, providing good electoral equality.

### Coldharbour

As stated above, the BF polling district does not belong with the Rosherville community, it much better represents the Perry Street community which is proposed to be divided between Coldharbour

and Northfleet East and Rosherville. The BF polling district should be included in a new Perry Street ward with most of the proposed Coldharbour ward. They share the local shops and public houses on Perry Street and form a community around that road. However, the proposed Coldharbour boundary that bisects Old Road West (until the roundabout) and goes to roads to the north of Old Road West would be better represented in the Pelham ward. The Pelham Arms public house should be in Pelham ward, it represents the Pelham community, and it would not be well represented if not in the Pelham ward. Moreover, the Gravesend Cemetery should either be in Pelham or Woodlands ward, the Gravesend Cemetery should be in a Gravesend ward, not in a Northfleet ward. Finally, Dashwood Road and the cul-de-sacs of Farmcroft, Barnfield, and The Downage should be in Woodlands ward, they border Woodlands Park, and they identify as Woodlands, in fact they identify as being Woodlands so much that in the last local elections an unknown individual leafleted these roads attacking a potential candidate for Woodlands ward. Due to the increase of electors from the BF polling district, this Perry Street ward should be represented by three councillors.

#### Painters Ash

The proposed Painters Ash ward provides good electoral equality and represents the local community.

#### Istead Rise

Although I have stated Istead Rise is in Northfleet, because of the way the commission has laid out their draft, I shall propose a couple of variations for Istead Rise later on in this submission. However, I want to state my belief that it better represents the Istead Rise community to be combined with Painters Ash for a four-seat ward. I understand the commission's reasons for rejecting this, but it best represents the local communities.

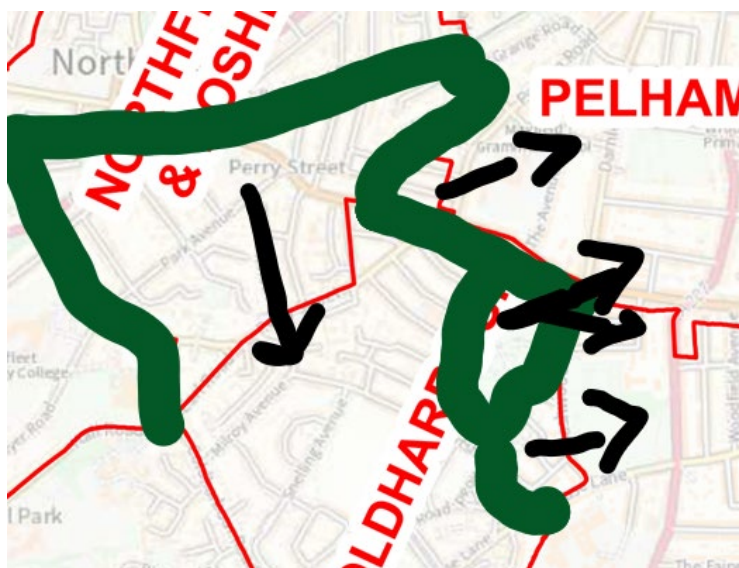
#### Proposed Changes

Northfleet, Springhead, and Wombwell – 3 Councillors

Rosherville – 2 Councillors

Istead Rise and Painters Ash – 4 Councillors (or Painters Ash 2 Councillors and Istead Rise proposals further below)

Perry Street – 3 Councillors



The map displays the following neighborhoods and areas:

- NORTH FLEET** (Northwest)
- GRAVESEND** (Northeast)
- Town** (Central)
- Pelham** (West)
- Whitehill & Windmill Hill** (East)
- Woodlands & Kings Farm** (South)
- Singlewell** (Southeast)

Other visible locations include Rosherville, Westbury, Milton, Denton, New House, and Singlewell Farm. The map also shows major roads like Route 1 and Route 2, and various parks and landmarks.

The Gravesend West area of

Pelham

As stated above, I think the Pelham ward should gain a few roads from the proposed Coldharbour ward as they would be better represented by Pelham. The only other change should be that Gravesend railway station and the one-way system around Lord Street/Windmill Street/Woodville Place/ Wrotham Road/ Rathmore Road/ Darnley Road should be included in Town ward for better local governance. I do not think this impacts the electoral forecast at all, but it would provide better local governance if the town one-way system is in Town ward.

## Whitehill and Windmill Hill

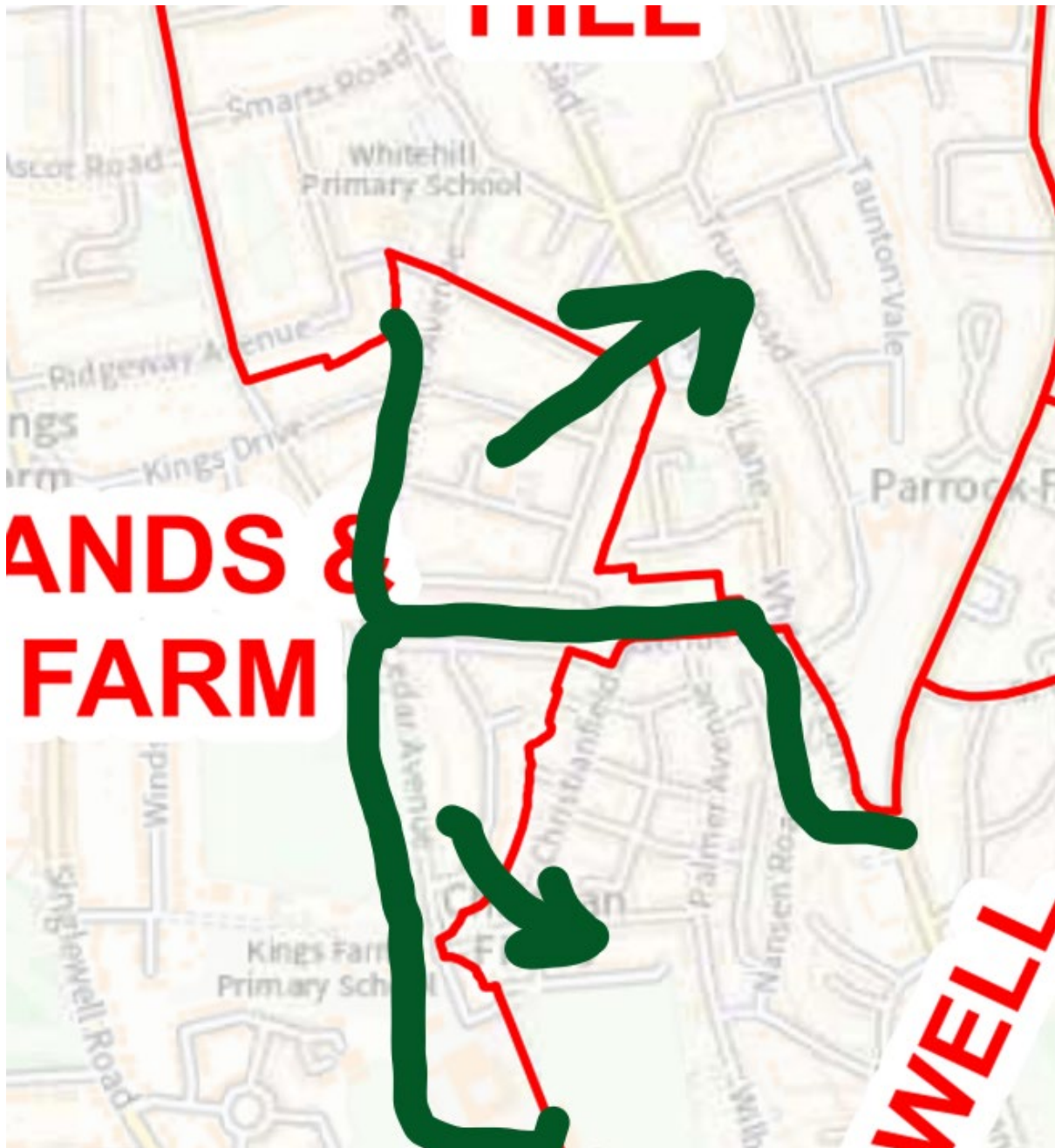
This is a good ward but there should be changes to better represent communities. All the roads north of William Street (including Homestead Close, Homestead Court, Gravesham Court, Wellington Street and Parrock Street) should be included in the Town ward because they are part of the Town community and are not part of the Windmill Hill or Whitehill communities. They would be better served by Town ward due to community factors, the people who live there shop around Town rather than at the Echo Square parade of shops and they have their community identity with Town.

Singlewell

Singlewell ward provides good representation of communities and local governance. The only issue is that the ward contains some people who live in the Whitehill Hill, who are most definitely part of the Whitehill community because they live on the Whitehill Hill!

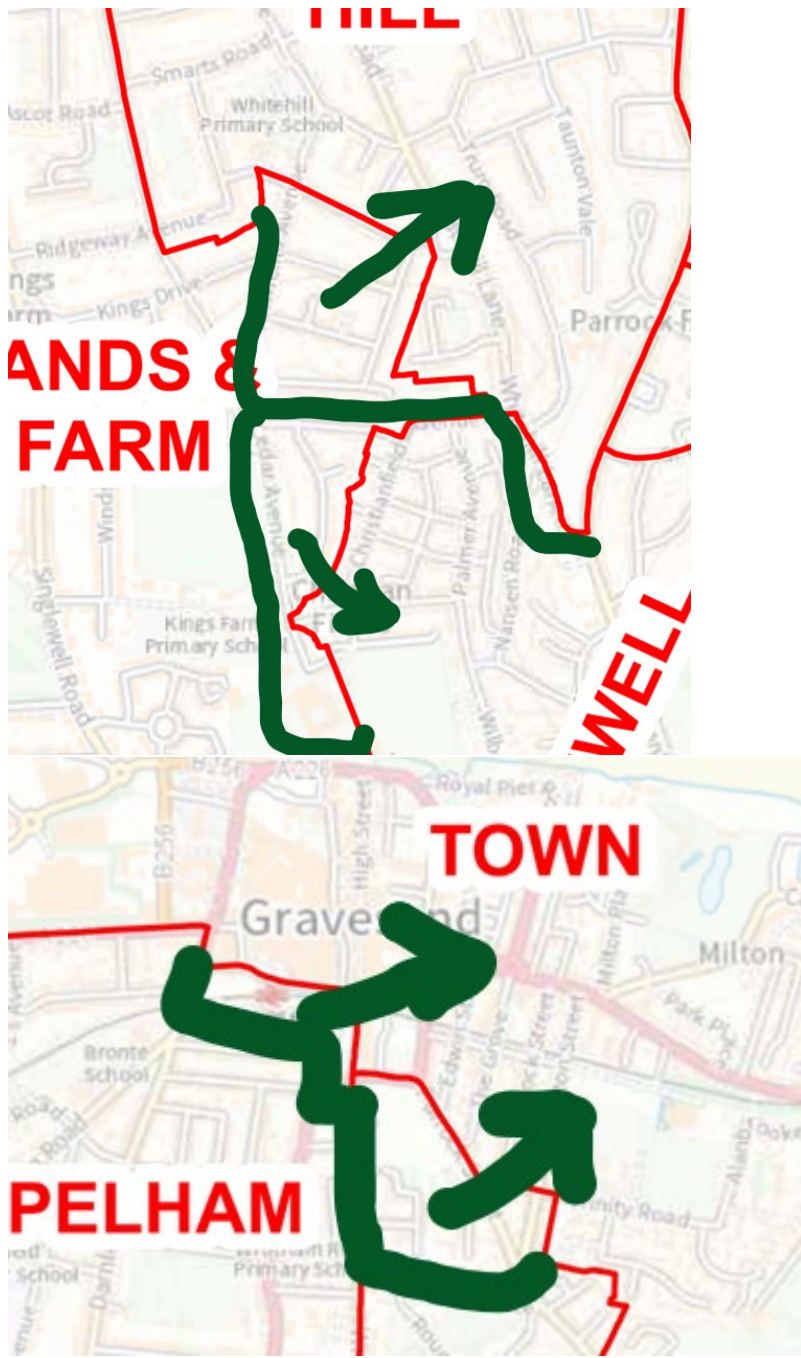
### Woodlands and Kings Farm

The Kings Farm community does not have many ties with the Woodlands community. The current AA polling district should therefore be split between Woodlands, Singlewell, and Whitehill and Windmill Hill wards to provide better community links and local governance. I cannot calculate my proposed changes, but here is how they should be:



Ifield school should be in Singlewell ward as the local area is known as Singlewell/Ifield, it makes sense that Ifield school be in Singlewell ward. This proposal provides good local governance as it manages to split the area closest to the Christian Fields estate into Singlewell ward, the area closest to the Whitehill community and shops into Whitehill, and the area closest to the Singlewell Road parade of shops into the Woodland ward.

## Proposed Changes



Town – 3 Councillors

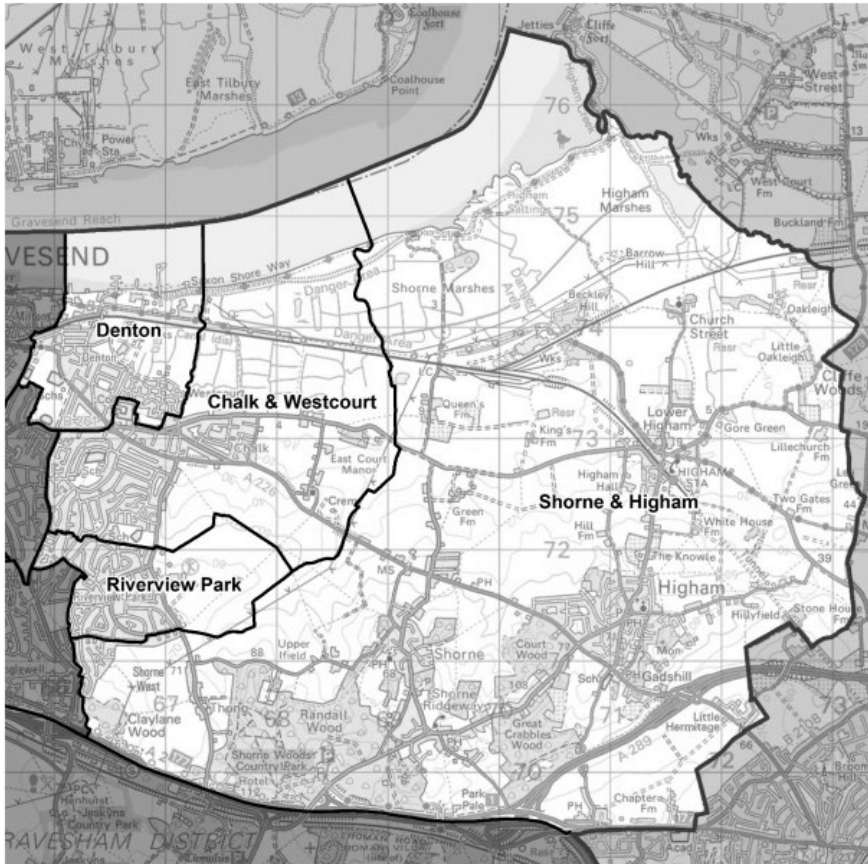
Pelham – 2 Councillors

Whitehill and Windmill Hill – 3 Councillors

Singlewell – 2 Councillors

Woodlands – 3 Councillors

## Gravesend East, Higham and Shorne



The Gravesend

East, Higham and Shorne proposals represent local communities and give good electoral equality across the region.

### Shorne and Higham

This provides good electoral equality and represents local communities. The only change should be that it should be known as Higham and Shorne as Higham is the larger parish.

### Riverview Park

The Riverview Park community is adequately represented in this ward.

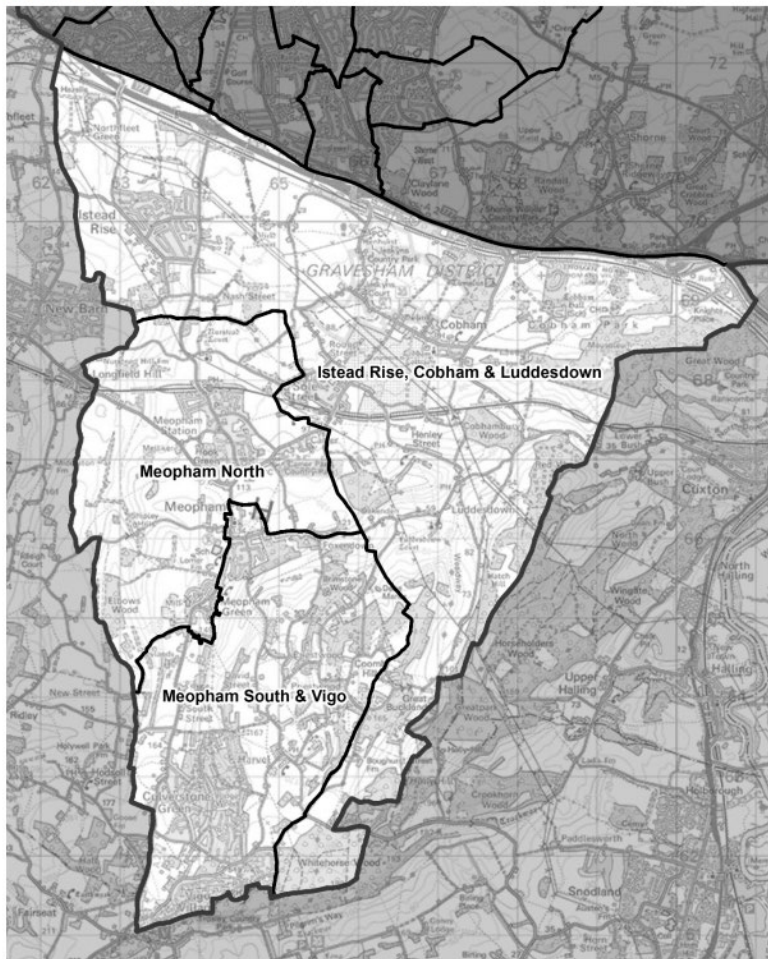
### Chalk and Westcourt

This represents the shared history and communities between Chalk and Westcourt. The only possible change could be that it could be known as Chalk.

### Denton

This represents the Denton area. But it also represents an area of Chalk to the north of the college. For community values, the area of Chalk in Denton should be in the Chalk ward, however, I recognise this would be very difficult to navigate as Denton would then need more electors and the knock-on effect would be very controversial.

## South Gravesham



“South Gravesham” does not represent this area of the borough well at all. It largely provides very poor local governance, and does not represent community boundaries, but it does provide good electoral equality.

### Istead Rise, Cobham, and Luddesdown

There are no shared factors between the Istead Rise community and the Cobham and Luddesdown community. They should not be included in the same ward. Istead Rise has no shared factors with any ward except Painters Ash.

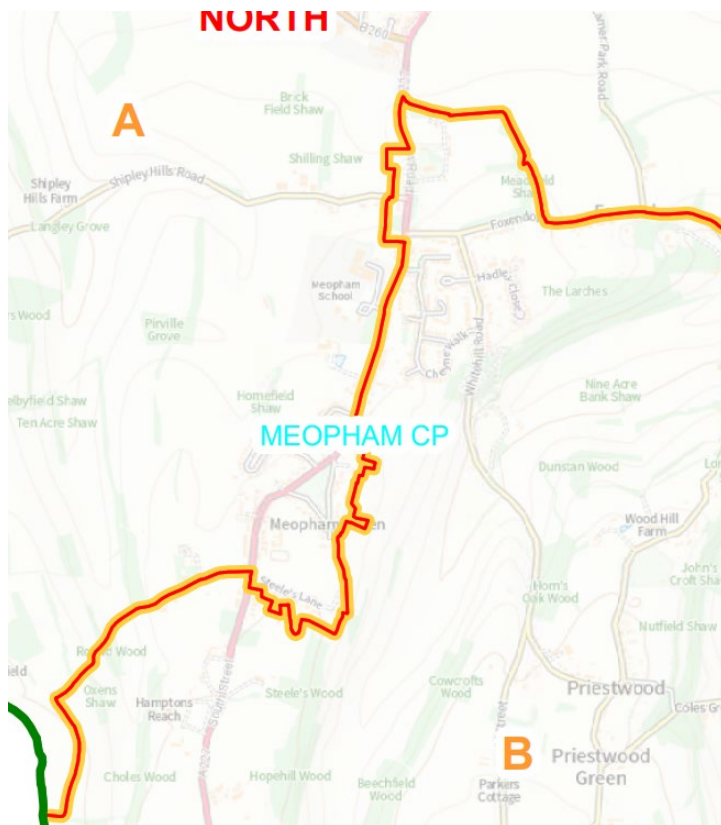
This would result in very poor local governance as one councillor would “look after” Istead Rise and one councillor would “look after” Cobham and Luddesdown, like how Cllr Lane “looks after” Shorne and Cllr Rice “looks after” Cobham and Luddesdown.

As a result, I propose a two seat Istead Rise ward and a one seat Cobham and Luddesdown ward. This would see an introduction of one seat borough-wide, but this is because the projected Istead Rise population would be 59% over the average for one councillor but only 21% under the average for two councillors.

I acknowledge this proposal produces very poor electoral equality, but it produces healthy local governance and good representation of communities.

## Meopham and Vigo

The boundary between Meopham North and Meopham South and Vigo makes absolutely no sense. If I am driving from the A2 towards Vigo through Wrotham Road, I would travel into Meopham North then into Meopham South and Vigo and then into Meopham North and then into Meopham South and Vigo. How can I go from North to South to North to South if I am travelling only south along one road? It makes absolutely no sense and would lead to mass confusion and extremely poor local governance. Moreover, the community to the north of the boundary of Meopham South and Vigo (as shown below) would travel through Meopham North to get to areas of Meopham South and Vigo because the Wrotham Road is far more reliable than the country lanes especially during winter whether when the country lanes can be snowed in or get dangerous potholes.



The main problem with the Meopham wards is that the current Meopham North is meant to see an increase of 47% electors, which is 1612 electors. Why has the commission not told us where these electors will live in Meopham? Where is your forecast? There is not one piece of evidence in the public domain for an increase like this, so where will these people live. I beg the commission to pause their report and publish the finer details of Meopham so people and groups can propose sensible boundaries because it is currently a guessing game because we do not know where these people will live.

Because of the huge increase in population, I think it is fair that Meopham and Vigo is a four-member ward seat. This is an extenuating circumstance because of the increase of population. This would create good local governance as people will not be confused as to what is or is not Meopham North (see above) and would represent the Meopham and Vigo communities well as well as providing good electoral equality.

### Proposed Changes

I want to make more proposals for this area because I acknowledge it is a difficult area to propose boundaries.

#### Proposal A:

Istead Rise and Painters Ash – 4 Councillors

Cobham and Luddesdown – 1 Councillor

Meopham and Vigo – 4 Councillors

This would see a combination of the current Istead Rise and Painters Ash wards. The parishes of Cobham and Luddesdown combined and the parishes of Meopham and Vigo combined.

#### Proposal B:

Istead Rise – 2 Councillors

Cobham and Luddesdown – 1 Councillor

Meopham and Vigo – 4 Councillors

This is stated in my response to Gravesham South.

#### Proposal C:

Istead Rise – 2 Councillors

Meopham – 3 Councillors

Cobham, Luddesdown, and Vigo – 1 Councillor

The change here between Proposal B and C would be that the parish of Vigo is included in the Cobham and Luddesdown boundary to alleviate the four-member ward problem and provide better electoral equality for Cobham and Luddesdown and it would not result in an extra councillor being added.

#### Proposal C:

Istead Rise, Cobham, Luddesdown, and Vigo – 3 Councillors

Meopham – 3 Councillors

This would not increase the number of Councillors, and it would provide fantastic community representation and local governance for Meopham. But it would provide awful local governance and community representation for Istead Rise, Cobham, Luddesdown, and Vigo as one councillor would “look after” Istead Rise, one for Cobham and Luddesdown, and one for Vigo.

Proposal D:

Istead Rise – 2 Councillors

Meopham – 3 Councillors

Cobham and Luddesdown – 1 Councillor

Vigo – 1 Councillor

This would represent communities the best and provide the best local governance, but this would provide the worst electoral equality.

## Conclusion

I am largely supportive of the draft boundaries. But there needs to be tweaks around the rural villages, Kings Farm, the Town boundary, and the Perry Street area of Northfleet to provide good community representation.