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From: Cllr. Jordan Meade [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 August 2021 18:18
To: reviews
Subject: WARDING PATTERN SUBMISSION: The Gravesham Conservative Councillors' Group
Attachments: Conservative_Group_Submission.pdf

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Dear Commissioners,

I am pleased to attach a submission on behalf of the Conservative Group (Opposition) at Gravesham Borough Council. This submission is made in the name of all twenty members of the Conservative Group of Councillors, and it further has the endorsement of the Member of Parliament for Gravesham, Gravesham Conservative Association and the Conservative County Councillors who represent divisions across Gravesham.

If any further explanation is required on the points contained in the attachment, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Yours faithfully,

Jordan

Cllr. Jordan Meade FRSA
Leader of the Opposition [The Conservative Group]

Member for Woodlands Ward

Gravesham Borough Council
Committee Section, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1AU.

THE ELECTORAL REVIEW OF THE BOROUGH OF GRAVESHAM RESPONSE TO THE LGBCE CONSULTATION 2021

WARDING PATTERN SUBMISSION BY GRAVESHAM CONSERVATIVES

About this submission:

This submission is presented to the LGBCE Commissioners on behalf, and in the name of the Conservative Group of Councillors at Gravesham Borough Council.

It is submitted by the Gravesham Conservatives Group, which is the largest opposition group (20 Members) on Gravesham Borough Council (the "Council"). It is further endorsed by Gravesham Conservative Association, which together is the Conservative Party within the Borough.

For more information or for clarification please contact:

Councillor Jordan Meade FRSA

Leader of The Conservative Group on Gravesham Borough Council

Principle Authors of this report: Cllr. Jordan Meade and Mr. Jacob Hatch
Supported by: Cllr. Bob Lane and Cllr. Tony Rice

Contents:

Endorsements.....	(03)
Introduction & Foreword.....	(05)
Identities of Local Communities.....	(06)
Three Legal Factors.....	(07)
Principles of Our Response.....	(08)
Data sets used.....	(09)
The Borough's Current Wards (Map).....	(10)
Introduction to our Proposals.....	(11)
Our proposed Wards (Map).....	(12)
Ward One: Denton Ward.....	(13)
Ward Two: Chalk Ward.....	(19)
Ward Three: Higham and Shorne Ward.....	(24)
Ward Four: Northfleet Ward.....	(39)
Ward Five: Painters Ash Ward.....	(45)
Ward Six: Pelham Ward.....	(51)
Ward Seven: Perry Street Ward.....	(55)
Ward Eight: Riverview Ward.....	(60)
Ward Nine: Rosherville Ward.....	(66)
Ward Ten: Singlewell Ward.....	(73)
Ward Eleven: Town Ward.....	(80)
Ward Twelve: Westcourt Ward.....	(93)
Ward Thirteen: Windmill Hill and Whitehill Ward.....	(100)
Ward Fourteen: Woodlands Ward.....	(107)
Ward Fifteen: Istead Rise, Cobham & Luddesdown Ward.....	(112)
Ward Sixteen: Meopham North Ward.....	(121)
Ward Seventeen: Meopham South and Vigo Ward.....	(125)
End Page.....	(129)

Endorsements

Representing the Gravesham Conservative Association, The Conservative Group on Gravesham Borough Council, Gravesham Conservative County Councillors and Adam Holloway MP - The Member of Parliament for Gravesham.

Adam Holloway MP

Member of Parliament for Gravesham



As the elected MP for Gravesham it is my duty to serve and support everyone here – however they choose to vote. Over my 16 years in this role I have noted that at local borough Council elections the Ward boundaries and Councillors per Ward often result in a party taking power that does not reflect the popular vote Borough wide. I would like to think that in future election results mean that the party winning power is that chosen by the people of Gravesham – rather than caused by outdated boundaries.

Cllr. Jordan Meade FRSA

**Leader of the Gravesham Conservative Group
Woodlands Ward Cllr & County Councillor for Gravesend East**



When setting out to suggest new boundaries for our borough, foremost in our mind was the need to create a pattern that protected and enhanced the rich diversity of the communities united under the Gravesham banner. This submission has utilised the highly localised knowledge of the Conservative Councillors, who cover the entirety of this borough. We are confident that this proposal meets all three of the legal obligations of the Commission

Cllr. Tony Rice

**Chairman of Gravesham Conservative Association
Shorne, Cobham & Luddesdown Ward Councillor**



Gravesham Conservative Association endorses and agrees with the proposal put forward by the Conservative Group. It achieves electoral balance while preserving, improving and future-proofing community cohesion and representation. The proposal is particularly rich in the way it embeds important features of areas into the warding pattern, such as ensuring conservation areas are not split between wards.

Cllr. Bryan Sweetland

County Councillor for Gravesham Rural



As a local councillor, I have represented residents in the Gravesham Rural area for more than a decade and I work closely with the six Parish Councils. The Rural area of Gravesham is poorly served by the Borough Council. Any reduction in the number of Borough Councillors in the rural area would reduce the representation local people have at a time when the area is seeing rapid change. The Lower Thames Crossing project and Local Plan will increase local traffic and pollution, particularly in the neighbouring villages of Cobham, Luddesdown and Istead, all south of the A2. These villages would work well together as a single ward.



Cllr. Ejaz Aslam

Meopham South & Vigo Councillor
Deputy Leader, Gravesham Conservatives



Cllr. Bob Lane

Shorne, Cobham & Luddesdown
Councillor



Cllr. Alan Ridgers

Istead Rise Councillor
County Cllr for Gravesend East



Cllr. Conrad Broadley

Painters Ash Councillor
County Cllr Northfleet & Gravesend West



Cllr. Aaron Elliott

Riverview Councillor
Chief Whip, Gravesham Conservatives



Cllr. Leslie Hills

Chalk Ward Councillor



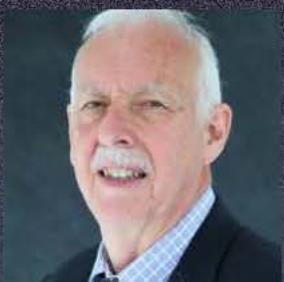
Cllr. Samir Jassal

Westcourt Councillor
Deputy Chair, Gravesham Conservatives



Cllr. Gurjit Bains

Woodland Ward Councillor
Assistant Chair, Gravesham Conservatives



Cllr. Derek Ashenden

Riverview Councillor
Hon. Secretary, Gravesham Conservatives



Cllr. Dr. Denise Tiran

Meopham South & Vigo Councillor

The Conservative Group at Gravesham Borough Council unanimously endorses this submission to the LGBCE.

Gravesham Borough Council is currently in no overall control. The Conservatives holds 20 of the borough's 44 seats and form the official opposition group.



Cllr. Dakota Dibben

Istead Rise Councillor



Cllr. Helen Ashenden

Westcourt Ward Councillor



Cllr. Diane Morton

Singlewell Ward Councillor



Cllr. Gary Harding

Meopham North Councillor



Cllr. Emma Elliott

Painters Ash Councillor



Cllr. Frank Wardle

Meopham North Councillor
Deputy Whip, Gravesham Conservatives



Cllr. Leslie Hoskins

Whitehill Councillor



Cllr. Tony Pritchard

Woodlands Councillor

INTRODUCTION & FOREWORD:

This is the submission on behalf of Gravesham Conservatives to the LGBCE consultation on its electoral review of the Borough of Gravesham (the "Borough"). It is submitted by the Gravesham Conservative Group, which is the largest opposition group on Gravesham Borough Council (the "Council") - a council which is currently in no overall control. This submission is made in the name of and with the unanimous agreement of the twenty councillors that make up the Conservative Group on Gravesham Borough Council and it further has the support and endorsement of the Gravesham Conservative Association and Gravesham Conservative County Councillors.

For the past few months, I have been an active participant to the cross-party working group, which was established by the Council to provide a response to the LGBCE consultation. At stage one of the consultation, I was pleased to support the Council's recommendation that the number of Members be reduced from 44 to 39. However, it became apparent that my views on the warding patterns differed substantially from those of my colleagues and with the Council pursuing numerical gratification over the other priorities as requested by the Commission, I decided to withdraw and work with my colleagues in the Conservative Group to present this submission.

Whilst it is vital that all views are listened to and taken into proper consideration, it is also important to note that there is not a single part of the Borough that is currently not represented by either a Conservative County Councillor or a Conservative District Councillor, and I have therefore been able to rely on the brilliant expertise and highly localised knowledge of individual members spanning the entirety of the borough to help determine how our submission be crafted to reflect the Commission's obligation to create boundaries that are appropriate and reflect community ties and identities.

Whilst we understand that the overlay of Conservation Areas (as mandated under the Civic Amenities Act, 1967) do not form part of the material consideration of the Commissioners, we strongly believe that some of the 23 Conservation Areas that are contained within Gravesham's boundaries represent strong community identities and are often self-contained and self-supporting. We have therefore included reference to some of these areas and we ask the Commission to give serious consideration as to how Conservation Areas overlay the future warding pattern and assert that these carefully defined communities should not be split between wards.

Further still, we put it to the Commission that Gravesham has several small, locally focused primary schools and we strongly believe that these schools have created communities around them that should be reflected in the new warding patterns. We have therefore chosen a few of the borough's primary schools as examples, and provided a heatmap interpretation of where their pupils reside.

In submitting this response, I would like to pay a special thanks to Mr. Jacob Hatch (Gravesham Conservative Association), Cllr. Tony Rice and Cllr. Bob Lane for their unwavering support and contribution to this submission.



Cllr. Jordan Meade FRSA

Leader of the Conservative Group at Gravesham Borough Council
District Councillor for Woodlands Ward
Kent County Councillor for Gravesend East

KEY FACTS ABOUT THE BOROUGH:

- Gravesham is a borough in the north-west part of Kent.
- We border the Borough of Dartford and Sevenoaks District to the west, the Borough of Tonbridge and Malling to the south, the Medway Unitary Authority to the east and the Thurrock Unitary Authority of Essex to the north, across the River Thames.
- There is a mix between the urban parts of Gravesend and Northfleet, and a significant number of rural communities, which apart from Higham and Shorne mainly fall to the south of the A2.
- Gravesham is served by fantastic transport links with communities established around the five train stations of Gravesend, Higham, Meopham, Northfleet and Sole Street.
- The borough is under significant pressure to build more houses over the next few years and is currently in the process of formulating a new Local Plan.
- The borough is further under threat from the potential development of the Lower Thames Crossing to the east of Gravesend.
- According to the Council's latest Community Profile: "As at mid-2019 Gravesham had a population of 106,900, the lowest figure across the 12 Kent districts. The 2019 population estimate represents a growth rate of 6.7% in the last 10 years, below the equivalent Kent (9.7%) and national (7.8%) averages".
- Further to this the Community Profile states that "Gravesham has the highest number (17,494) and proportion (17.2%) of residents from a Black Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) group in Kent".

THREE LEGAL FACTORS:

This submission has been crafted to ensure that it meets the three legal factors the Commission uses to draw new boundaries:

1. New wards should leave each councillor representing roughly the same number of voters as other councillors elsewhere in the authority.
2. New wards should – as far as possible – reflect community interests and identities, and boundaries should be identifiable. Consider transport links, community groups and facilities, natural or physical boundaries, parishes and shared interests.
3. New wards should promote effective and convenient local government. Consider the number of councillors for, the geographic size of, and the links between parts of the ward.

THE PRINCIPLES OF OUR RESPONSE



That there should be a total of 39 Councillors, representing Gravesham.



That the new pattern of wards results in each councillor representing broadly the same number of electors. For Gravesham this is 2,205 per Councillor or within a 12% variance of this total.

*Note This is based on the 2027 estimates, apart from the two Meopham Wards which for reasons explained utilise a lower forecast in growth



That we seek to maintain the boundaries and integrity of existing, familiar communities and parishes.



That we take account of known or likely significant housing developments across the borough.



That the proposal is reflective of the Commission's Three guiding principles.

DATA SETS USED

- These proposals have been derived from the Council's 2027 election forecasts as submitted to the Commission.
- This excludes the two Meopham Wards for which we used a lower revision as we do not believe that the Council's forecasting here is representative of the actual growth that we will see over the next five years.
- We deem this to be compliant with 3.9 of the Commission's Technical Guidance which states that the Commission should give consideration to changes that are "likely" to take place with the distribution of electors across the borough.
- Due to the fact that the Leader of the Council determined that only Officers would be able to have access to live mapping software for the purposes of submitting a joint response, the Conservative Group was unable to obtain a breakdown of forecasted electors at street level. We therefore used an estimate, which was based on the current number of electors per road, whilst taking into consideration forthcoming development schemes and granted planning permissions.
- The above explanation of our best estimate approach to elector numbers was only done on rare occasions where we had to split polling districts and thus the majority of this proposal is based on the Council's 2027 estimates.

Key Resources:

The Council's 2027 estimates:

<https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/south-east/kent/gravesham>

The Council's Conservation Area Appraisals:

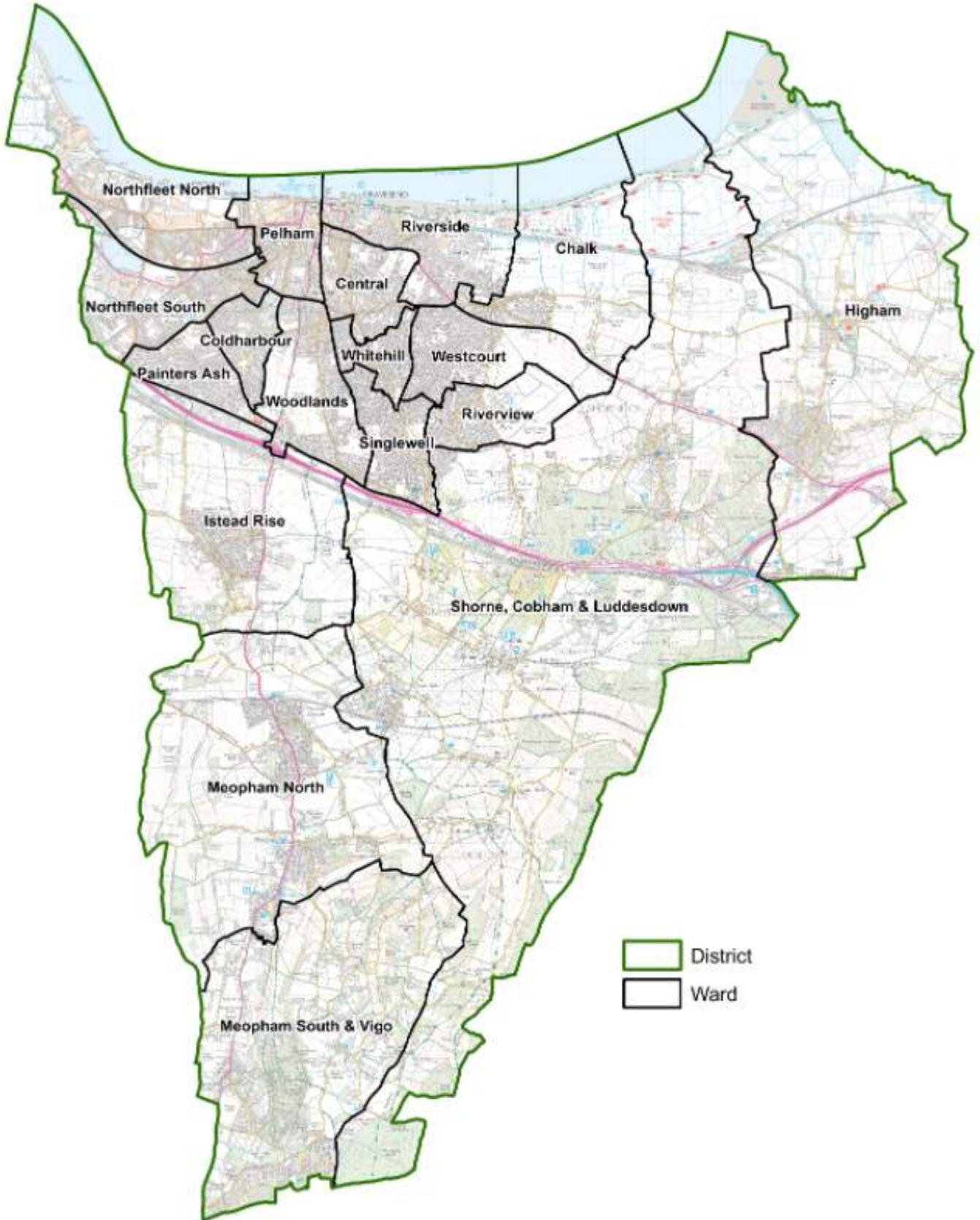
<https://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/planning-and-building/heritage-and-conservation/conservation-areas/conservation-area-appraisals>

The Council's Community Profile 2021:

https://www.gravesham.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/225774/Gravesham-Community-Profile-2021.pdf

Data from the National School Census, which has been provided by the Department for Education and the Office for National Statistics.

THE BOROUGH'S CURRENT WARDS



INTRODUCTION TO OUR PROPOSAL

Ward Name	Cllrs	Total Electors	Electors Per Cllr	Variance
Denton	2	4294	2147	2.66%
Chalk	1	2239	2239	1.53%
Higham & Shorne	3	5933	1978	10.85%
Northfleet	3	6135	2045	7.52%
Painters Ash	2	4484	2242	1.66%
Pelham	2	4738	2369	7.17%
Perry Street	3	6619	2206	0.04%
Riverview	2	4135	2068	6.41%
Rosherville	2	4515	2258	2.37%
Singlewell	2	4029	2015	9.00%
Town	3	6457	2152	2.43%
Westcourt	2	4739	2370	7.21%
Whitehill & Windmill Hill	3	7068	2356	6.62%
Woodlands	3	6793	2264	2.64%
Istead Rise, Cobham & Luddesdown	2	4792	2396	8.30%
Meopham North	2	4120	2060	6.79%
Meopham South & Vigo	2	4229	2115	4.16%

The scheme we are proposing would see the establishment of **17 wards**, with **6 three-member** wards, **10 two-member** and **a single 1 member** ward, totalling **39 Councillors** with the average number of electors per councillor being around **2193**.

We believe there are strong arguments for retaining some characteristics of the existing ward geography, especially within the rural setting, however we are conscious that Gravesham is a borough undergoing significant change which is why it is both illogical and numerically impossible to mirror our current warding pattern completely.

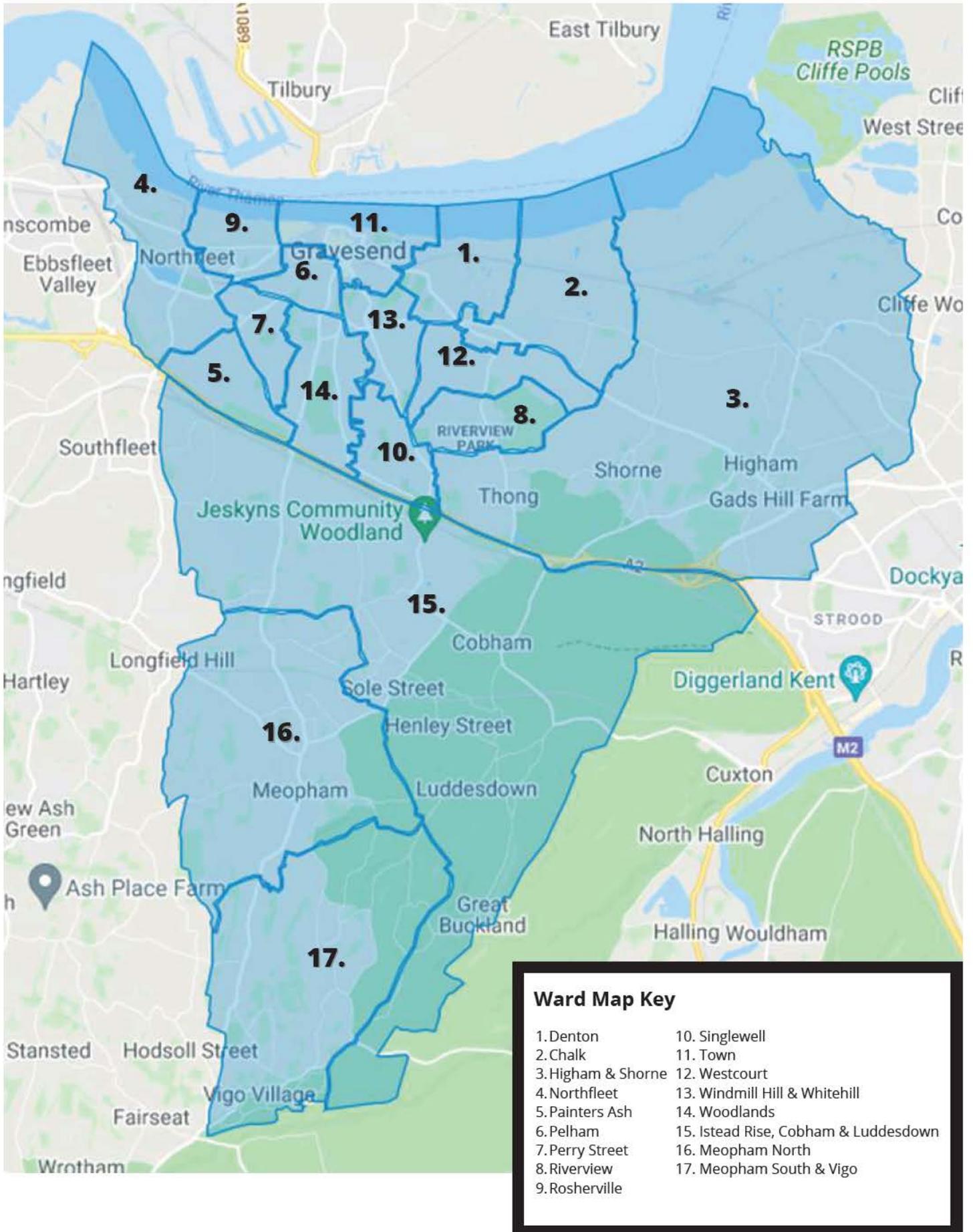
We have opted to veer away from the numerical straightjacket approach of creating similar sized wards as we believe that wards should first be reflective of communities and make sense to local residents, that is why we have ended up with a mix of 1, 2- and 3-member wards.

Using the highly localised knowledge of our Councillors on the ground, we have taken into account, where possible, the borough's history, natural geography, physical infrastructure, demography, access to local amenities, primary school data and community issues such as crime and planning.

We are therefore pleased to present wards which have been assembled from the ground up to represent the common identifies and issues of those living within well-defined areas with populations as close as possible to the 2027 goal of achieving 2205 electors per councillor.

We propose that the urban area (Gravesend and Northfleet) should be represented by **30 councillors** and that the rural area be represented by **9 councillors** overall.

OUR PROPOSED BOROUGH WARD MAP



DENTON WARD

Number of Councillors: 2

Total Electorate: 4294

Number of Electors per Councillor: 2147

Variance: 2.66%

Polling Districts:

- F
- G
- H
- J (split with Windmill Hill and Whitehill)

Extent of Denton Ward

To the north, the Ward of Denton has significant frontage onto the River Thames. The Denton Ward covers a substantial patch of marshland, which includes the Metropolitan Police Training School, The Ship and Lobster Public House and the Milton Rifle Range as key features.

A proportion of the Saxon Shoreway is contained within the Ward of Denton, as is part of the Thames and Medway Canal. Between Norfolk Road and the River, there is mainly industrial outlets, however some of this land is gradually being used for residential development. With a slightly lower number of residents per councillor, this area has scope for future residential impact of scale, without dangerously affecting the requirement for equal representation.

To the South the ward includes St John's Catholic Comprehensive School and the Gravesend Grammar School for Boys. Both schools have access points from Rochester Road. Where the A226 (Milton Road) bends towards the Town Centre provides for a perfect break point for the boundary with Town Ward.

DENTON WARD

Unifying Factors:

In the latter part of the 1800s, Denton Isolation Hospital was a prominent feature on the marshes and a community of mainly river workers developed close by. Whilst the hospital is long gone, Denton Wharf, Gravesend, today provides a purpose-built facility to undertake a wide range of marine operations, both in support of the Port of London Authority's own requirements and for third-parties. Denton thus remains a well-known place of importance in the navigation of the River Thames and is still enjoyed as a residential hotspot for the borough's community of river-based workers.

The Denton War Memorial can be found on Lower Range Road and has been cared for by St John's School, with a growing service of Remembrance taking place each year.

The Dering Way estate is the most significant area of housing and is a self-contained community with its own identity and sense of place. It is serviced by frequent transport links into the town.

Denton Multicultural Family Centre can be found on the Lower Range Road and provides a space for community events and a number of clubs.

The Riverside Children's Centre can be found on Dicken's Road and is well used by the local community.

The ward is centred around the Church of St Peter & St Paul, which is a prominent local landmark and again plays host to a number of community groups and social clubs.

The ward is well serviced with a local parade, a GP surgery and a number of small independent businesses.

Naming the Ward:

The area has an ancient affiliation with the use of the name "Denton". Denton is commonly used by local people to describe the area proposed.

DENTON WARD



DENTON WARD

Unless otherwise stated the imagery used below has been taken from Google StreetView of Google Maps. Imagery © 2021, Google Maps, United Kingdom.



DENTON WARD PICTURES

Pic 10: A new housing estate towards the Denton Marsh.

Denton has a mix of new houses as pictured here and traditional terraced properties.

Pic 11: The Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul

This Church is a key focal point on the Denton community and plays host to a number of local clubs and community groups.

Pic 12: The Denton War Memorial

The War Memorial has been adopted by a local secondary school that is also contained within the ward and a small but growing community service of remembrance is held each year.

Pic 13: The Thames and Medway Canal

A significant part of the Thames and Medway Canal runs through the proposed ward. The canal is no longer in use as a functioning canal but is well maintained at this point and looked after by the Thames and Medway Canal Association.

Pic 14: The Ship and Lobster Public House

The Ship and Lobster pub was built on the river wall at Denton in the early 19th Century and is still operating as a popular pub today. It is the most easterly pub of Gravesend and is used as a turning point for the town's Regatta.

Pic 15: A typical new build residential block

Denton is an area that has gone through a period of recent development with highly quality residential blocks being crafted as above to reflect the unique identity of this Riverside community.

Pic 16: Street scene at Allens Mead

This is a typical street in the southern part of the ward. This part of the estate is highly residential and represents a self-contained community.

Pic 17: Factory on Norfolk Road

To the north of the ward can be found a number of light industrial units. Many of the people employed here reside within the boundaries of the new ward.

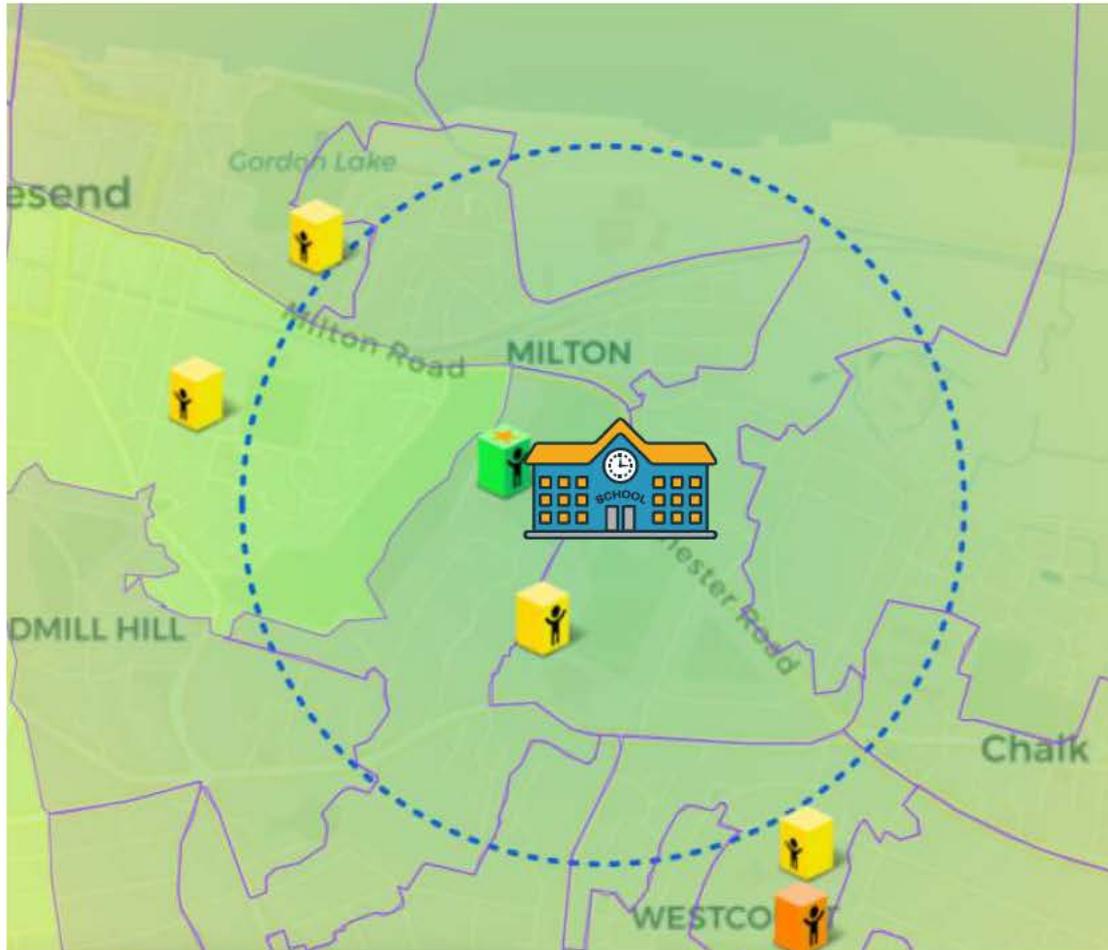
Pic 18: The Metropolitan Police Training School

This Police Training School at Denton is a focal point of the Ward and can be found adjacent to the Thames and Medway Canal.

DENTON WARD PRIMARY SCHOOLS

St John's Catholic Primary School

The majority of students who attend St John's either live within the Denton Ward or neighbouring Town Ward. The Green shading below provides a visual demonstration of where more than 70% of pupils live. This data is taken from the National School Census 2020.



Source: https://www.locrating.com/school_catchment_areas.aspx
© Locrating © OpenStreetMap contributors © CARTO



CHALK WARD

Number of Councillors: 1

Total Electorate: 2239

Number of Electors per Councillor: 2239

Variance: 1.53%

Polling Districts:

- P
- Q (split with Westcourt)
- R (split with Westcourt)

Extent of Chalk Ward

Chalk has a significant area of marsh land which borders the River Thames to the North. The boundary of the Chalk ward has been slightly extended to incorporate parts of Barr Road, Rochester Road and a dwelling on the south of the A226 to provide a better electoral equality balance for the ward. Chalk is largely a self-contained community with a mixture of new and listed residential properties.

Unifying Factors:

Chalk is one of those rare places in Gravesham that is neither urban or completely rural. Consequently, it fits neither in Gravesham Rural nor in the urban area. The ward of Chalk was set up in 1935 when it was joined with neighbouring Denton. In the 1960's Chalk Ward consisted of it's traditional component parts - Chalk Village, East Chalk and Westcourt. This was changed in 2000 when it lost a good part of it's territory and Riverview Park housing was established. So, it would not be entirely inappropriate to incorporate a part of the south side of Rochester Road, which is in the Westcourt ward at present. This would then lend itself closely to the desired figure of residents for each councillor.

CHALK WARD

However, Chalk is a close knit village community, with very much it's own identity and it would be a shame to lose it's status as a one ward councillor and be swallowed up by either Higham, Riverview or Shorne. Over many years, whoever is the incumbent has been able to familiarise with the many clubs pastimes and social activities. as well as objecting and mitigating the effects of large projects such as the lower Thames Crossing that pose a threat to the community.

Many residents have a close association with the church and activities are crystallized in the parish hall on a regular basis, in conjunction with the local councillor. This familiarisation also enables casework to be effectively understood and dealt with, in a community comprising of many elderly people, where the sole councillor is invariably well known and well versed with the problem.

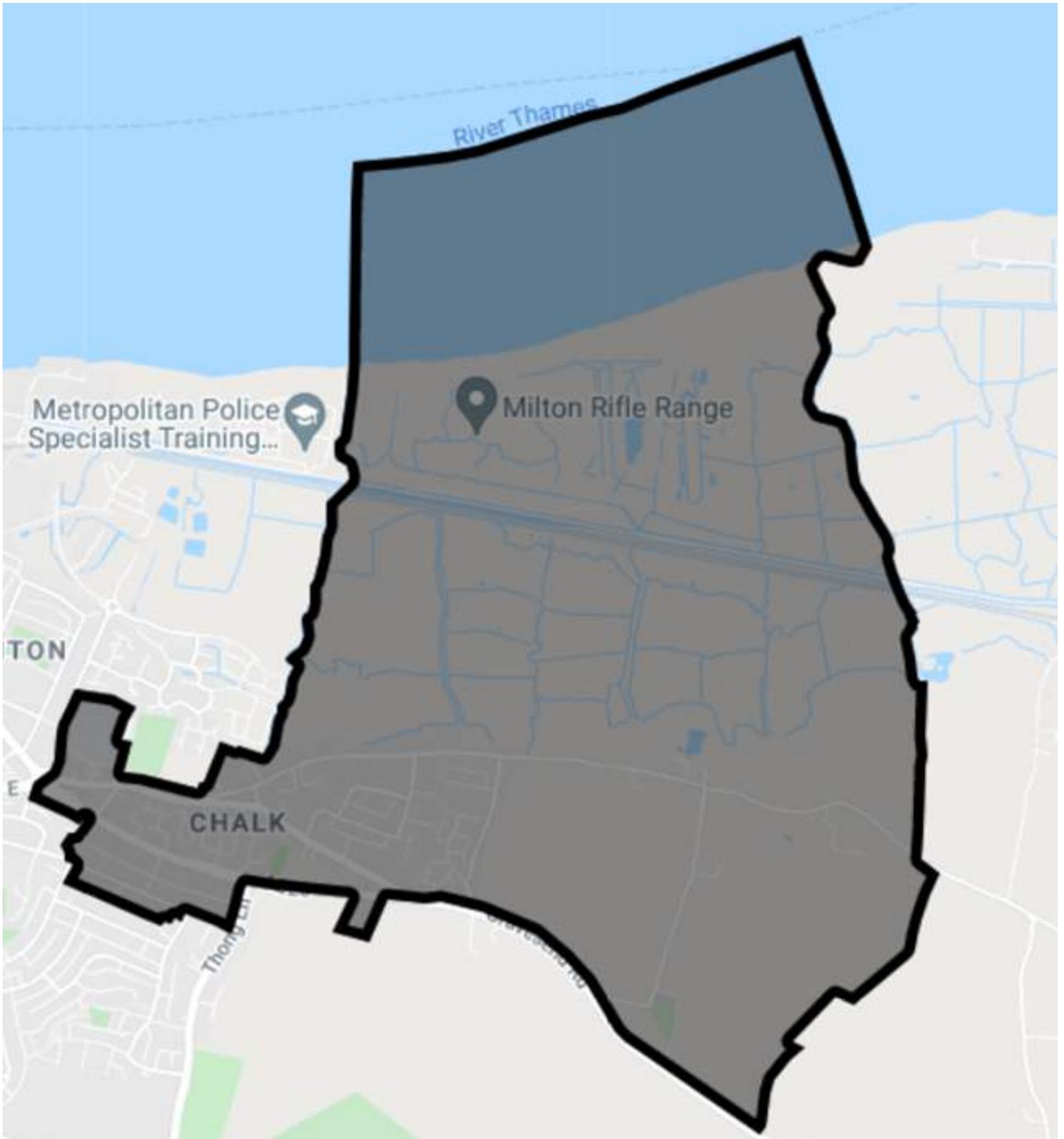
We submit to lose this position of a one councillor ward, that has served so well over many years, would deprive Chalk of it's unique historical identity, in a happy and contented village area.

Naming the Ward:

We submit that the ward should retain the name "Chalk" to reflect the parish which covers a majority of the ward.

CHALK WARD

Made with Google My Maps



CHALK WARD

Unless otherwise stated the imagery used below has been taken from Google StreetView of Google Maps. Imagery © 2021, Google Maps, United Kingdom.



Pic 1



Pic 2



Pic 3



Pic 4



Pic 5



Pic 6



Pic 7



Pic 8



Pic 9

CHALK WARD PICTURES

Pic 1: Chalk Parish Hall

Chalk Parish Hall is a focal point of community cohesion. It is used by a number of community groups and is regularly hired by local residents for family occasions and gatherings

Pic 2: A typical street scene (Barr Road)

Barr Road has a strong distinction from roads in neighbouring Westcourt Ward. Many local residents here consider themselves to be part of Chalk and utilise the parade and community amenities that can be found north of the A226.

Pic 3: City Praise Centre

City Praise Centre is a well established and popular Christian Church that subscribes to the historic Christian faith as found in the scriptures and the creeds of the great ecumenical councils.

Pic 4: Chalk Shopping Parade

Dotted throughout Chalk Ward are a number of small independent businesses that offer everything from personal care, to service provision, take away food and essentials.

Pic 5: The Harvester Restaurant

The Harvester is a very popular local restaurant, which is commonly associated with Chalk.

Pic 6: Chalk Church

The ancient Church of St. Mary the Virgin at Chalk has been a focal point from the Thames for hundreds of years. The present structure dates from the 11th to 13th centuries with a late 12th century north aisle. The tower with its projecting stair turret is typically Kentish and a major 15th century addition.

Pic 7: Chalk Road

There is a strong sense of place and community in Chalk.

Pic 8: House on Rochester Road

This dwelling to the south of the A226 (Horseshoe Meadows), for good governance and identity purposes should be moved into the revised ward of Chalk.

Pic 9: The Forge

The Forge is one of only two surviving Kentish weather board buildings which before the 1940's were very common in Chalk. It is widely believed that this building inspired Charles Dickens in his authorship of Great Expectations.

HIGHAM & SHORNE WARD

Number of Councillors: 3

Total Electorate: 5933

Number of Electors per Councillor: 1978

Variance: 10.85%

Polling Districts:

- CL
- CM
- CD
- CE

Extent of Higham and Shorne Ward

We submit that the two parishes of Shorne and Higham be merged into a three seat ward. Whilst accepting that the area represents two highly distinct parishes, we assert that the existing wards have similar characteristics and will be facing similar challenges over the years ahead. The new ward would simply merge the existing parish of Shorne (including Shorne West) with the Parish of Higham to create a new three member ward. The Ward would closely follow the boundaries of Higham and Shorne parishes.

It is important to note that we strongly assert that Shorne Parish Council is a long-established local government administrative body and that at district-level it is of vital importance that Shorne West is retained under the representation of the borough Councillors with responsibility for Shorne. To alter this situation would be met with considerable local opposition.

Unifying Factors:

Despite the parishes of Shorne and Higham being distinct and self contained we submit that there are a number of strong unifying factors that would allow for better local governance if these communities were merged to create a single, three seat ward.

Firstly both Shorne and Higham, as easterly areas of the borough are under significant threat from the Lower Thames Crossing. It would therefore make sense for the communities to work together on mitigation against the scheme and having district councillors covering the entirety of this patch would make it easier for the communities to face up to the impending challenges together.

HIGHAM AND SHORNE WARD WARD

Further to this, as both communities border the River Thames, from an environmental perspective it makes sense that they should be united in their approach to issues around conservation and flooding caused by rising sea levels.

We believe that the communities of Shorne and Higham, both being separately parished, would be able to retain their individuality, whilst coming together under three borough councillors to ensure better local governance and more equal representation.

Further still, both Shorne and Higham share the A226 and the Lower Road as the main transport links into Gravesend and beyond. It is therefore submitted, that on grounds of traffic and local public transportation, Shorne has a much greater commonality with Higham, that it does with its existing ward sharing with Cobham and Luddesdown.

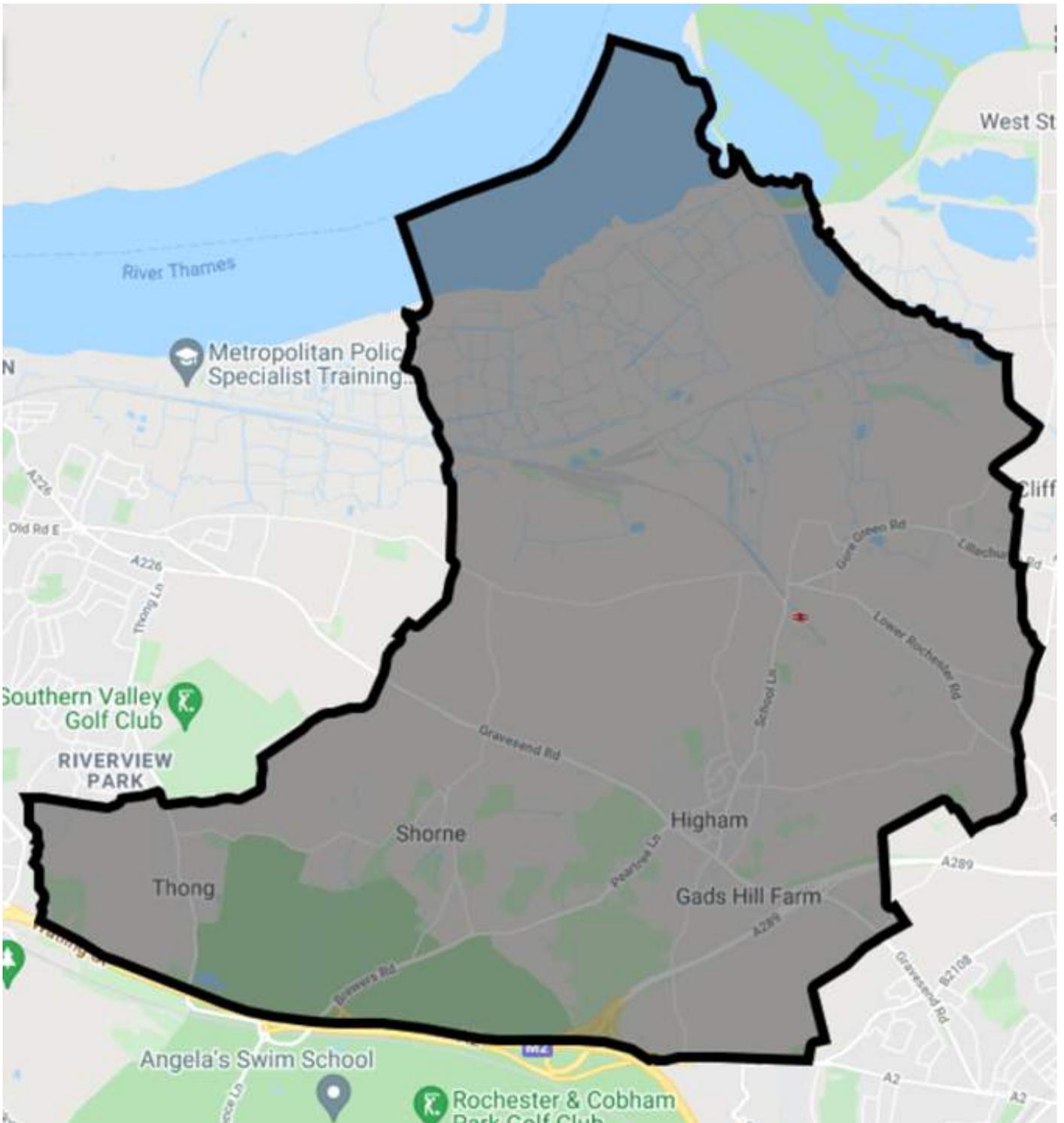
Naming the Ward:

The ward should be named after the two parishes of Higham and Shorne. We therefore submit that the ward should be named "Higham and Shorne".



The photo above shows the proximity of Higham and Shorne - the houses on the right are in Shorne, on the left are in Higham.

HIGHAM & SHORNE WARD



HIGHAM & SHORNE WARD

Unless otherwise stated the imagery used below has been taken from Google StreetView of Google Maps. Imagery © 2021, Google Maps, United Kingdom.



Pic 19



Pic 20



Pic 21



Pic 22



Pic 23



Pic 24



Pic 25



Pic 26



Pic 27

HIGHAM & SHORNE WARD

Unless otherwise stated the imagery used below has been taken from Google StreetView of Google Maps. Imagery © 2021, Google Maps, United Kingdom.



Pic 28



Pic 29



Pic 30



Pic 31



Pic 32



Pic 33



Pic 34



Pic 35



Pic 36

HIGHAM & SHORNE WARD PICTURES

Pic 19: Marshes at Higham

Like Shorne, to the north of Higham exists significant marshland bordering the River Thames.

Pic 20: St Mary's Church, Higham

St Mary's Church is a redundant church in Higham, maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust. A small residential community exists around the church, making up the smaller part of the Village of Higham.

Pic 21: Post Office and Shop at Higham

Higham is well serviced by local shops, a post office and a library.

Pic 22: Higham Primary School

Higham Primary School is mainly attended by students from Higham and neighbouring Shorne.

Pic 23: A typical street scene (Higham Village)

Like Shorne, Higham has a number of small terraces dating from the Victorian and Edwardian periods.

Pic 24: St John's Church, Higham

The church was consecrated in 1862 and it replaced St Mary's as the parish church. It is a Grade II Listed Building and is still in use by the local community.

Pic 25: A typical street scene (Higham Village)

As well as historic residential properties, Higham has a number of modern houses.

Pic 26: Gads Hill Place

Gads Hill is a focal point of the Higham Community and Gads Hill Place, today an independent school was the home and place of death of Charles Dickens.

Pic 27: The Higham Memorial Hall

The Higham Memorial Hall is well used by the local community and is the meeting place of the Parish Council.

HIGHAM & SHORNE WARD PICTURES

Pic 28: The Marshes at Shorne

Like Higham, to the north of Shorne exists significant marshland bordering the River Thames.

Pic 29: Shorne Village Hall

Shorne Village Hall is well used by the local community and is the meeting place of the Parish Council.

Pic 30: St Peter & St Paul's Church, Shorne

The Church is of Anglican denomination and is part of the Shorne Village Conservation Area.

Pic 31: Shorne Village Store and Parade

Shorne is well serviced by a number of local shops and independent businesses.

Pic 32: A typical street scene in Shorne

Tanyard Hill is what you could refer to as being "quintessentially Shorne"

Pic 33: Pipes Place

This Grade II listed building can be found on Forge Lane.

Pic 34: Shorne Village Surgery

Open Monday through to Friday, the Surgery can be found on Crown Lane.

Pic 35: Shorne Primary School

Located on Cob Drive, the village's primary school is part of the Aletheia Anglican Academies Trust.

Pic 36: Little St. Katherine's

This Grade II* property is a Wealden type hall house and can be found on Forge Lane.

HIGHAM AND SHORNE CONSERVATION AREA OVERLAY

The Lower Higham Conservation Area

To ensure good local governance we believe that it is vital that conservation areas, where possible, are completely contained within the boundary of one ward. This will allow the elected members for the said area to become highly proficient in understanding how they can support the community with highly localised planning matters, thus representing good local governance. We further put it to the Commission that all of the borough's conservation areas reflect well contained communities and it would therefore be an absurdity to split conservation areas between wards.



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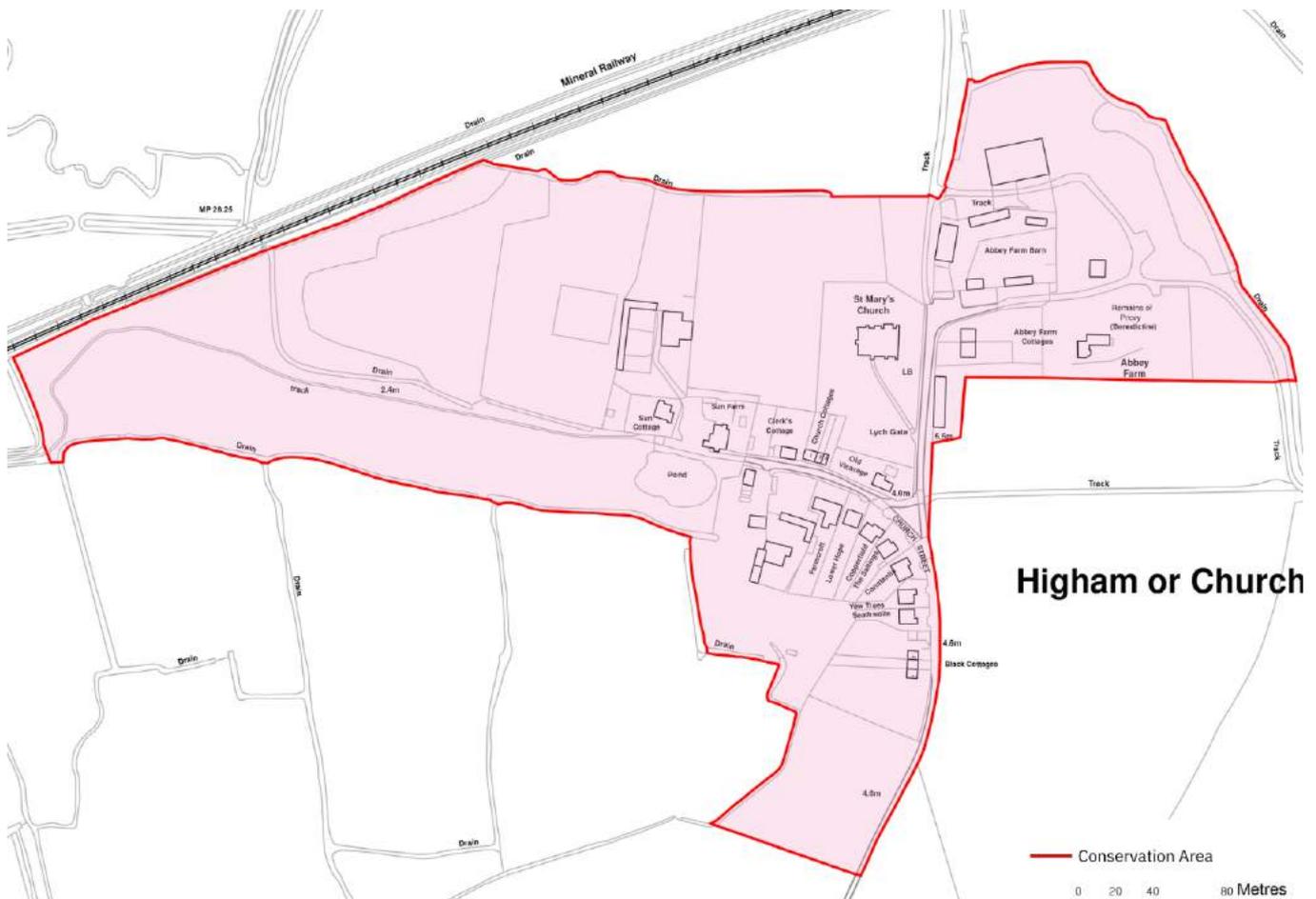


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HIGHAM AND SHORNE CONSERVATION AREA OVERLAY

The Church Street, Higham Conservation Area

To ensure good local governance we believe that it is vital that conservation areas, where possible, are completely contained within the boundary of one ward. This will allow the elected members for the said area to become highly proficient in understanding how they can support the community with highly localised planning matters, thus representing good local governance. We further put it to the Commission that all of the borough's conservation areas reflect well contained communities and it would therefore be an absurdity to split conservation areas between wards.



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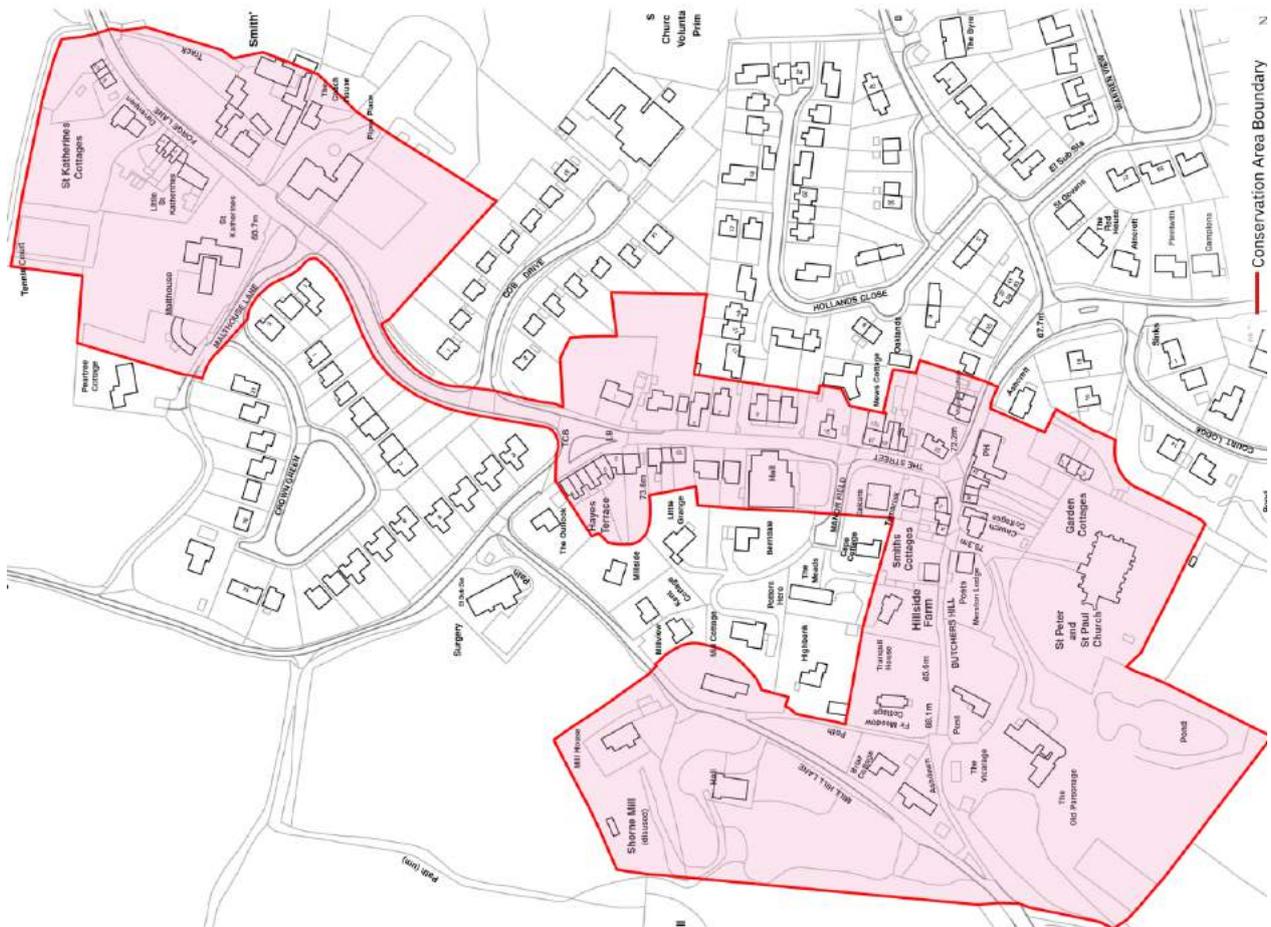


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HIGHAM AND SHORNE CONSERVATION AREA OVERLAY

The Shorne Village Conservation Area

To ensure good local governance we believe that it is vital that conservation areas, where possible, are completely contained within the boundary of one ward. This will allow the elected members for the said area to become highly proficient in understanding how they can support the community with highly localised planning matters, thus representing good local governance. We further put it to the Commission that all of the borough's conservation areas reflect well contained communities and it would therefore be an absurdity to split conservation areas between wards.



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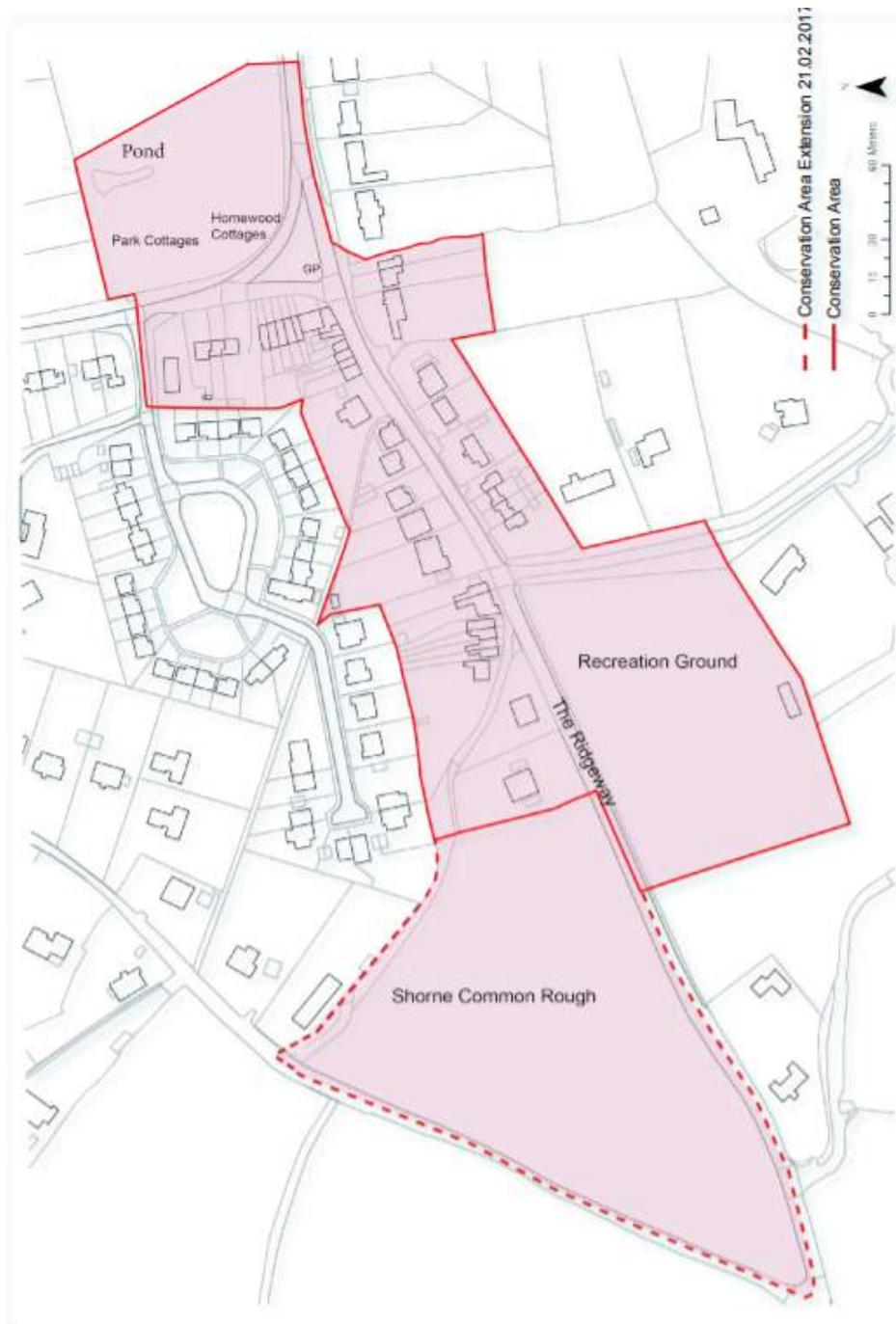


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HIGHAM AND SHORNE CONSERVATION AREA OVERLAY

The Chestnut-Green Conservation Area

To ensure good local governance we believe that it is vital that conservation areas, where possible, are completely contained within the boundary of one ward. This will allow the elected members for the said area to become highly proficient in understanding how they can support the community with highly localised planning matters, thus representing good local governance. We further put it to the Commission that all of the borough's conservation areas reflect well contained communities and it would therefore be an absurdity to split conservation areas between wards.

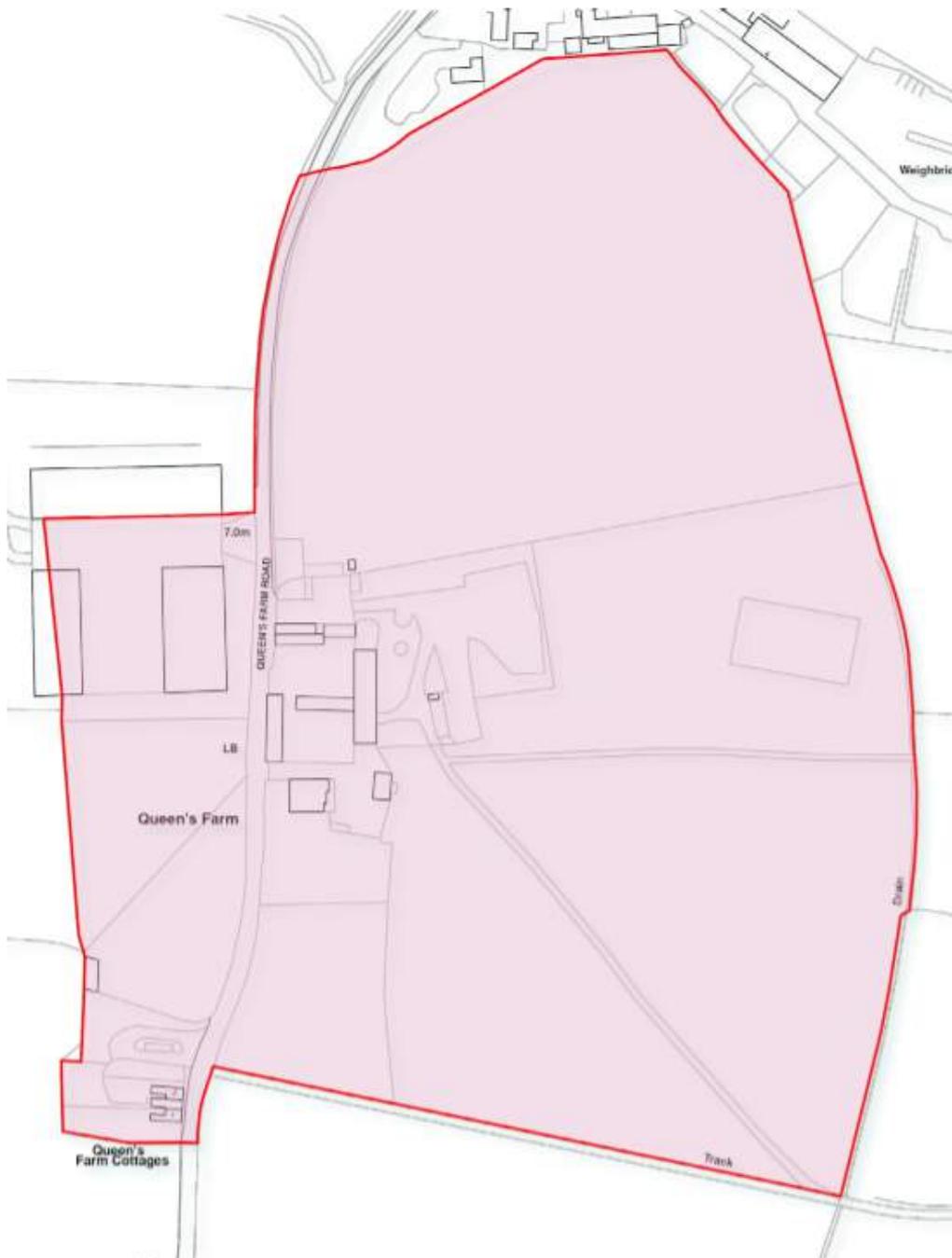


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HIGHAM AND SHORNE CONSERVATION AREA OVERLAY

The Queens Farm Conservation Area

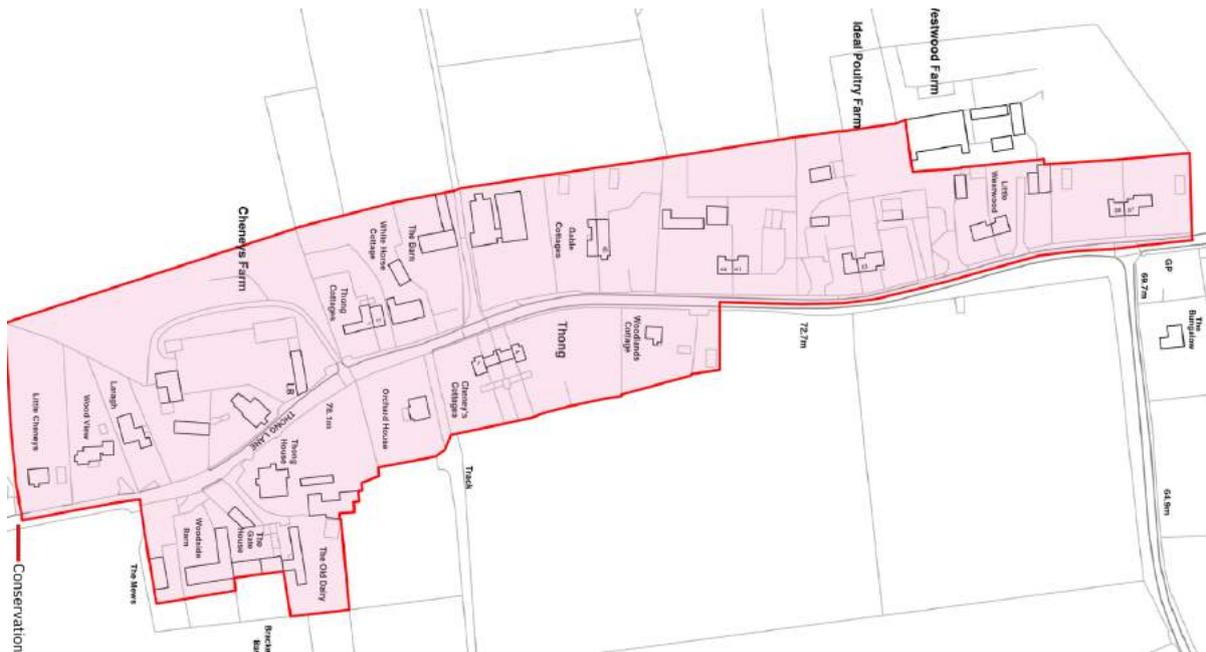
To ensure good local governance we believe that it is vital that conservation areas, where possible, are completely contained within the boundary of one ward. This will allow the elected members for the said area to become highly proficient in understanding how they can support the community with highly localised planning matters, thus representing good local governance. We further put it to the Commission that all of the borough's conservation areas reflect well contained communities and it would therefore be an absurdity to split conservation areas between wards.



HIGHAM AND SHORNE CONSERVATION AREA OVERLAY

The Thong Conservation Area

To ensure good local governance we believe that it is vital that conservation areas, where possible, are completely contained within the boundary of one ward. This will allow the elected members for the said area to become highly proficient in understanding how they can support the community with highly localised planning matters, thus representing good local governance. We further put it to the Commission that all of the borough's conservation areas reflect well contained communities and it would therefore be an absurdity to split conservation areas between wards.



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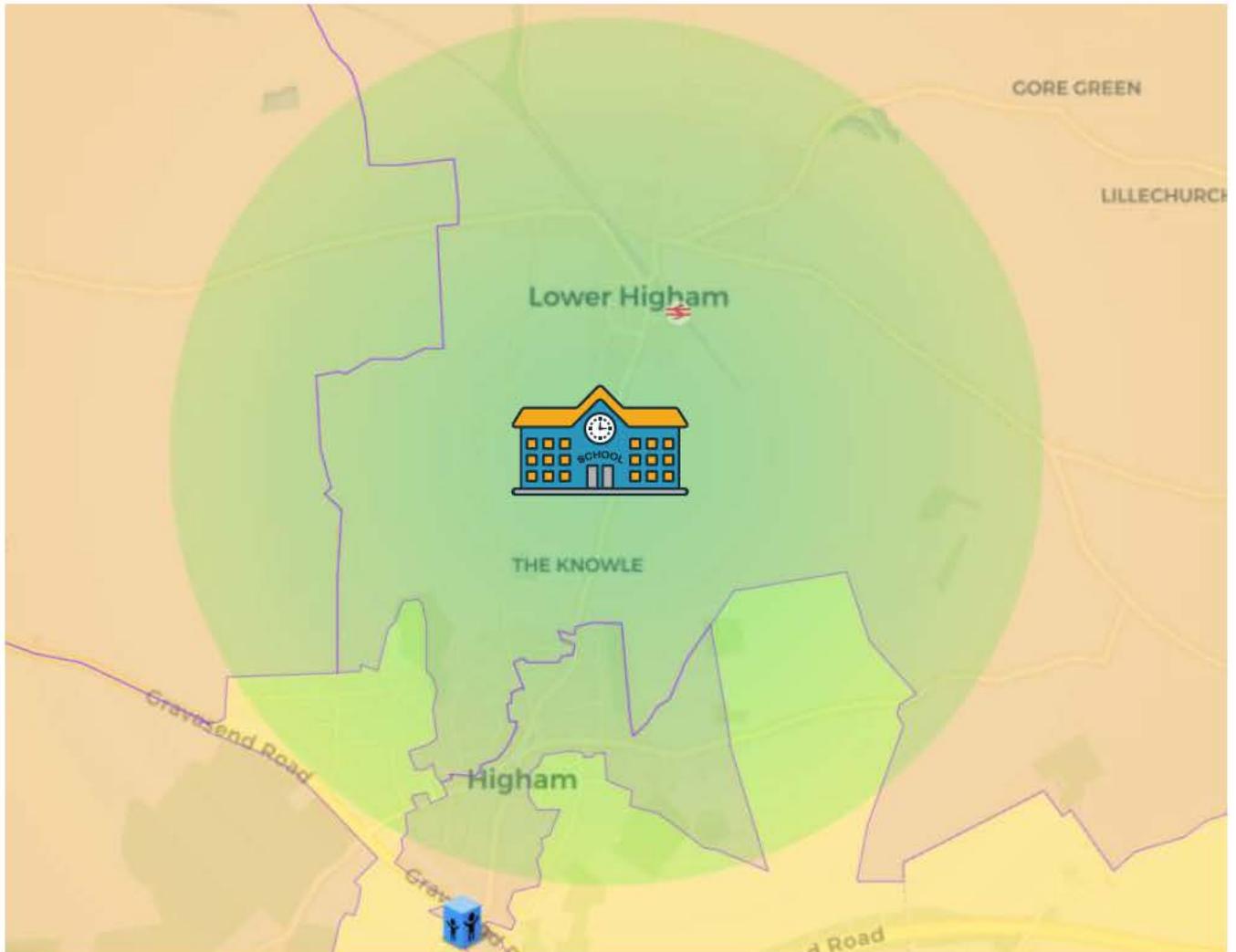


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HIGHAM & SHORNE SCHOOLS

Higham Primary School

The Green shading below provides a visual demonstration of where more than 70% of pupils live. This data is taken from the National School Census 2020.



Source: https://www.locrating.com/school_catchment_areas.aspx
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HIGHAM & SHORNE SCHOOLS

Shorne Church of England Primary School

The Green shading below provides a visual demonstration of where more than 70% of pupils live. This data is taken from the National School Census 2020.



Source: https://www.locrating.com/school_catchment_areas.aspx
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NORTHFLEET WARD

Number of Councillors: 3

Total Electorate: 6135

Number of Electors per Councillor: 2045

Variance: 7.52%

Polling Districts:

- BB (split with Rosherville)
- BC
- BD

Extent of Northfleet Ward

We propose that the new Northfleet Ward stretches from the borough's boundary on the Swanscombe Peninsula in the west, through to the natural boundary created by the cliff drop at the B2175 (The London Road). The Ward would include the current polling districts of BC, BD and part of BB. To the South the Ward would border the A2 Watling Street, thus including large parts of Springhead.

Unifying Factors:

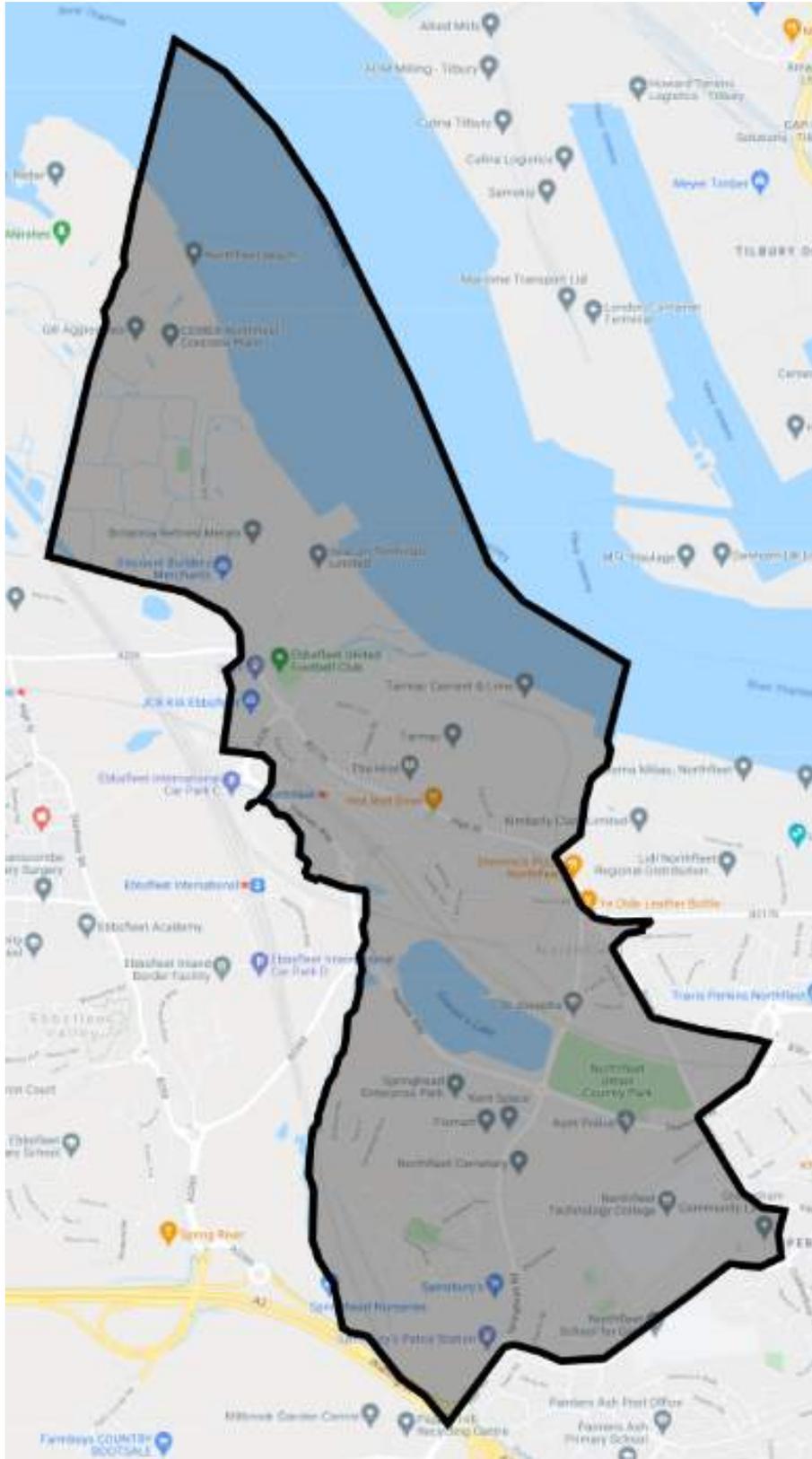
The ward is made up of the areas that strongly identify as Northfleet. The Ward will include Northfleet's most iconic sites, including (but not limited to) Ebbsfleet United Football Club (commonly known as Stonebridge Road Stadium), the Hive Housing Estate, Northfleet Urban Country Park, Northfleet Cemetery, Northfleet Station, the Conservation Area of The Hill at Northfleet, Kent Police Station, Sainsburys Supermarket, Wombwell Park and Northfleet Technology College.

NORTHFLEET WARD

Naming the Ward:

Most of this area was formally recognised as “Northfleet” in 1874, when the Northfleet Urban District Council was established by charter. There is a strong local affinity with the name Northfleet. We therefore submit that this ward should be known as “Northfleet Ward”.

NORTHFLEET WARD



NORTHFLEET WARD

42.

Unless otherwise stated the imagery used below has been taken from Google StreetView of Google Maps. Imagery © 2021, Google Maps, United Kingdom.



Pic 37



Pic 38



Pic 39



Pic 40



Pic 41



Pic 42



Pic 43



Pic 44



Pic 45

NORTHFLEET WARD PICTURES

Pic 37: Northfleet Train Station (Mainline)

Northfleet Station is a focal point of the Northfleet urban area and has regular services into London.

Pic 38: The Hive

The Hive is a well-known residential estate comprising of flats, maisonettes and bungalows.

Pic 39: The Hill, War Memorial and Veteran's Club

This submission is presented to the LGBCE Commissioners on behalf of the Gravesham Conservative Group of Councillors at Gravesham Borough Council.

Pic 40: A typical Northfleet street scene

Northfleet is known locally for its terraced streets.

Pic 41: The Hill Parade

The Hill is well serviced by a number of independent businesses and fast food establishments.

Pic 42: Northfleet Technology College

A view of the local all boys Secondary School.

Pic 43: Our Lady of the Assumption R.C. Church

One of Northfleet's most famous landmarks. The Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of the Assumption was designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott.

Pic 44: Northfleet Youth Centre and Cygnets Leisure Centre

Cygnets is a well used local leisure centre with the rear end of this property being home to KCC's Northfleet Youth Centre.

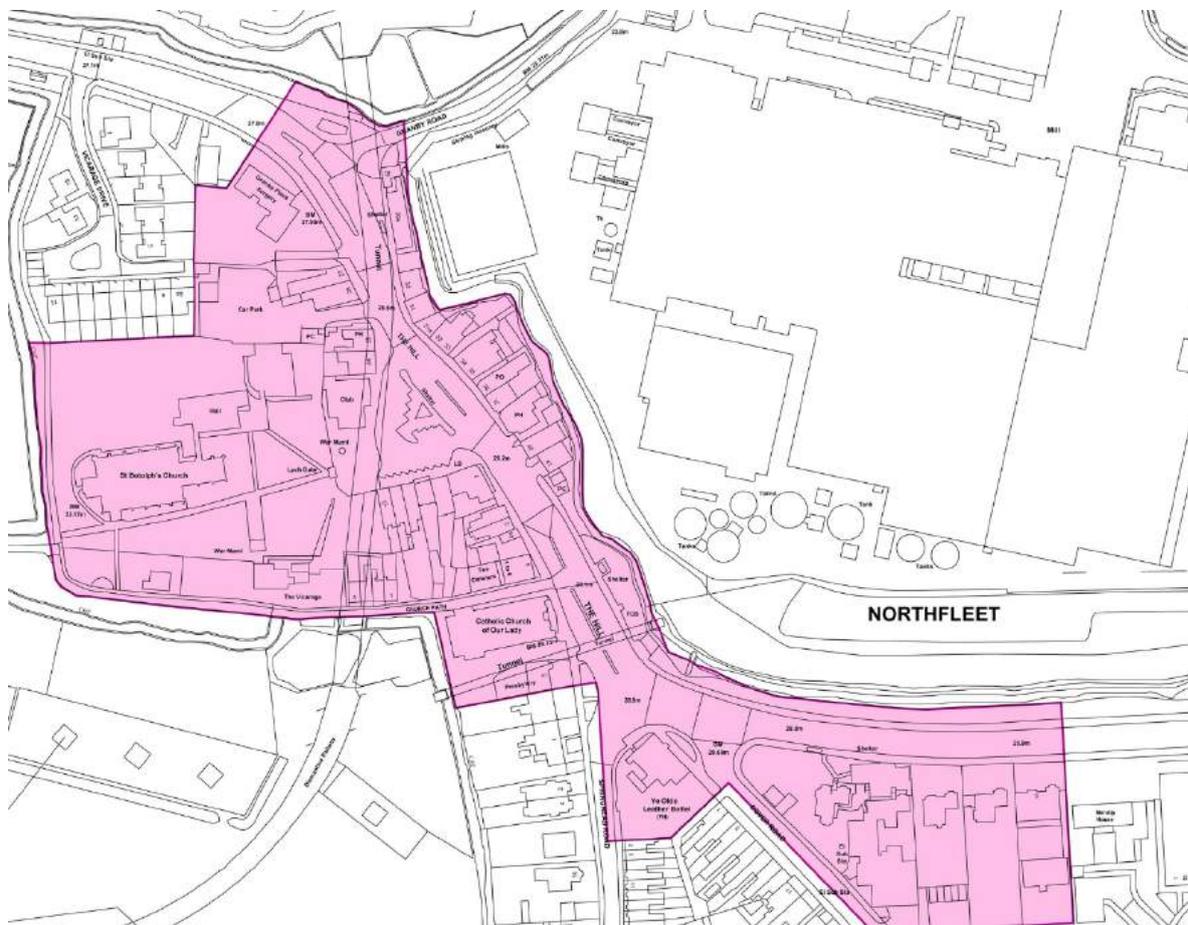
Pic 45: Station Road

A typical scene of homes that surround Northfleet's station.

NORTHFLEET CONSERVATION AREA OVERLAY

Northfleet The Hill Conservation Area

To ensure good local governance we believe that it is vital that conservation areas, where possible, are completely contained within the boundary of one ward. This will allow the elected members for the said area to become highly proficient in understanding how they can support the community with highly localised planning matters, thus representing good local governance. We further put it to the Commission that all of the borough's conservation areas reflect well contained communities and it would therefore be an absurdity to split conservation areas between wards.



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PAINTERS ASH WARD

Number of Councillors: 2

Total Electorate: 4484

Number of Electors per Councillor: 2242

Variance: 1.66%

Polling Districts:

- BG
- BH
- BK (Split with Istead Rise, Cobham and Luddesdown)

Extent of the Ward

To the south, the ward would extend to the central reservation of the A2 from the edge of the boundary of the borough district to the exit to Wrotham Road. The boundary would then continue along Wrotham Road until it turns left onto Coldharbour Road. The boundary would continue on Coldharbour Road, to the traffic lights at the end of the road, then it would turn left down Hall Road following Hall Road to the edge of the borough boundary.

The boundary would be the same as the current Painters Ash ward, but it would be expanded south to the central reservation of the A2 so Cyclopark is included within the ward. This extension to the south merely reflects the realignment of the A2 to the south in 2009

PAINTERS ASH WARD

Unifying Factors

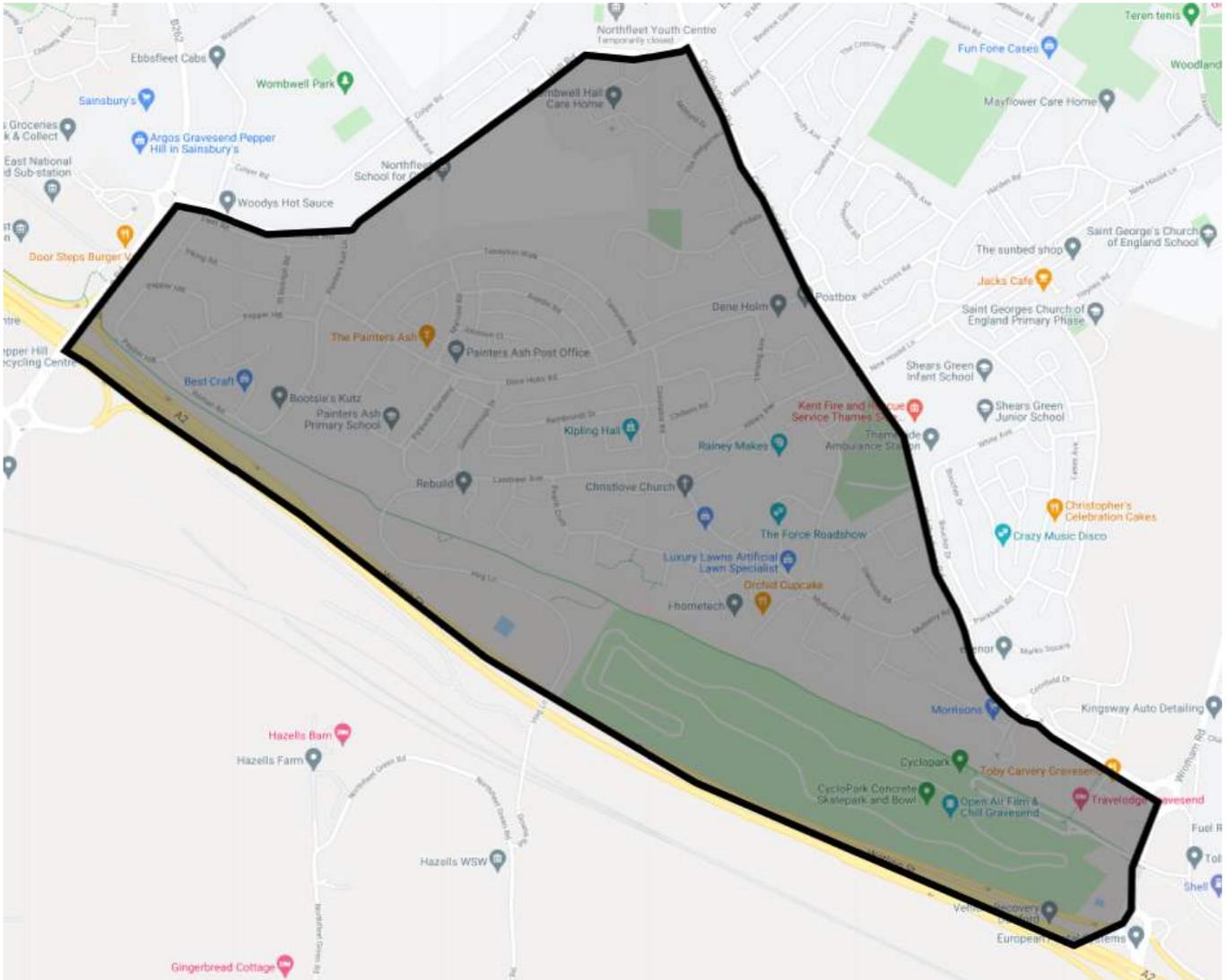
This ward would add no new properties to the current Painters Ash ward. Cyclopark would be added to Painters Ash due to the close proximity to the Morrisons and the walk path next to the A2 would be included due to the exit points near to Morrisons and along Hog Lane which is close to Painters Ash School and the Dene Holm Road parade of shops.

This boundary is largely unchanged because the current ward represents a community which is centred around the Dene Holm Road parade of shops, the Painters Ash pub, and the Painters Ash school. The ward is surrounded by the main roads: Coldharbour Road, Hall Road, and the A2, and these roads create a natural boundary around the ward separating it from other community groups nearby.

Naming the Ward

The ward shall be named Painters Ash Ward, this would be because of the local Painters Ash school, the local Painters Ash pub, and the Painters Ash lane. The name Painters Ash gives clear boundaries in the minds of the public which correlate to the proposed boundaries.

PAINTERS ASH WARD



PAINTERS ASH PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Painters Ash Primary School

The Green shading below provides a visual demonstration of where more than 70% of pupils live. This data is taken from the National School Census 2020.



Source: https://www.locrating.com/school_catchment_areas.aspx
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PAINTERS ASH WARD

49.

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PAINTERS ASH WARD PICTURES

Pic 46: The CycloPark

CycloPark is currently in Istead Rise Ward, however we propose that the boundary of Painters Ash should be extended to the A2, bringing this multi-sport open-air centre, including a skatepark and a kids' playground into the Ward of Painters Ash.

Pic 47: Painters Ash Primary School

The local primary school can be found on Masefield Road. There exists a strong community around the school who identify strongly as living within Painters Ash.

Pic 48: Dene Holm

A locally prominent carehome that is situated on Dene Holm Road.

Pic 49: Mulberry Road

This represents a typical street scene in the ward of Painters Ash.

Pic 50: Morrisons

Morrisons Supermarket is in the most south easterly corner of the ward. Recent developments around this site have included light industrial units and a travel lodge hotel. On the opposite side of Coldharbour Road can be found the new Watermans Park housing estate, however this is best suited in Woodlands Ward with Coldharbour Road serving as a strong boundary between the industrial units to the south Morrisons and the new residential dwellings.

Pic 51: Parade of shops

Painters Ash is well served by a number of small independent retailers.

Pic 52: GP Surgery

The Shrubbery Surgery provides access to GPs for the surrounding area.

Pic 53: Dene Holm Church

This is the local Methodist Church on Dene Holm Road.

Pic 54: Northfleet School for Girls

This local all girls secondary school is located on Hall Road, which is the boundary road to neighbouring Northfleet Ward.

PELHAM WARD

Number of Councillors: 2

Total Electorate: 4738

Number of Electors per Councillor: 2369

Variance: 7.17%

Polling Districts:

- BF (split with Perry Street)
- BE (split with Perry Street)
- B
- C (split with Town)

Extent of the Ward

This ward would encompass all of the current polling districts, B and C, except for the houses within the Windmill Hill conservation area. Additionally Granville Road, Havelock Road, Fiveash Road, Stanbrook Road, Mayfield Road and Quarry Close have been added to this ward to create a natural boundary along the railway line and Dover Road East.

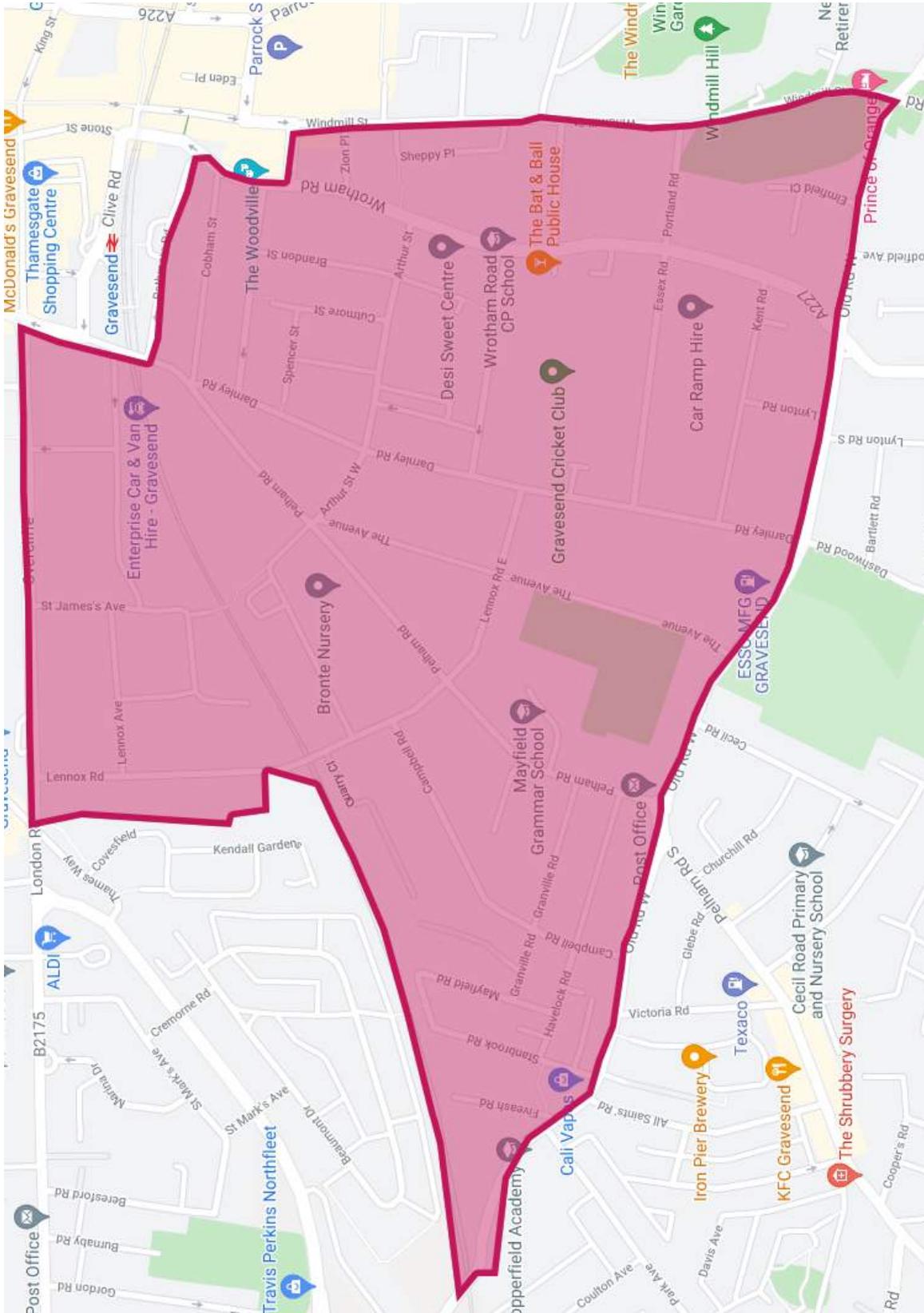
Unifying Factors

The Pelham community is long established in Gravesend and whilst a large part has been engulfed within the town, there still remains a Pelham community centred around Pelham Road and Darnley Road. This community shares interests as living on the outskirts of the town, towards Perry Street.

Naming the Ward

The ward shall be named Pelham due to the local community centred around Pelham Road.

PELHAM WARD



PELHAM WARD

53.

Unless otherwise stated the imagery used below has been taken from Google StreetView of Google Maps. Imagery © 2021, Google Maps, United Kingdom.



PELHAM WARD PICTURES

Pic 55: Old Road West Surgery and Dental Practice

The ward is well serviced by access to local healthcare facilities.

Pic 56: A typical street scene (Pelham Road)

This ward is well-known for its vintage terraced properties.

Pic 57: The Bat and Ball Pub

This public house is located on the Wrotham Road.

Pic 58: The Avenue

The tree-lined street of the Avenue has many architecturally distinct homes.

Pic 59: The Bronte School

This is an independent school which is located on Pelham Road.

Pic 60: St James Oaks

Tucked away on Trafalgar Road is the Sheltered housing complex of St James Oak.

Pic 61: Queen Victoria Statue

Standing proudly (despite missing a hand!) outside the Victoria Adult Education Centre is a statue of Queen Victoria.

Pic 62: Mayfield Grammar School

This is the local girls grammar school and is located on Pelham Road.

Pic 63: A typical street scene

Darnley Road.

PERRY STREET WARD

Number of Councillors: 3

Total Electorate: 6619

Number of Electors per Councillor: 2206

Variance: 0.04%

Polling Districts:

- BI (split with Woodlands)
- BJ
- BE (split with Pelham)
- BF (split with Pelham)

Extent of the Ward

The ward would bisect Coldharbour Road with the northern part being in Perry Street ward. To the south east, it would encompass Ellenor Hospice, Packham Road, Marks Square, Lanes Avenue, Westcott Avenue, and Haynes Road. It would not include the new estate around Cornfield Drive. It would follow the same boundaries as the current Coldharbour ward up New House Lane, but the new boundaries would not bisect Dashwood Road as all of Dashwood Road, the cul-de-sacs off it, and Gravesend Municipal Cemetery would be in Woodlands ward. Thus, the boundary would include all properties Hartshill Road, Bedford Road, Austin Road, and Cecil Road. The boundary would be stopped by Old Road West and Dover Road East. The boundary would then follow Vale Road south and then along Old Perry Street until it reached Coldharbour Road.

PERRY STREET WARD

Unifying Factors

This ward would be focussed around the Perry Street parade of shops. Whilst it does encompass the Shears Green community (solely found) in BJ polling district, both sides of the Perry Street belong to the wider Perry Street community which brings jobs and shops to the region. The boundaries largely follow the main roads (Coldharbour Road and Vale Road) and the railway line for the natural boundaries of the community. The ward is served by two main primary schools, Shears Green and Copperfield Academy; these primary schools are on the edge of the ward. This ward is also served by the Shrubbery Surgery general practice doctors surgery.

Naming the Ward

This ward shall be named Perry Street to reflect the community's use of the amenities of Perry Street. Further to this, prior to World War Two the section of Coldharbour Road between Earl Road and New House Lane was actually called Old Perry Street.

PERRY STREET WARD



PERRY STREET WARD

58.

Unless otherwise stated the imagery used below has been taken from Google StreetView of Google Maps. Imagery © 2021, Google Maps, United Kingdom.



Pic 64



Pic 65



Pic 66



Pic 67



Pic 68



Pic 69



Pic 70



Pic 71



Pic 72

PERRY STREET WARD PICTURES

Pic 64: Perry Street

Perry Street is a large out of town retail centre, offering everything from charity and appliance retailers through to tailors and fast-food establishments.

Pic 65: Copperfield Academy

This local primary school is located on Dover road East.

Pic 66: Perry Street

This is what is known as the "top-end" of Perry Street.

Pic 67: Local Parade

This ward is well serviced by a number of small shopping parades.

Pic 68: Ellenor Hospice

The Ellenor Hospice is located on the Coldharbour Road and is a well respected charity that supports families facing terminal illness across Kent and Bexley.

Pic 69: A typical street

A typical street of terraced houses.

Pic 70: Local Café on Lawrence Square

Lawrence Square is a well known local parade offer essentials and a number of independent outlets.

Pic 71: A typical street

This is Nelson Road.

Pic 72: Milroy Avenue

A bungalow in Milroy Avenue

RIVERVIEW WARD

Number of Councillors: 2

Total Electorate: 4135

Number of Electors per Councillor: 2068

Variance: 6.41%

Polling Districts:

- U
- V
- AC (Split with Singlewell and Westcourt)
- T (Split with Westcourt)

Extent of Riverview Ward

Riverview encompasses an area spanning what was Gravesend RAF airfield during and after WW2. At the time it was built (1950s-1960s) it was described as the largest housing development site in Europe. First bricks laid (phase 1) were considered to be for the roads "Cerne Road", "The Rise" and "The Drive" alongside what is now known as The Warren green open space. Running from Valley Drive up to and including Thong Lane to the East and overlooking the river the estate borders Shorne to the South and Westcourt to the North - typically recognised as where the secondary school "Thamesview" is located.

The Drive, The Rise, The Warren and St Francis Avenue have a strong local affinity to Riverview as do Cerne Road, Beltana Drive and Dorset Crescent. It is therefore submitted that these roads should be part of the Riverview Ward. The conifered mini roundabout at the southernly end of St Francis Avenue is locally recognised as the starting point of the Riverview Park Estate.

Unifying Factors:

The Riverview Community has a number of active community groups and youth organisations including Riverview Scout group (with huge waiting lists - one of the most successful in the borough) and the Gravesend Model Marine and Engineering Society. Riverview has the best attended PACT (Police and Community Together) meetings in the borough and the ward Members actively work with the local PCSOs covering the estate.

RIVERVIEW WARD

Riverview is very well known across the borough and beyond for its historic connections to Gravesend RAF with residents commemorating Remembrance Sunday at Cascades Leisure Centre where the memorial is located. Additionally, the estate pays homage to Gravesend's status as a riverside heritage town with many of the streets taking their names from locally prominent shipping vessels (i.e. Cambria Crescent).

The estate is well served by the local amenities of; Cascades Leisure Centre, The Alma shopping parade, a second parade at Whinell Way including a Tesco Express, two recently refurbished playgrounds, Riverview Library, The Gravesend Boat Public House - where a defibrillator is located following a campaign by residents to raise funds and have it installed and the St Christopher Centre. The estate has its own GP surgery and Dental Practice. There are good public transport links into the town via frequent Arriva Buses and the estate is serviced by a commuter coach taking residents into the City of London and Westminster.

The estate has a unique suburban character which is adored by local residents.

Naming the Ward:

Residents of this ward have a strong emotional connection to the use of the name Riverview- some have been known to have fun describing themselves as 'River-pudlians' playing on their home name of Riverview.

We therefore submit that the ward should retain the name of Riverview.

Additionally if you knocked on the door of anyone living in The Drive, The Rise, The Warren, St Francis Avenue, Cerne Road, Beltana Drive or Dorset Crescent and asked them where they lived they would almost certainly assert that they are residents of Riverview.



You will note from the image above (taken from Rightmove.com) that local Estate Agents frequently market properties on the The Drive, The Rise, The Warren, St Francis Avenue, Cerne Road, Beltana Drive and Dorset Crescent as being on the sought after "Riverview Park" estate.

RIVERVIEW WARD



RIVERVIEW WARD

63.

Unless otherwise stated the imagery used below has been taken from Google StreetView of Google Maps. Imagery © 2021, Google Maps, United Kingdom.



Pic 73



Pic 74



Pic 75



Pic 76



Pic 77



Pic 78



Pic 79



Pic 80



Pic 81

RIVERVIEW WARD PICTURES

Pic 73: The main parade, library and public house

The Alma Parade is home to a number of shops, a chemist, post office, the estate's library and the Boat Public House.

Pic 74: The Dentist and GP Surgery

The estate is well served by access to local healthcare facilities.

Pic 75: The playground at Whinfell Way

This popular playground was refurbished by the Council in 2016.

Pic 76: A typical street scene (Marling Way)

A typical view of the Dolphin's property design which frequents the estate.

Pic 77: A typical street scene (The Rise)

The Rise is a a road of mainly bungalows and connects The Drive into the Riverview Park estate.

Pic 78: The main entrance of Riverview Junior School

This is the entrance to both Riverview Junior and Riverview Infants School from Thong Lane.

Pic 79: The Ward's boundary at St. Francis Avenue

This conifer on St Francis Avenue is known locally as the start of Riverview Park.

Pic 80: A typical street scene (The Drive)

This Drive is made up of Bungalows and detached houses.

Pic 81: Riverview Scout Hall

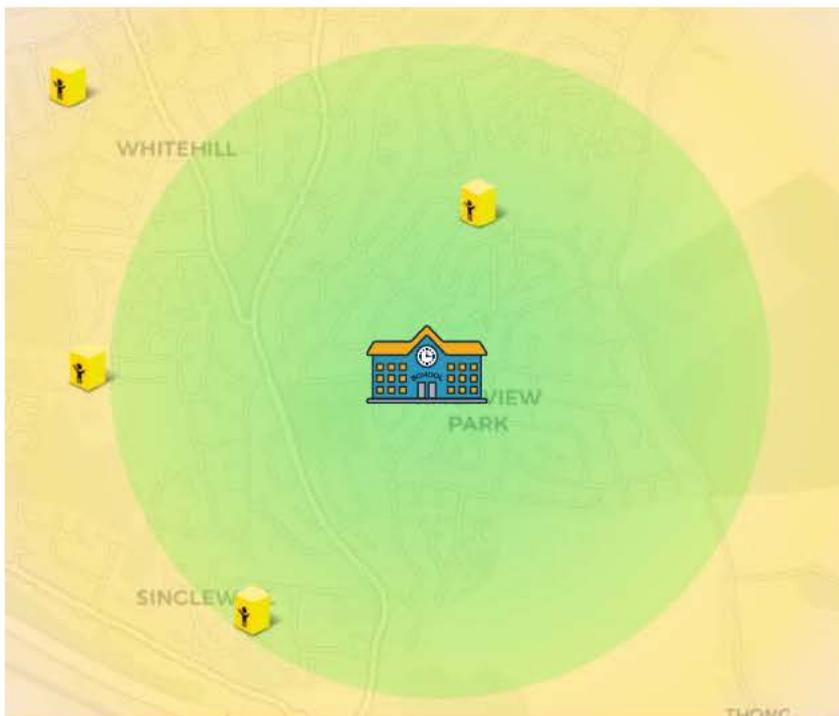
The highly popular scout group is located on Whinfell Way.

RIVERVIEW WARD SCHOOLS

Riverview Infants School and Riverview Junior School

The Riverview Estate is served by Riverview Infants School and Riverview Junior School. The school is located off of Cimba Wood. The Riverview Schools dominates life on the estate, with many young families living within close proximity. The new ward boundary is highly encompassing of the catchment area of the two schools.

The Green shading below further provides a visual demonstration of where more than 70% of pupils live. This data is taken from the National School Census 2020.



Source: https://www.locrating.com/school_catchment_areas.aspx
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ROSHERVILLE WARD

Number of Councillors: 2

Total Electorate: 4515

Number of Electors per Councillor: 2258

Variance: 2.37%

Polling Districts:

- BA
- BAA
- BB (split with Northfleet)
- BE (split with Perry Street)
- BF (split with Perry Street)

Extent of Rosherville Ward

Rosherville is a ward that will have a mixed identity. It currently is based around the communities that exist to the south of the London Road. However, there are more developments planned for north of London Road where the former Rosherville Gardens were once situated. As the new development come into fruition, there will be a greater appreciation for Rosherville as a self-contained community.

Unifying Factors:

As the works commence on the new estates, more historical landmarks are being unearthed, like the Rosherville Bear Pit, and this has caused great interest from the local community. Rosherville isn't just the community to the north of London Road (and below the cliffs) though, as the local church on London Road is named St Mark's Church, Rosherville, once again affirming that the community to the south very much consider themselves as living within Rosherville.

ROSHERVILLE WARD

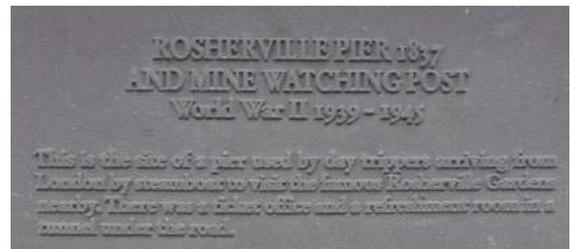
Further to this, Rosherville Church of England Primary School is a smaller than average Church of England Primary School. We strongly affirm that the school has helped to create a strong sense of community identity with local families very much feeling that they are part of Rosherville.

Naming the Ward:

Rosherville Gardens was a famous Victorian pleasure garden and even though the gardens are long-gone there is a strong local affinity with the name Rosherville. Indeed this identity was confirmed by Gravesham Borough Council, a few of years ago when they decided to name their first local authority trading company "Rosherville Ltd".

Today the structures surviving of the former Rosherville Gardens are a Grade II-listed and with more heritage from this site being uncovered as development gets underway we believe that there is a strong case to name this ward "Rosherville".

The locally popular Facebook Group: "The Friends of Rosherville Gardens" provides a lot of information about the former gardens and with 1,400 members, the Commission should note the strength of local identity here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/449755325096424>



The photographs above have been kindly provided by County and Borough Councillor Conrad Broadley.

ROSHERVILLE WARD



ROSERVILLE WARD

Unless otherwise stated the imagery used below has been taken from Google StreetView of Google Maps. Imagery © 2021, Google Maps, United Kingdom.



Pic 82



Pic 83



Pic 84



Pic 85



Pic 86



Pic 87



Pic 88



Pic 89



Pic 90

ROSHERVILLE WARD PICTURES

Pic 82: New Development

The artists impression of the Northfleet Embankment East development at Crete Hall Road.

Pic 83: St Mark's Church Rosherville

Known locally as "Rosherville: St Mark" this church is a modern church that is also home to the 1st Rosherville Brownies.

Pic 84: Rosherville's border with the Thames

There is already a strong affiliation to the name "Rosherville" and this will only increase as the new developments come into fruition

Pic 85: Land which is being developed (The Shore)

The Shore with the soon to be developed land in the background.

Pic 86: Rosherville School

Rosherville Primary School is a smaller than average primary school with strong ties to the surrounding community.

Pic 87: The Bear Pit at Rosherville

Dating back to 1837, the remains of an open Victorian bear pit can be found at Rosherville and the site has Grade II-listed status.

Pic 88: Industrial Heritage

The Ward is full of a number of heritage assets, such as the prominent building pictured.

Pic 89: Former cable factory conversion

The former W T Henley Office Building on Crete Hall Road is being refurbished as part of the local development scheme.

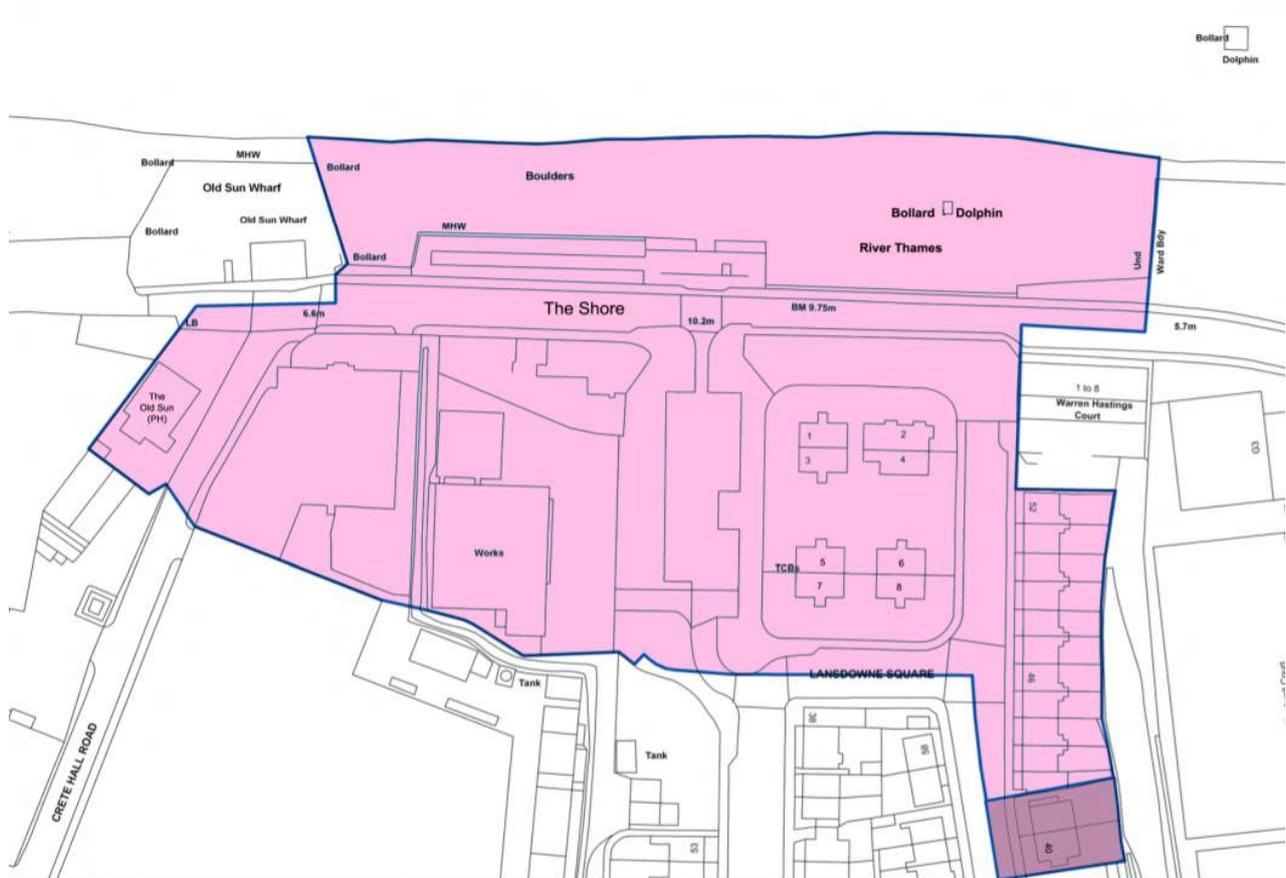
Pic 90: Example of new build

An artistic impression of what the new developments in this area will look like.

ROSHERVILLE CONSERVATION AREA OVERLAY

The Lansdown Square Conservation Area

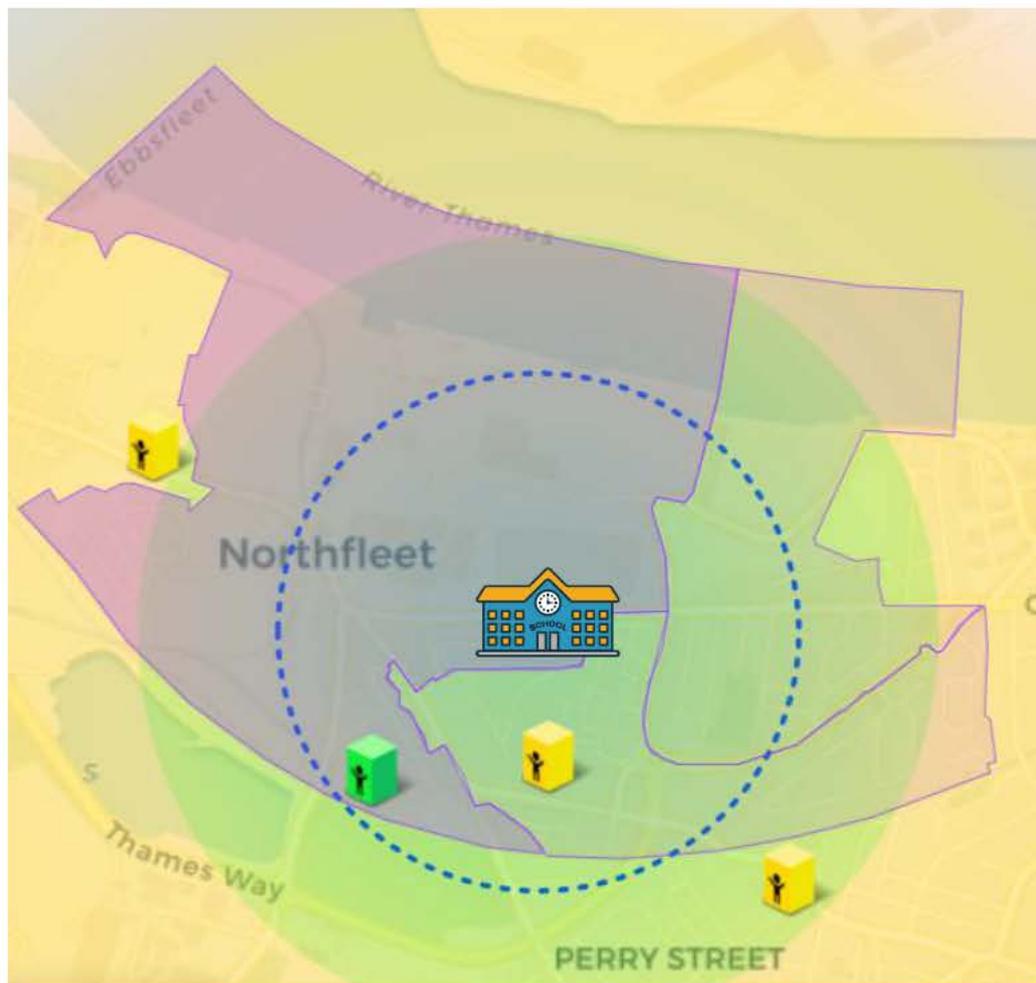
To ensure good local governance we believe that it is vital that conservation areas, where possible, are completely contained within the boundary of one ward. This will allow the elected members for the said area to become highly proficient in understanding how they can support the community with highly localised planning matters, thus representing good local governance. We further put it to the Commission that all of the borough's conservation areas reflect well contained communities and it would therefore be an absurdity to split conservation areas between wards.



The map featured above is the property of Gravesham Borough Council and has been copied from the Council's Website:
<https://www.gravesham.gov.uk/home/planning-and-building/heritage-and-conservation/conservation-areas/conservation-area-maps>

Rosherville Church of England Primary School

The Green shading below provides a visual demonstration of where more than 70% of pupils live. This data is taken from the National School Census 2020.



Source: https://www.locrating.com/school_catchment_areas.aspx
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SINGLEWELL WARD

Number of Councillors: 2

Total Electorate: 4029

Number of Electors per Councillor: 2015

Variance: 9.0%

Polling Districts:

- AB
- AC (split with Riverview and Westcourt)
- Z
- O (split with Woodlands)

Extent of the Ward

The boundary bisects the A2 and includes both sides of Valley Drive until number 407, which is divided from number 405 by Marling Way. The boundary then bisects Valley Drive with Singlewell being east of Valley Drive and Riverview being on the west of Valley Drive. The boundary then goes around Whitehill Lane so all the properties there are in Whitehill, so it includes roads like Montgomery Close and Nansen Road, as well as Christian Fields Avenue. It then follows Christian Fields Avenue and turns right on to Ash Road, including Gloucester Road, York Road and one side of Queen's Road where the boundary meets Windmill Hill and Whitehill Ward. Ifield School should be included in Singlewell ward. The boundary then follows the alleyway down to Sandown Road, but the boundary includes Sandown Road, Goodwood Crescent, and Cheltenham Close as well as Westfield Close and all of Hever Court Road. As we are proposing to realign the southern boundary of Painters Ash to match the realignment of the A2 in 2009, we propose that the same is done here in Singlewell Ward with the southern boundary being realigned for the same reason.

SINGLEWELL WARD

Unifying Factors

This ward includes the communities of Singlewell, Livingstone, and Christian Fields. The communities of Livingstone and Christian Fields are linked by Wilberforce Way and Palmer Avenue and share shops at Livingstone Road. The Singlewell community is somewhat different, and goes to shops at Mackenzie Way. The three communities are united by Singlewell primary school where many of the children attend. And they share the GP surgery in Mackenzie Way.

Naming the Ward

The ward should be named Singlewell Ward due to the primary school and the Singlewell community which is dominant over the Livingstone community and, to a lesser extent, the Christian Fields community.

SINGLEWELL WARD



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SINGLEWELL WARD

76.

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Pic 91



Pic 92



Pic 93



Pic 94



Pic 95



Pic 96



Pic 97



Pic 98



Pic 99

SINGLEWELL WARD PICTURES

Pic 91: Livingstone Road

The Parade at Livingstone Road provides residents with access to two mini-markets, a post office, fish and chips and a pharmacy.

Pic 92: Watling Court

Watling Court is a prominent residential carehome located at the southernly end of Singlewell.

Pic 93: A bus stop

Singlewell Ward is well serviced by bus links into the town and a commuter coach service into the Capital.

Pic 94: A typical row of terraced homes.

Located on the upper end of Valley Drive.

Pic 95: Mackenzie

A small shopping parade which services the Mackenzie part of Singlewell Ward.

Pic 96: The Mackenzie Way Open Space

This is a popular recreational space for the local community.

Pic 97: Mackenzie Way Playground

A recently refurbished playground which is well used by local residents.

Pic 98: The Parade at Mackenzie Way

A small shopping parade which services the Mackenzie part of Singlewell Ward.

Pic 99: Kings Farm

Here pictured is Kings Farm Primary School.

SINGLEWELL WARD PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Singlewell Primary School

The Green shading below provides a visual demonstration of where more than 70% of pupils live. This data is taken from the National School Census 2020.



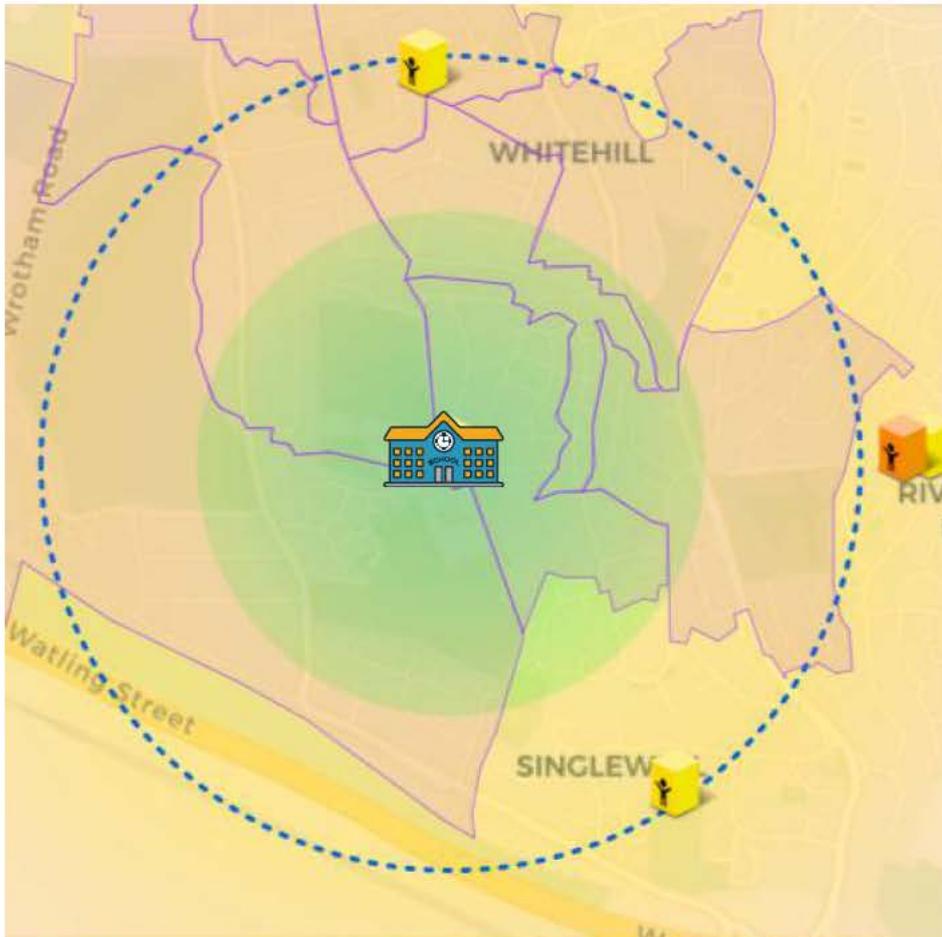
Source: https://www.locrating.com/school_catchment_areas.aspx
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SINGLEWELL WARD PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Kings Farm Primary School

The Green shading below provides a visual demonstration of where more than 70% of pupils live. This data is taken from the National School Census 2020.



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TOWN WARD

Number of Councillors: 3

Total Electorate: 6457

Number of Electors per Councillor: 2152

Variance: 2.43%

Polling Districts:

- A
- E
- I
- K
- L (split with Windmill and Whitehill)
- C (split with Pelham)

Extent of Town Ward

It is proposed that Town Ward be a three-member ward, which includes a large proportion of the former Riverside Ward. To the north the ward borders the River Thames and will include the new developments of the Albion Waterside (1,500 new homes, with Planning Permission granted) <https://albionwaterside.co.uk/> and the mixed-use development of Clifton Slipways (227 apartments, with planning Permission granted) <https://www.quinn-estates.com/projects/clifton-slipways/>. The ward will further include the new development of The Charter, which again with Planning Permission granted is set to deliver 242 new apartments. <https://news.gravesham.gov.uk/home/news/work-starts-at-the-charter>. The south westerly corner of the ward has been extended into what is currently Central Ward, so that the new Town Ward includes the high-rise flats of Home Mead and Gravesham Court.

Unifying Factors:

This ward is dominated by the town centre and includes the civic and cultural amenities/landmarks that one would expect to find within the "town" of Gravesend. These include the significant places of worship of St George's Church (the historic town Church and burial place of Princess Pocahontas), The Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara (Sikh Temple) and The Gravesend Central Mosque.

TOWN WARD

The Ward further includes Community Square, the Borough Council Offices and Woodville Halls Theatre as the civic heart of Gravesham.

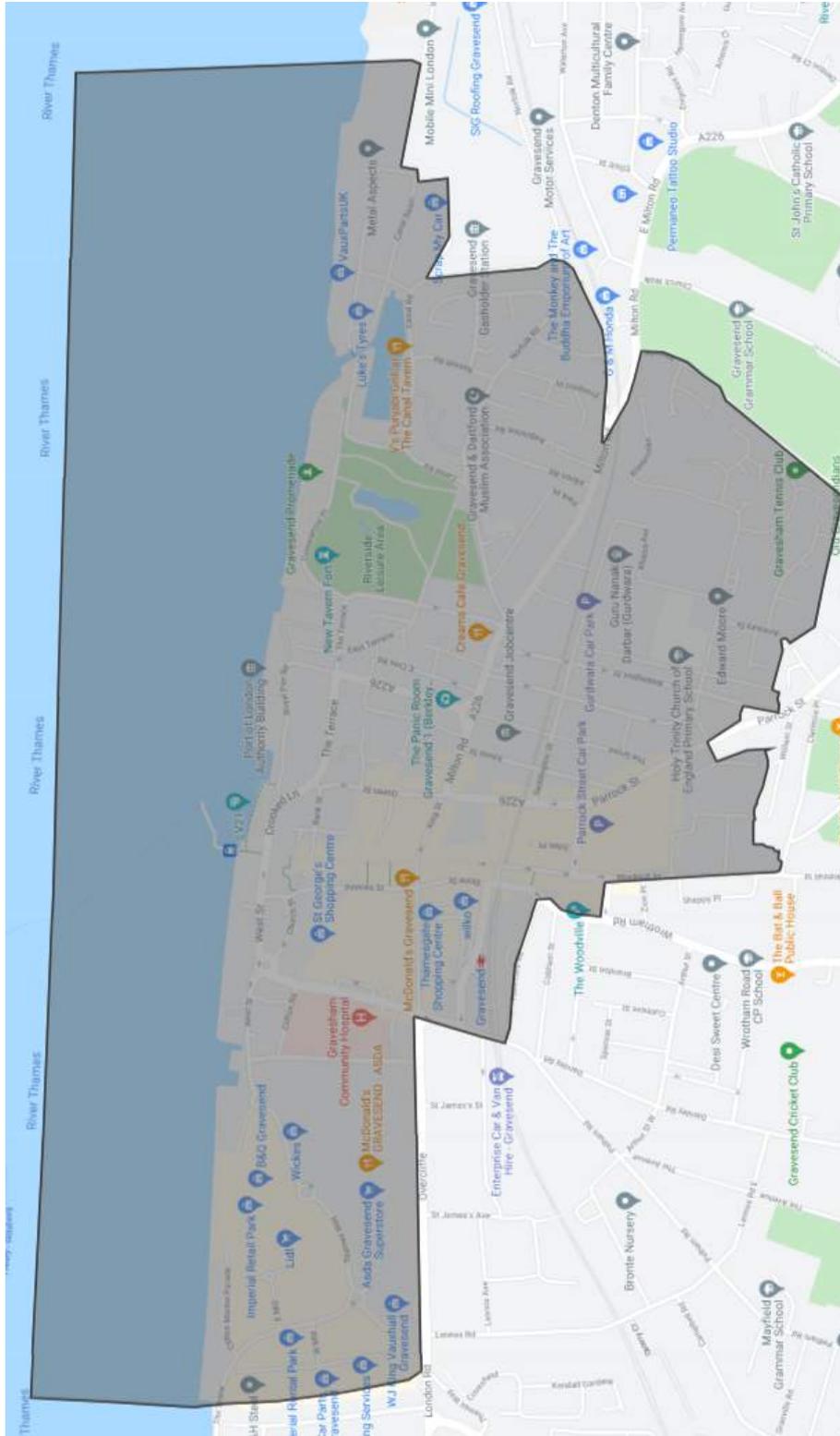
Additionally the Riverside Leisure area, which is affectionately referred to as "the prom" locally is included in this ward.

The Ward's boundary to the south has been extended into what was Pelham so that Gravesend Station is part of Town Ward.

Naming the Ward:

With the new, mainly high-rise developments that are being realised across this area we strongly affirm that a new community will develop here and associate themselves as living within Gravesend Town. That is why we believe the ward should be named "Town Ward". Further to this Town Ward contains all of the major expectations of a town i.e. The main train station, civic buildings, shopping centre etc.

TOWN WARD



TOWN WARD

Unless otherwise stated the imagery used below has been taken from Google StreetView of Google Maps. Imagery © 2021, Google Maps, United Kingdom.



Pic 100



Pic 101



Pic 102



Pic 103



Pic 104



Pic 105



Pic 106



Pic 107



Pic 108

TOWN WARD

84.

Unless otherwise stated the imagery used below has been taken from Google StreetView of Google Maps. Imagery © 2021, Google Maps, United Kingdom.



Pic 109



Pic 110



Pic 111



Pic 112



Pic 113



Pic 114



Pic 115



Pic 116



Pic 117

TOWN WARD PICTURES

Pic 100: Gravesend Station

We have drawn the boundary of town ward down into what was Pelham ward so that Gravesend Station is included as part of Town Ward with the boundary running down the middle of Rathmore Road.

Pic 101: A relatively new development

An example of how former industrial properties have been converted into residential dwellings with new dwellings be built around them. This is typical of town ward and represents the trend in this area for the future.

Pic 102: Queen Street

Queen Street is a conservation area which connects the town centre to the River. A number of independent retail businesses exist here.

Pic 103: New flats

A relatively new development of flats as seen from Canal Road.

Pic 104: The High Street

Gravesend High Street, with the imposing listed Old Town Hall as seen on the left. This part of the town is known as the Heritage Quarter.

Pic 105: The Civic Centre

As viewed from Community Square. This area is the current civic heart of the borough.

Pic 106: The Parish Church of St George's Gravesend

An important local landmark and the burial place of Pocahontas

Pic 107: The Guru Nanak Darbar (Gurdwara)

One of the biggest Gurdwaras in Europe and an important local landmark.

Pic 108: Gravesend Central Mosque

The Gravesend Central Mosque is an important local landmark located on Albion Terrace.

TOWN WARD PICTURES

Pic 109: The Port of London Authority HQ

The PLA's navigational HQ is based in Gravesend and is one of the larger employers locally.

Pic 110: Queen Street continued

This is the northern end of Queen Street, showing the existing flats which will soon be joined by The Charter development on the right.

Pic 111: Chantry Community Academy

This primary school is located adjacent to the riverside recreational ground.

Pic 112: Riverside Leisure Area

Affectionally known as "the Prom" this area is home to the Gravesend Sailing Club, The Gravesend Rowing Club, the Gravesend and Medway Branch of the Maritime Volunteer Service (MVS) and a very popular riverside café.

Pic 113: The entrance to the New Tavern Fort

The entrance to the Fort gardens can be found on Khartoum Place. This road is named in dedication to Major-General Charles Gordon CB who resided in the town and is remembered as a local hero for his charity work.

Pic 114: The Clarendon Royal Hotel

This hotel is a famous local land mark that was built as an official residence for the Duke of York in 1665 on his appointment as Lord High Admiral. Directly opposite the hotel is the remains of the old blockhouse which was part of the artillery defence established for the River Thames by Henry VIII in 1539.

Pic 115: A typical street scene

This is a typical street scene in town ward.

Pic 116: King Street

This is known as the top end of the town.

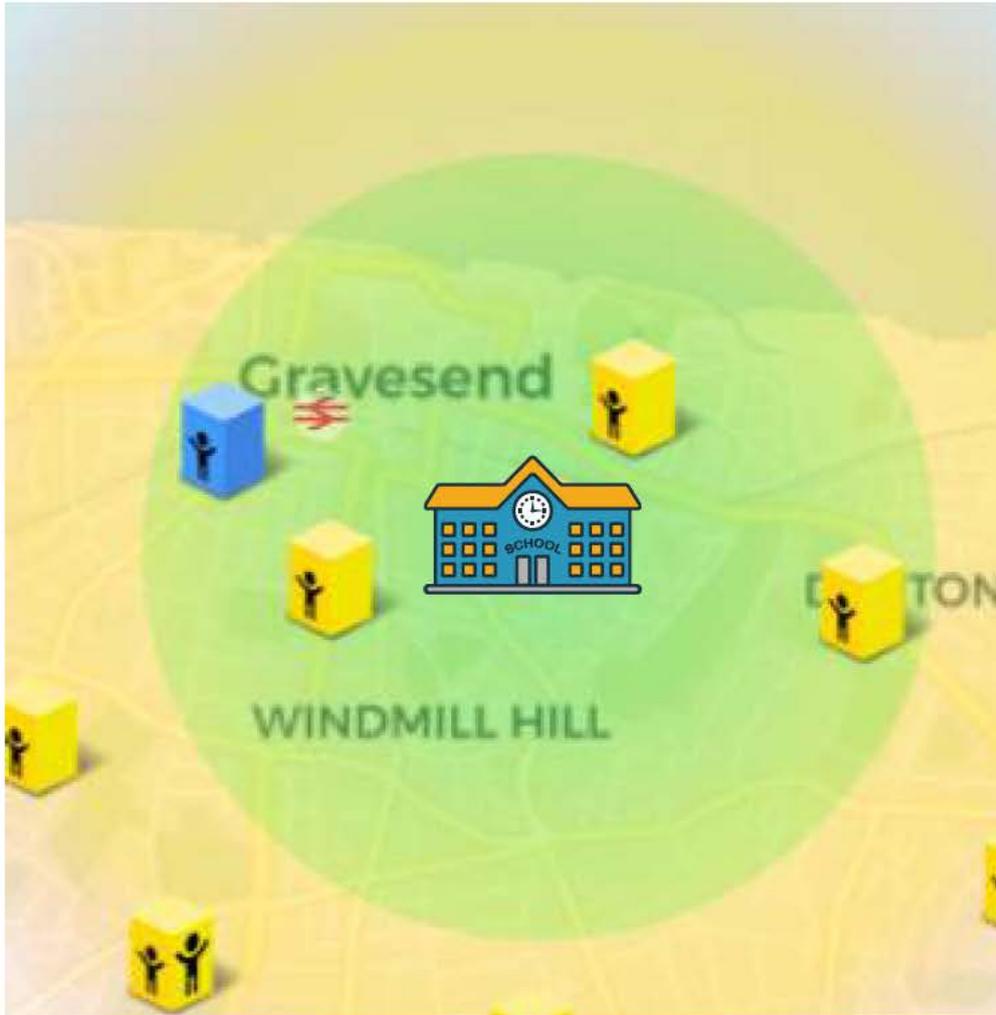
Pic 117: Home Mead and Gravesham Court

We are proposing that these blocks of flats move out of what is now central ward into town ward.

TOWN WARD PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Holy Trinity Church of England Primary School

The Green shading below provides a visual demonstration of where more than 70% of pupils live. This data is taken from the National School Census 2020.



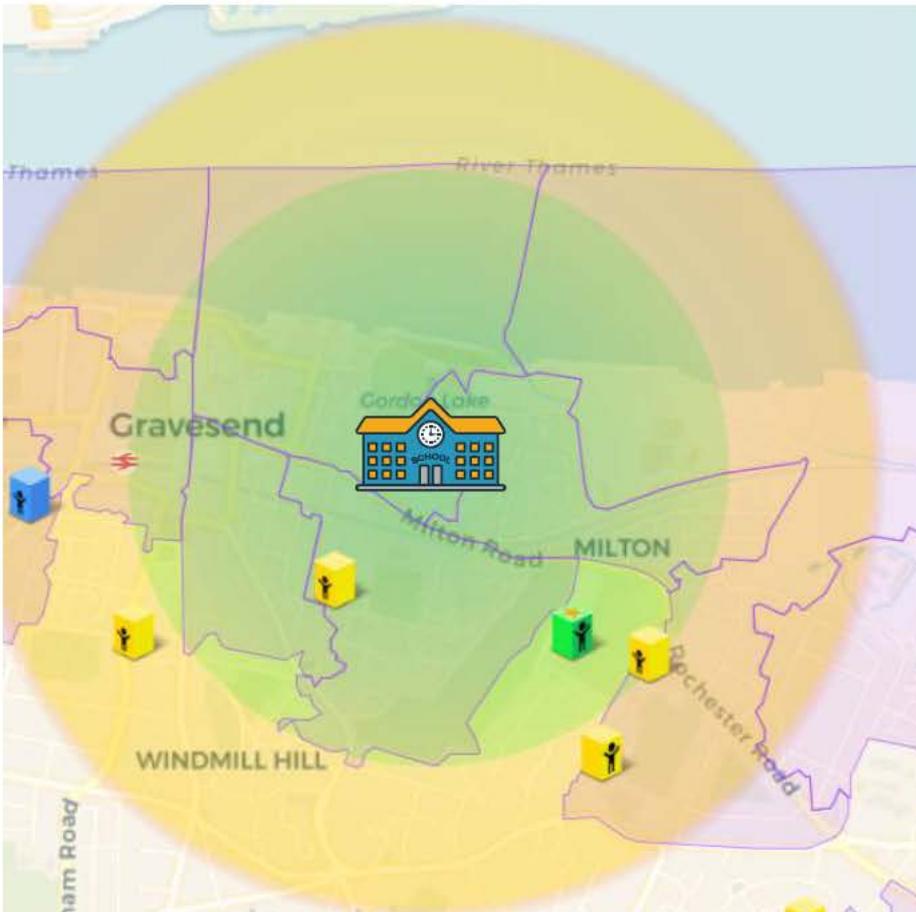
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TOWN WARD PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Chantry Community Academy

The Green shading below provides a visual demonstration of where more than 70% of pupils live. This data is taken from the National School Census 2020.



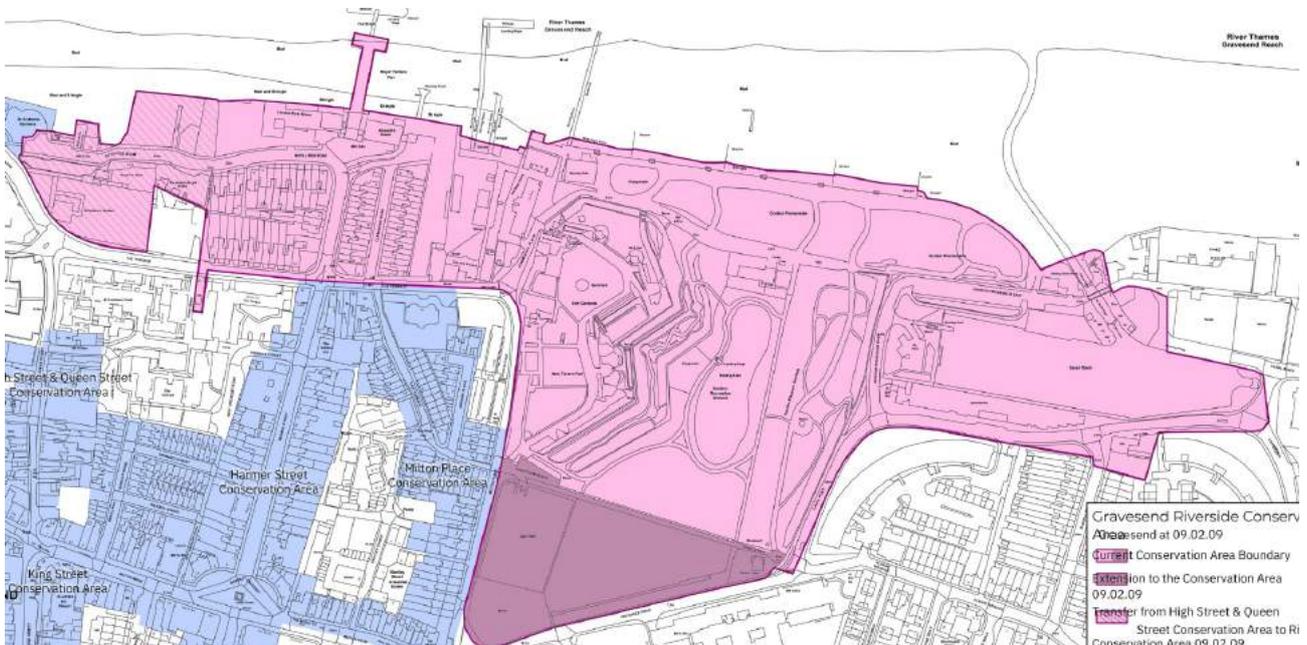
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TOWN WARD CONSERVATION AREA OVERLAY

The Riverside Conservation Area

To ensure good local governance we believe that it is vital that conservation areas, where possible, are completely contained within the boundary of one ward. This will allow the elected members for the said area to become highly proficient in understanding how they can support the community with highly localised planning matters, thus representing good local governance. We further put it to the Commission that all of the borough's conservation areas reflect well contained communities and it would therefore be an absurdity to split conservation areas between wards.



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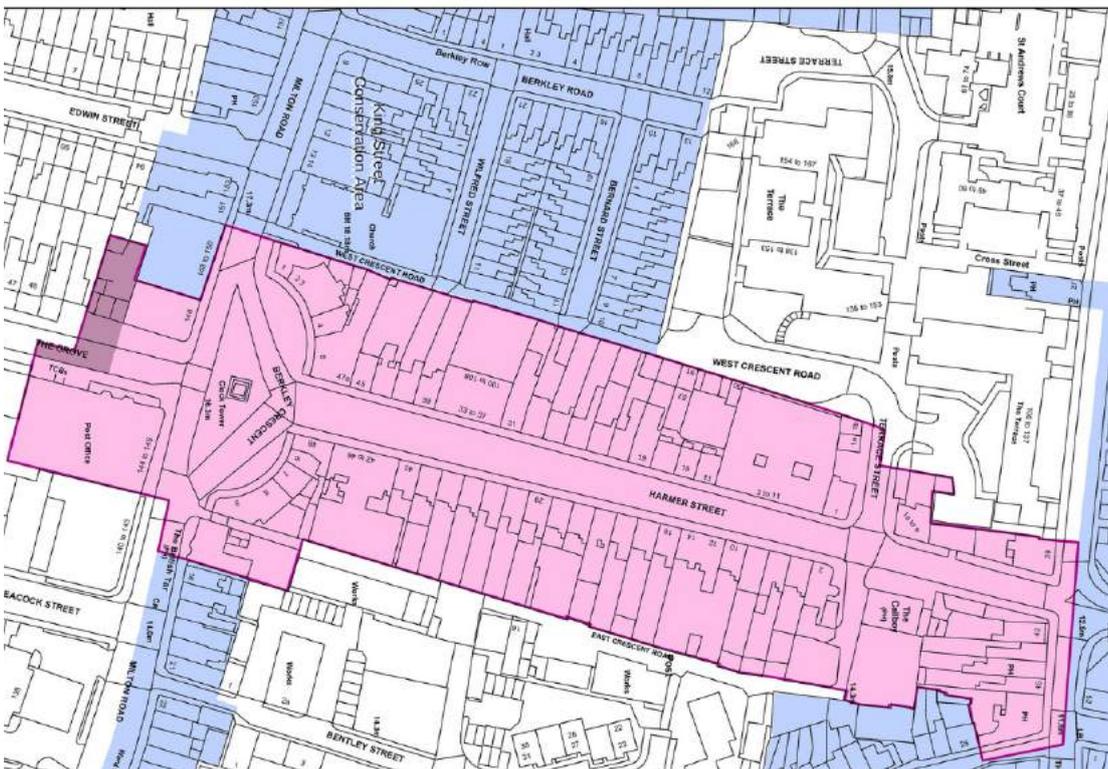


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TOWN WARD CONSERVATION AREA OVERLAY

The Harmer Street Conservation Area

To ensure good local governance we believe that it is vital that conservation areas, where possible, are completely contained within the boundary of one ward. This will allow the elected members for the said area to become highly proficient in understanding how they can support the community with highly localised planning matters, thus representing good local governance. We further put it to the Commission that all of the borough's conservation areas reflect well contained communities and it would therefore be an absurdity to split conservation areas between wards.



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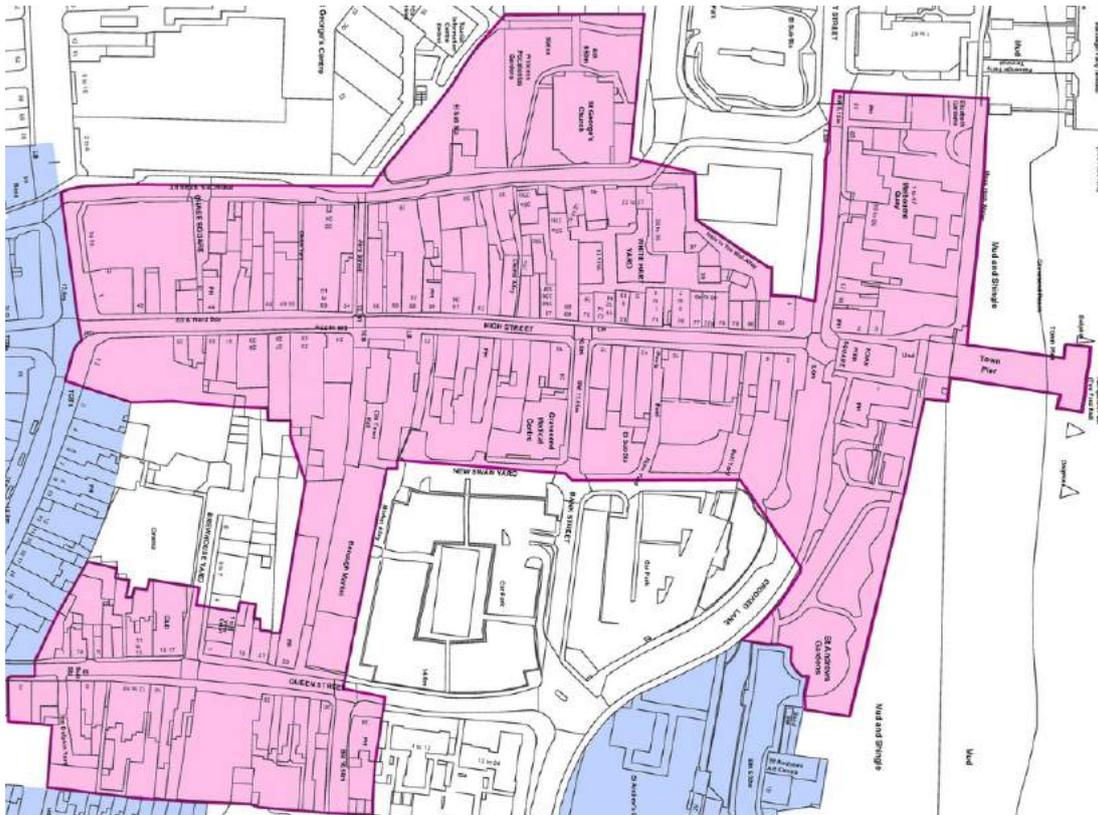


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TOWN WARD CONSERVATION AREA OVERLAY

The High Street & Queen Street Conservation Area

To ensure good local governance we believe that it is vital that conservation areas, where possible, are completely contained within the boundary of one ward. This will allow the elected members for the said area to become highly proficient in understanding how they can support the community with highly localised planning matters, thus representing good local governance. We further put it to the Commission that all of the borough's conservation areas reflect well contained communities and it would therefore be an absurdity to split conservation areas between wards.



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TOWN WARD CONSERVATION AREA OVERLAY

The Milton Place Conservation Area

To ensure good local governance we believe that it is vital that conservation areas, where possible, are completely contained within the boundary of one ward. This will allow the elected members for the said area to become highly proficient in understanding how they can support the community with highly localised planning matters, thus representing good local governance. We further put it to the Commission that all of the borough's conservation areas reflect well contained communities and it would therefore be an absurdity to split conservation areas between wards.



WESTCOURT WARD

Number of Councillors: 2

Total Electorate: 4739

Number of Electors per Councillor: 2370

Variance: 7.21%

Polling Districts:

- S
- T (Split with Riverview)
- Q (Split with Chalk)
- R (Split with Chalk)
- AC (Split with Riverview and Singlewell)

Extent of Westcourt Ward

Westcourt is centred around the Westcourt parade of shops on Freeman Road and the recreational ground on Hampton Crescent. There is a natural barrier to the west as Valley Drive naturally separates communities. The barrier between the Westcourt and Riverview community is more complex, roads in Westcourt tend to be named after Saints, whereas Riverview roads tend to be named after locally prominent vessels, but this is not always the case as St Francis Avenue is very much considered part of Riverview.

The ward proposed remains largely unchanged from its current form, however we submit that Barr Road and parts of Rochester Road be moved into the new Chalk Ward and that Cerne Road, Beltana Drive and Dorset Crescent be omitted to join Riverview Ward. We further suggest that the Crescents of St David's, St George's and St Hilda's Way as well as a small part of Valley Drive be taken from AC in Singlewell and joined to Westcourt Ward.

Unifying Factors:

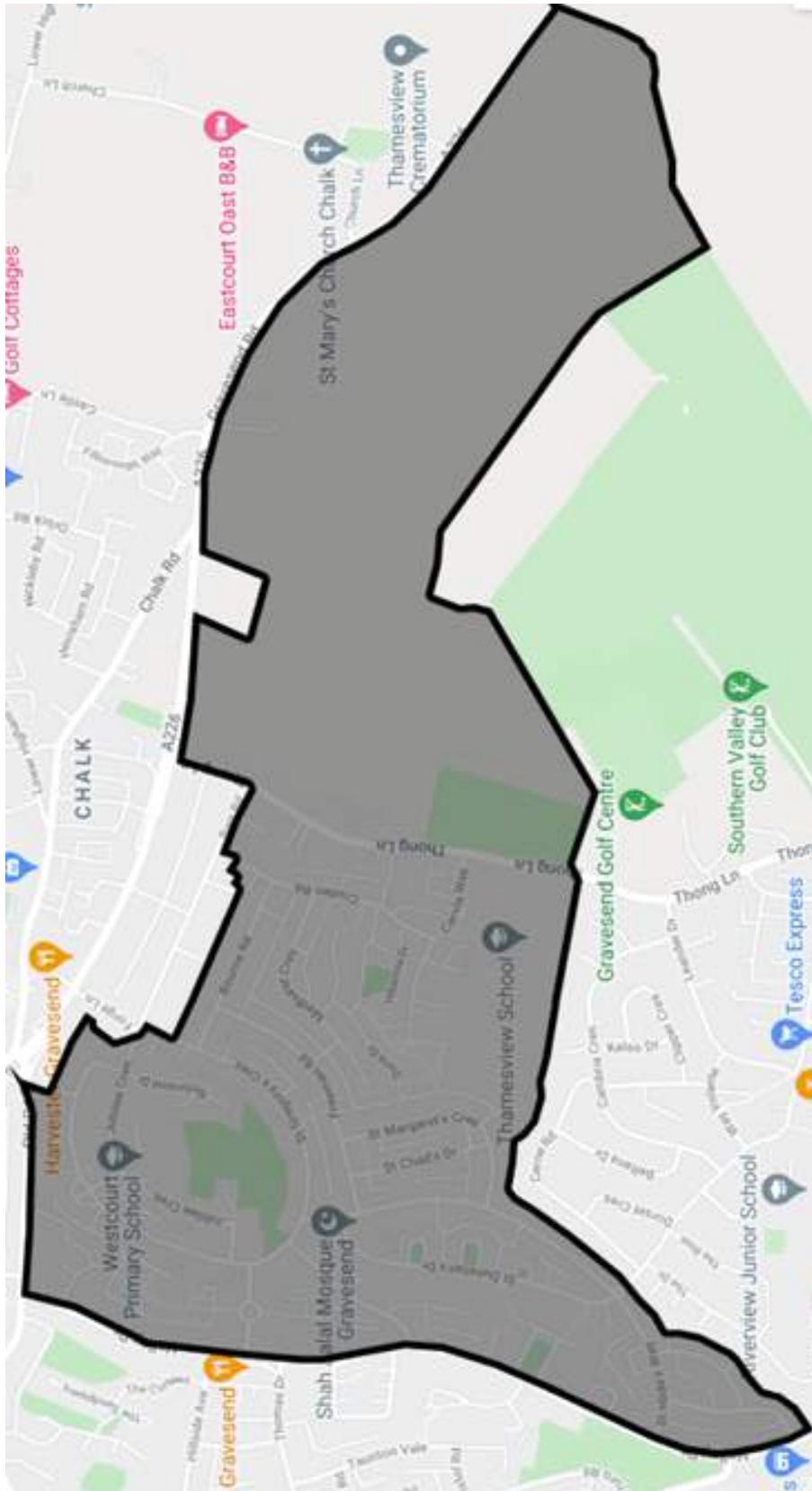
Westcourt has been an established community in Gravesham since the estates were founded. The Westcourt community has two primary schools, Westcourt and Tymberwood, and one secondary school, Thamesview.

WESTCOURT WARD

Naming the Ward:

the name "Westcourt" is well used by local residents to describe this area and we therefore submit that this should remain unchanged.

WESTCOURT WARD



WESTCOURT WARD

Unless otherwise stated the imagery used below has been taken from Google StreetView of Google Maps. Imagery © 2021, Google Maps, United Kingdom.



WESTCOURT WARD PICTURES

Pic 118: St Patrick's Gardens

St Patrick's Gardens is a popular residential block located off of Valley Drive.

Pic 119: St Aiden's Church

The Parish Church of St Aiden's, Gravesend is one of the town more modern Anglican Churches and this church has a separate hall which is well used by the local community.

Pic 120: The Shah Jalal Mosque Gravesend

Gravesham Muslim and Cultural Education Centre

Pic 121: A typical street scene

Homes in Westcourt have traditionally been built around or in close proximity to small (but much loved) greens.

Pic 122: The St Gregory's Playground

This recently refurbished playground is well used by the local community.

Pic 123: New Build at St Patrick's Gardens

The Council has developed a new build social housing scheme on the green that once centred St Patrick's

Pic 124: Westcourt School

Westcourt School is central to the local community.

Pic 125: The Viewpoint

The Viewpoint is a popular community club with a function room which is well used by local residents from across the ward.

Pic 126: Thamesview Secondary School

Thamesview is a popular local secondary school on Thong Lane. There is a vocational qualification centre and over the road exists what locals call "the dip" - which is the schools main sports and recreational fields. The school is non-selective and is attended by students who live within very close proximity.

WESTCOURT WARD PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Westcourt Primary School

The Green shading below provides a visual demonstration of where more than 70% of pupils live. This data is taken from the National School Census 2020.

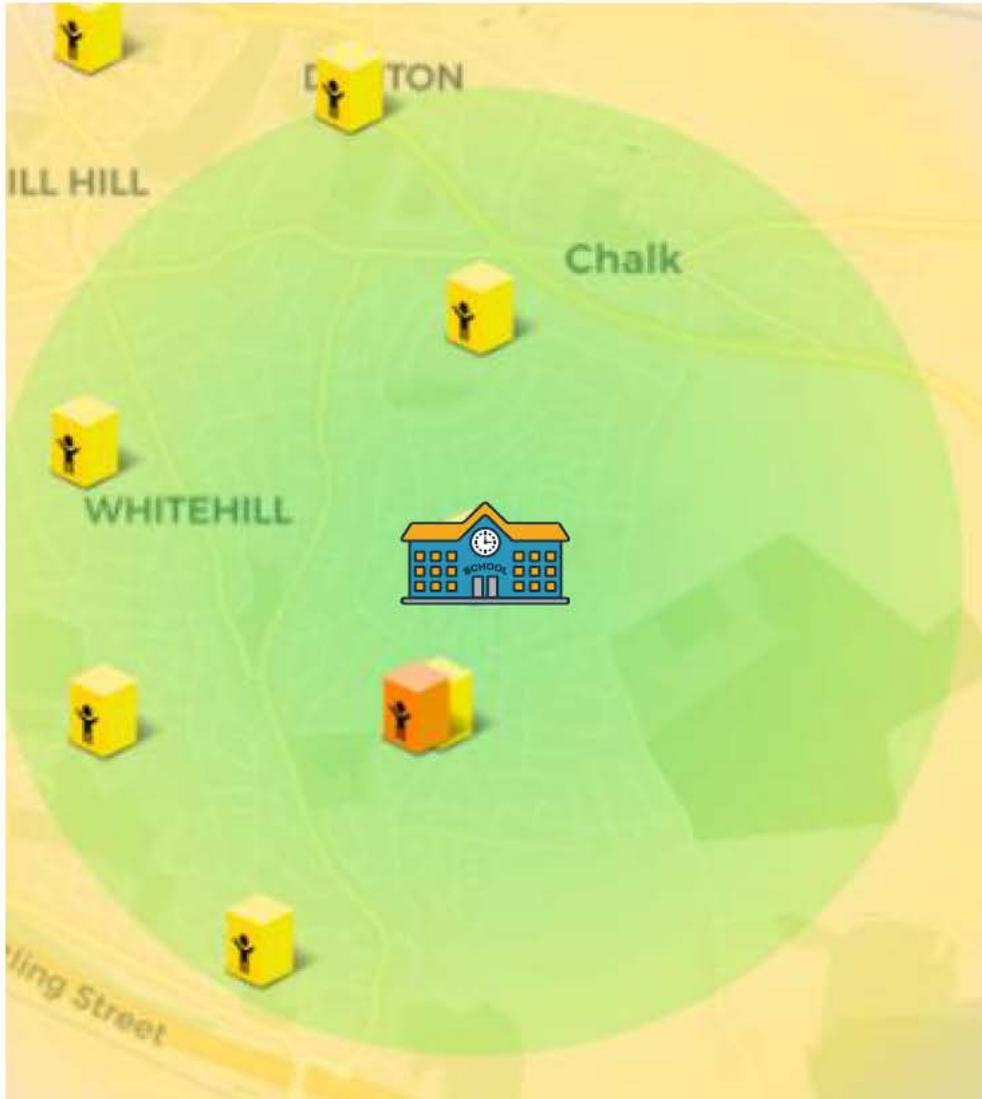


Source: https://www.locrating.com/school_catchment_areas.aspx
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WESTCOURT WARD PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Tymerwood Academy

The Green shading below provides a visual demonstration of where more than 70% of pupils live. This data is taken from the National School Census 2020.



Source: https://www.locrating.com/school_catchment_areas.aspx
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WINDMILL HILL AND WHITEHILL WARD

Number of Councillors: 3

Total Electorate: 7068

Number of Electors per Councillor: 2356

Variance: 6.62%

Polling Districts:

- W (split with Woodlands)
- J (split with Denton)
- L (split with Town)
- X
- Y

Extent of the Ward

The ward bisects Valley Drive from the Whitehill Lane junction to the T-junction. The ward starts to bisect Old Road East, so it does not include Saint John's Catholic Secondary School, and then it includes Milton Hall Road, Old Gravesendians Rugby Football Club, and the cul-de-sacs off Parrock Road, until the Wellington Street junction. The ward crosses Parrock Road until it reaches Windmill Street and it bisects Windmill Street, with the exception of the houses on the west side that are in the Windmill Hill conservation area. The ward boundary then bisects Devonshire Road and includes the second of Cross Lane East from the junction with Central Avenue until the Echo Square roundabout. The boundary bisects Sun Lane and then bisects Kitchener Avenue turning left to include Gloucester Road and Ivy Close before reaching Whitehill Lane.

WINDMILL HILL AND WHITEHILL WARD

Unifying Factors

This ward includes two communities around Windmill Hill and Whitehill. Although the Old Road East and Old Road West does divide these two communities, it is not as big of a division as other areas due to the Echo Square parade of shops which is enjoyed by both communities and unites them both.

Both communities are served by the Old Road West doctors surgery and enjoy the Windmill Hill recreational spaces.

Naming the Ward

The ward should be named Whitehill and Windmill Hill in recognition of the two communities.

WINDMILL HILL AND WHITEHILL WARD



WINDMILL HILL & WHITEHILL WARD

Unless otherwise stated the imagery used below has been taken from Google StreetView of Google Maps. Imagery © 2021, Google Maps, United Kingdom.



Pic 127



Pic 128



Pic 129



Pic 130



Pic 131



Pic 132



Pic 133



Pic 134



Pic 135

WINDMILL HILL AND WHITEHILL PICTURES

Pic 127: Echo Square

Echo Square is a popular parade well used by the communities of Windmill Hill and White Hill. We consider this to be the key unifying factor between the two areas.

Pic 128: Admiral Beatty House

Another new build development by Gravesham Borough Council which overlooks Whitehill.

Pic 129: Echo Square

Echo Square is a popular parade well used by the communities of Windmill Hill and White Hill. We consider this to be the key unifying factor between the two areas.

Pic 130: The summit of Windmill Hill

A popular recreational space that is well used by local residents.

Pic 131: The parade at White Hill

The smaller parade at Whitehill provides locals with access to essentials and fast-food.

Pic 132: The Windmill Tavern Gravesend

This listed public house can be found on Shrubbery Road and is a key feature of the Windmill Hill Conservation area.

Pic 133: Gravesend War Memorial

The listed war memorial at Clarence Place is the borough's principle place of remembrance.

Pic 134: Christ Church Milton-next-Gravesend

Christ Church, Milton-next-Gravesend is a well attended Church of Anglican denomination.

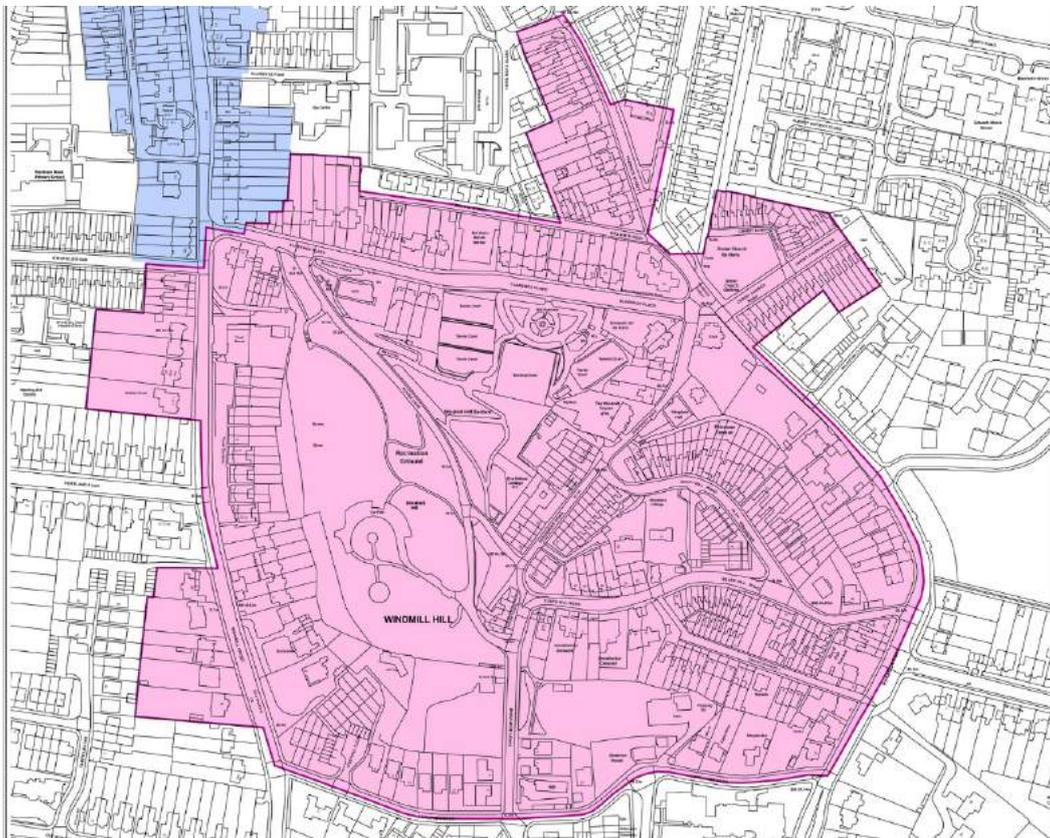
Pic 135: The summit of Whitehill

White Hill is a popular recreational space and here from the summit parts of ward can be seen in the distance.

WINDMILL HILL AND WHITEHILL CONSERVATION AREA OVERLAY

The Windmill Hill Conservation Area

To ensure good local governance we believe that it is vital that conservation areas, where possible, are completely contained within the boundary of one ward. This will allow the elected members for the said area to become highly proficient in understanding how they can support the community with highly localised planning matters, thus representing good local governance. We further put it to the Commission that all of the borough's conservation areas reflect well contained communities and it would therefore be an absurdity to split conservation areas between wards.



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WINDMILL HILL & WHITEHILL WARD PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Whitehill Primary School

The Green shading below provides a visual demonstration of where more than 70% of pupils live. This data is taken from the National School Census 2020.



Source: https://www.locrating.com/school_catchment_areas.aspx
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WOODLANDS WARD

Number of Councillors: 3

Total Electorate: 6793

Number of Electors per Councillor: 2264

Variance: 2.64%

Polling Districts:

- O (split with Singlewell)
- M
- N
- BI (split with Perry Street)
- W (split with Windmill Hill and Whitehill)

Extent of Woodlands Ward

Woodlands Ward retains much of its current boundaries. To the North the ward ends on Old Road West, where the junction with Old Road East provides a natural end point for the Wards north easterly boundary. To the north west the ward has been extended to include Dashwood Road, the Dashwood recreational space and Gravesend's Municipal Cemetery. Sticking to the West and continuing south on Dashwood Road, the Downagbe and Farmcroft have been included in Woodlands Ward. Alongside Dashwood Road, the residents here have a strong affiliation to Woodlands and it supports electoral equality to bring them into the Ward.

Unifying Factors:

As you would expect the ward includes Woodlands Park and this is important beyond the name, as the majority of casework generated for Councillors in this ward relates to the park and the surrounding roads.

A residents association is currently in the early stages of foundation to support residents who live between Singlewell Road and Woodlands Park.

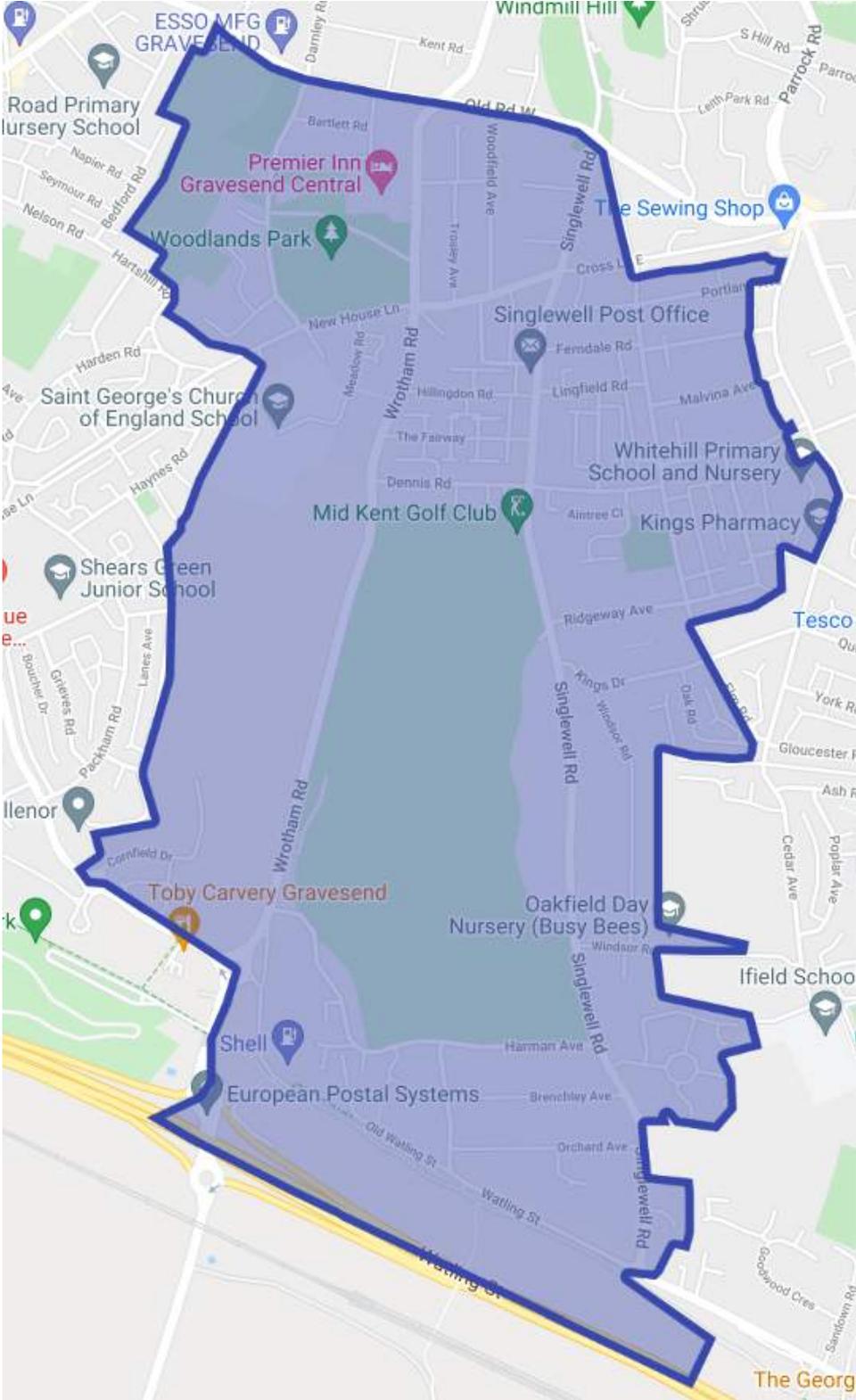
The Mid Kent Golf Course can be found in this ward and is very popular with local residents in the ward.

WOODLANDS WARD

Naming the Ward:

There is a strong local affiliation to the use of "Woodlands" and given that this is the name of the biggest recreational space, to which the community surrounds we propose that this name is kept the same. To remove the name and the wards association with the park would be met with considerable local opposition.

WOODLANDS WARD



WOODLANDS WARD

110.

Unless otherwise stated the imagery used below has been taken from Google StreetView of Google Maps. Imagery © 2021, Google Maps, United Kingdom.



Pic 136



Pic 137



Pic 138



Pic 139



Pic 140



Pic 141



Pic 142



Pic 143



Pic 144

WOODLANDS WARD PICTURES

Pic 136: Woodlands Park

TAs seen from New House Lane

Pic 137: Parade at Singlewell Road

Singlewell Road is well supported by two local parades.

Pic 138: New Housing Estate

The new housing estate can be found behind the A227 (Wrotham Road)

Pic 139: Second Parade on Singlewell Road

Singlewell Road is well supported by two local parades.

Pic 140: Memorial Gates of Woodlands Park

Woodlands Park further contains a historic cold war bunker which is managed by a community group on behalf of the Council.

Pic 141: St Mary's Church on Wrotham Road

The Edwardian Church of St Mary's stands as a local icon on the Wrotham Road

Pic 142: A typical street scene (Hillingdon Road)

Woodlands Ward is known for its tightly packed rows of terraces.

Pic 143: Southfields Housing Estate

This relatively new housing estate is found off of Singlewell Road and should be in Woodlands Ward as there is no road access from neighbouring Singlewell Ward.

Pic 144: The White House on Dashwood Road

Overlooking Woodlands Park the residents of Dashwood Road feel part of Woodlands Ward and it would thus be illogical to keep them as is.

ISTEAD RISE, COBHAM & LUDDESDOWN

Number of Councillors: 2

Total Electorate: 4792

Number of Electors per Councillor: 2396

Variance: 8.30%

Polling Districts:

- BK (Split with Painters Ash)
- CA
- CB
- CC

Extent of Istead Rise, Cobham & Luddesdown Ward

This ward is a large geographical rural area, forming a rough 'T' shape, with three main village areas on each piece of the T. On the horizontal of the T to the west lies Istead Rise, which neighbours with the Parish of Cobham on the east of the T. To their north they share the natural boundary of the A2 and Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

To its west, Istead Rise is on the boundary with Dartford Borough Council, whereas to the east of Cobham is the boundary with Medway Council. On the vertical of the T, Luddesdown Parish occupies a sparse rural area, it is interconnected with Cobham, but otherwise surrounded by Medway Council, Tonbridge & Malling Council and the Gravesham ward of Meopham South and Vigo.

Unifying Factors:

While the communities of Istead Rise and Cobham Parish are distinctly separate, they overlap recreationally in the middle, with many Istead Rise residents coming into Cobham Parish to enjoy Ifield and Jenkins Community Woodland.

ISTEAD RISE, COBHAM & LUDDESDOWN WARD

Istead Rise residents also consider themselves to be a rural community, often feeling this is misunderstood, so would benefit from being integral with a rural ward.

Additionally, Istead Rise and Cobham share the many issues relating to the Lower Thames Crossing (LTC) development, particularly traffic, which will occupy the workloads of future councillors for the next 10 years.

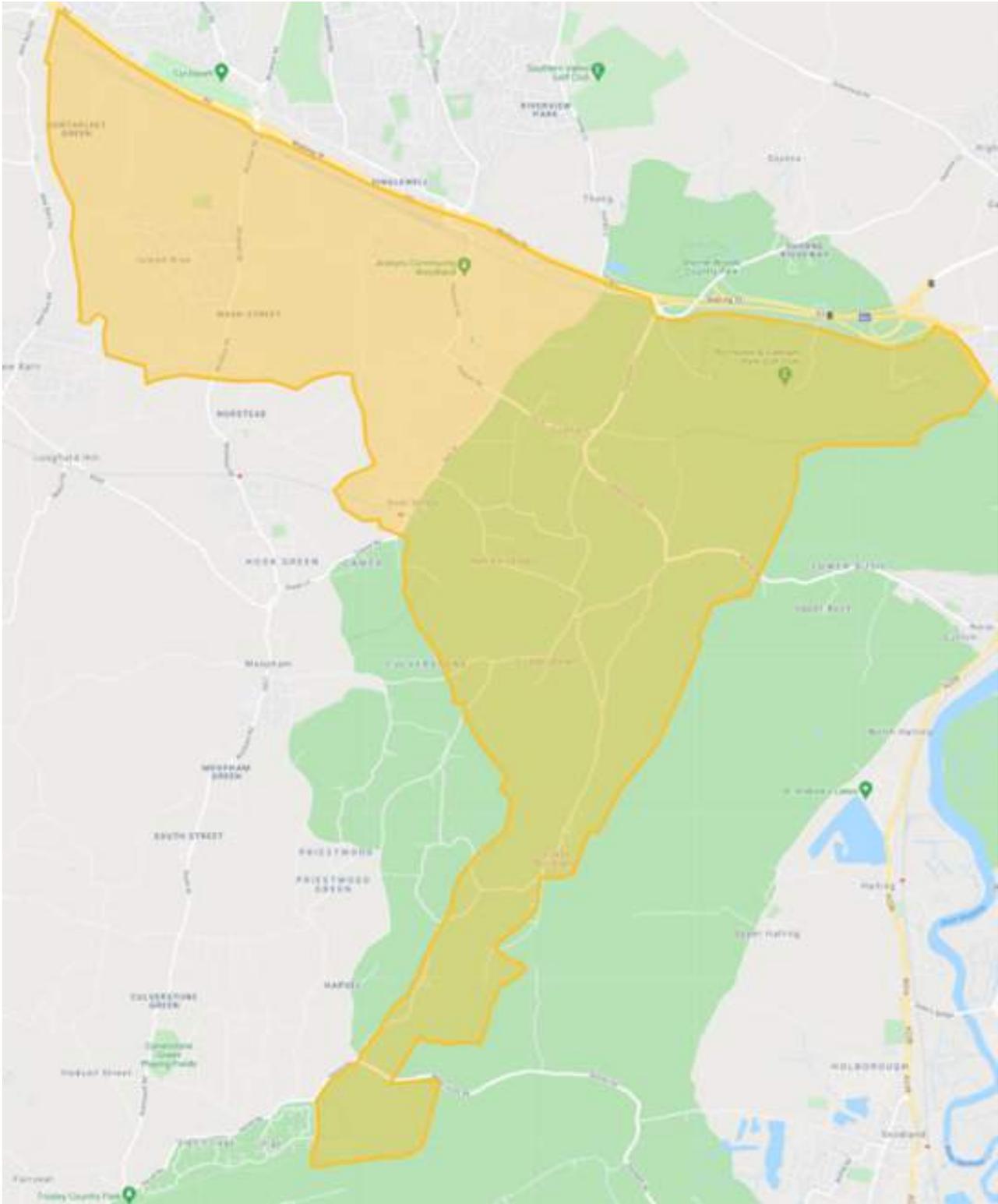
Luddesdown Parish is tightly connected and integrated with Cobham, sharing common amenities and issues. The historic churches in both parishes share the same clergy and services, five pubs, AONB, community events such as fetes and fairs, toddler groups and sports. Interconnected issues requiring collaboration include rat run traffic from the A2, planning applications, track biker anti-social behaviour and fly tipping.

We submit that it would constitute an illogical travesty to separate Cobham from Luddesdown. - A travesty which would cause much impracticality for the governance of the local area. It is for this reason that we suggest that the best option for these two villages is to join them up with the currently over-represented area of Istead Rise. This will create a new, 2-member ward that not only makes sense geographical, but offers greater electoral equality for the residents concerned.

Naming the Ward:

The name of the ward should be Istead Rise, Cobham & Luddesdown. This order not only reflects the geographical layout of the communities from the A2, but only places the wards in descending size order.

ISTEAD, COBHAM AND LUDDESDOWN WARD



ISTEAD RISE, COBHAM & LUDDSDOWN WARD

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ISTEAD RISE, COBHAM & LUDDSDOWN WARD

Unless otherwise stated the imagery used below has been taken from Google StreetView of Google Maps. Imagery © 2021, Google Maps, United Kingdom.



Pic 154



Pic 155



Pic 156



Pic 157



Pic 158



Pic 159



Pic 160



Pic 161



Pic 162

ISTEAD RISE, COBHAM & LUDDESDOWN PICTURES

Pic 145: St Mary Magdalene Church, Cobham

This Anglican Church in Cobham Village contains brasses which are over 600 years old. The Vicar here is also the incumbent of Luddesdown Church, which is a principle reason why the parishes should not be separated.

Pic 146: The Meadow Rooms, Cobham

The Meadow Rooms is the meeting place of Cobham Parish Council and further home to a number of local community groups and a youth club.

Pic 147: Luddesdown Village Hall

This is the meeting place of Luddesdown Parish Council and is home to a number of local clubs and societies.

Pic 148: Lodge Lane at Cobham

An example of some of the housing seen in Cobham.

Pic 149: St Peter and St Paul's Church at Luddesdown

This Anglican Church in Luddesdown Village shares a vicar with St Mary Magdalene Church, Cobham.

Pic 150: Sole Street station

Sole Street Station is on the Chatham Main Line and runs services to Meopham, Rochester and London Victoria.

Pic 151: The Tin Tabernacle at Sole Street

Erected in 1888, a smallish prefabricated Church Meeting Room, was established near to the station in Sole Street in order to support the growth in this area.

Pic 152: The Leather Bottle Pub, Cobham

This pub was built in around 1629 and was visited by Charles Dickens on a number of occasions. The Pub featured in 'The Pickwick Papers' and today retains features including inner and outer wood, brick and beams.

Pic 153: The Street, Cobham

The tightly terraced homes of the Street.

ISTEAD, COBHAM & LUDDESDOWN PICTURES

Pic 154: Istead Rise

This road is considered to be the main entry point into Istead Rise.

Pic 155: The Istead Rise Estate

This parade has a number of well established and community-focused independent shops and is well served by a community-focused co-operate store.

Pic 156: St Barnabas Church, Istead Rise

The modern church of St Barnabas serves the community of Istead Rise and is home to a number of local clubs and societies.

Pic 157: Cobham Primary School

Cobham primary school is a popular school, which mainly serves the village of Cobham and the parish of Luddesdown.

Pic 158: The Cock Inn at Luddesdown

The Cock Inn at Luddesdown is an 18th-century public house with bare beams and wood stoves.

Pic 159: Cobham War Memorial

The Cobham War Memorial sits at the far end of The Street and is a focal point for the Cobham Community.

Pic 160: Istead Rise Surgery

Istead Rise has good access to a GP Surgery and Dental Practice.

Pic 161: Typical street scene of Istead Rise

Bungalows are a frequent occurrence throughout Istead Rise.

Pic 162: Istead Rise Primary school

Istead Rise Primary School is a popular local school which mainly draws pupils from the Istead Rise community.

ISTEAD, COBHAM & LUDDSDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Istead Rise Primary School

The Green shading below provides a visual demonstration of where more than 70% of pupils live. This data is taken from the National School Census 2020.

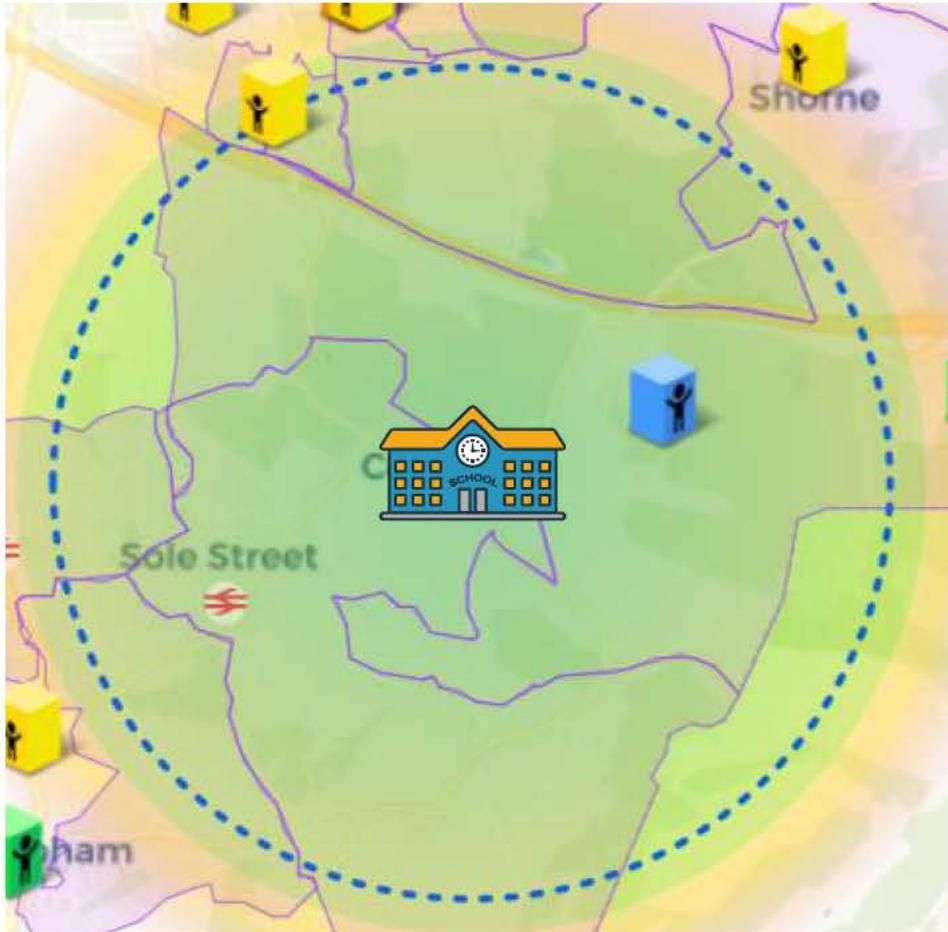


Source: https://www.locrating.com/school_catchment_areas.aspx
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ISTEAD, COBHAM & LUDDSDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Cobham Primary School

The Green shading below provides a visual demonstration of where more than 70% of pupils live. This data is taken from the National School Census 2020.



Source: https://www.locrating.com/school_catchment_areas.aspx
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MEOPHAM NORTH WARD

Number of Councillors: 2

Total Electorate: 4120

Number of Electors per Councillor: 2060

Variance: 6.79%

Polling Districts:

- CF
- CG

Extent of Meopham North Ward

The boundary should remain unchanged. Meopham North should contain the parish wards of Nurstead and Hook Green and Camer and Meopham Green.

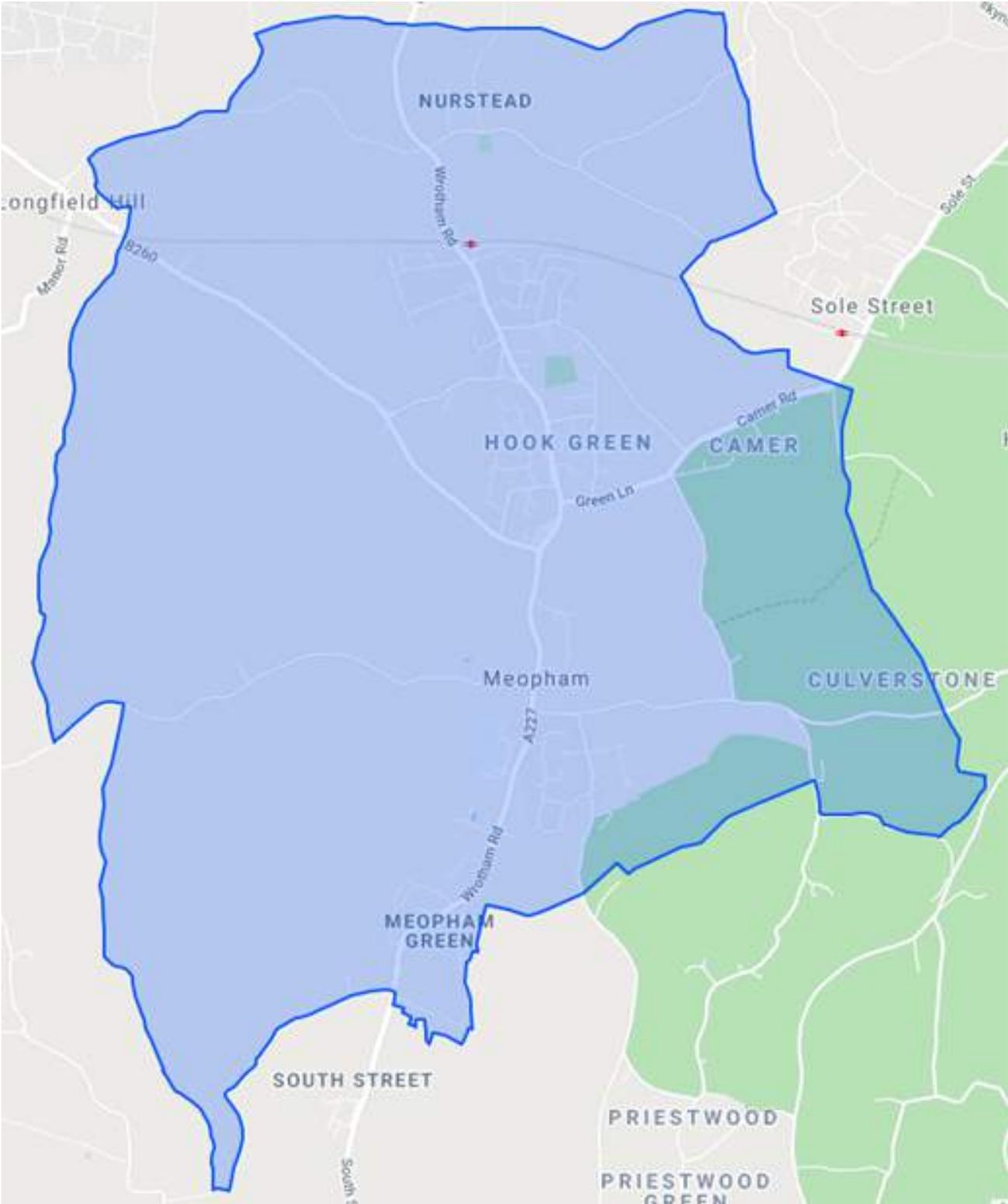
Unifying Factors:

The Ward of Meopham North is mainly made up of the communities that exist around Nurstead and The Green. The Ward boundaries should not be edited in a way which is detrimental to the jurisdiction of the Parish Councils which operate within the Meopham area.

Naming the Ward:

We propose that the ward name remains unchanged.

MEOPHAM NORTH WARD



MEOPHAM NORTH WARD

123.

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Pic 163



Pic 164



Pic 165



Pic 166



Pic 167



Pic 168



Pic 169



Pic 170



Pic 171

MEOPHAM NORTH WARD PICTURES

Pic 163: Meopham Green and Windmill

This submission is presented to the LGBCE Commissioners on behalf of the Gravesham Conservative Group of Councillors at Gravesham Borough Council.

Pic 164: The Parade

This submission is presented to the LGBCE Commissioners on behalf of the Gravesham Conservative Group of Councillors at Gravesham Borough Council.

Pic 165: Nurstead Court

This submission is presented to the LGBCE Commissioners on behalf of the Gravesham Conservative Group of Councillors at Gravesham Borough Council.

Pic 166: Meopham Station

This submission is presented to the LGBCE Commissioners on behalf of the Gravesham Conservative Group of Councillors at Gravesham Borough Council.

Pic 167: Bartellas

This submission is presented to the LGBCE Commissioners on behalf of the Gravesham Conservative Group of Councillors at Gravesham Borough Council.

Pic 168: Longfield Road

This submission is presented to the LGBCE Commissioners on behalf of the Gravesham Conservative Group of Councillors at Gravesham Borough Council.

Pic 169: The Post Office at Meopham

This submission is presented to the LGBCE Commissioners on behalf of the Gravesham Conservative Group of Councillors at Gravesham Borough Council.

Pic 170: Pine Rise

This submission is presented to the LGBCE Commissioners on behalf of the Gravesham Conservative Group of Councillors at Gravesham Borough Council.

Pic 171: The Parish Church of St John The Baptist

This submission is presented to the LGBCE Commissioners on behalf of the Gravesham Conservative Group of Councillors at Gravesham Borough Council.

MEOPHAM SOUTH & VIGO WARD

Number of Councillors: 2

Total Electorate: 4229

Number of Electors per Councillor: 2115

Variance: 4.16%

Polling Districts:

- CH
- CI
- CJ
- CK

Extent of Meopham South and Vigo

The boundary of Meopham South and Vigo should remain unchanged. It should contain Vigo Parish Council and Culverstone and Harvel ward of Meopham Parish Council.

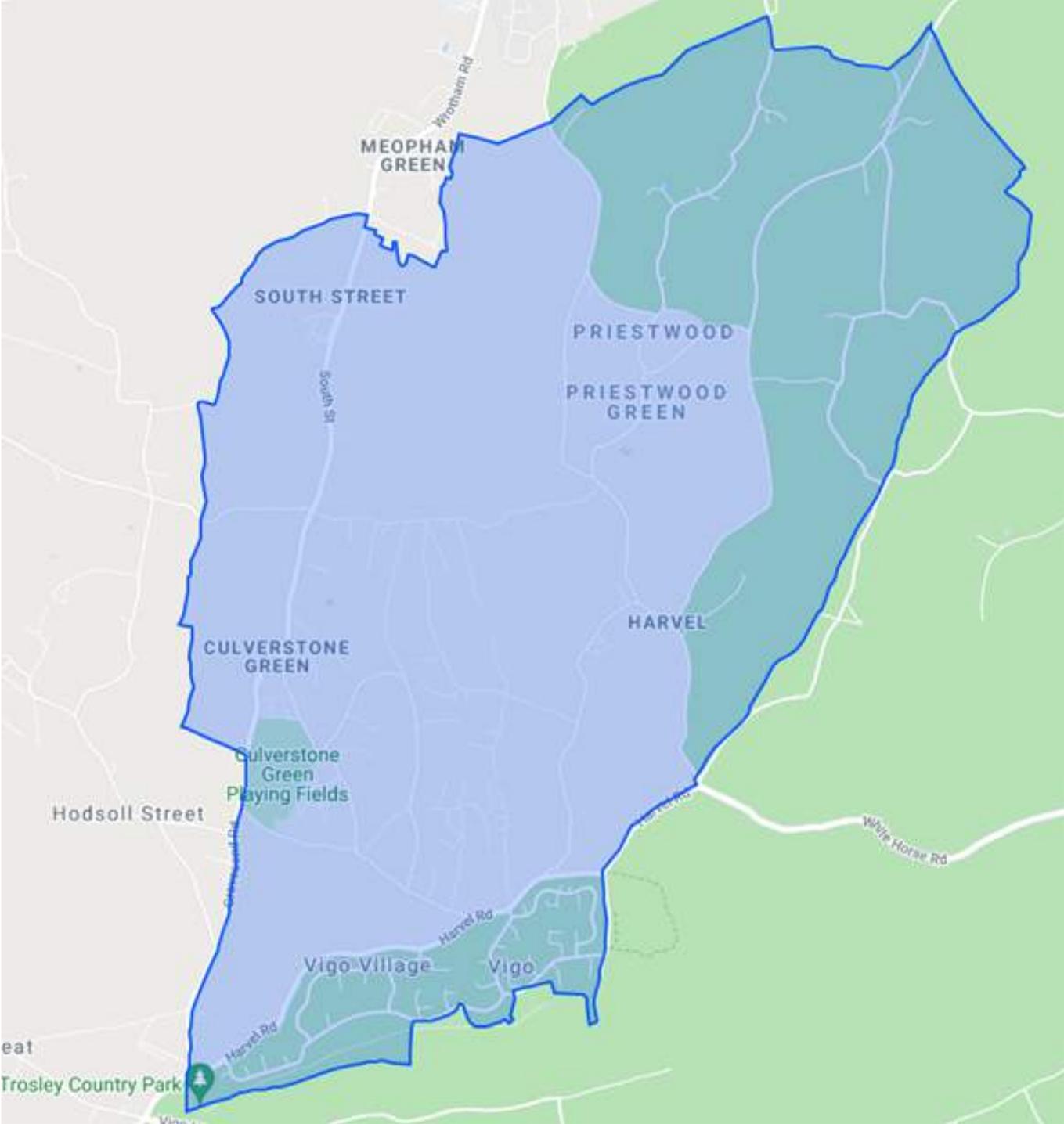
Unifying Factors:

There are well established communities in this area which are established around South Street, Priestwood, Culverstone, Harvel and Vigo.

Naming the Ward:

We propose that the ward name remains unchanged.

MEOPHAM SOUTH & VIGO WARD



MEOPHAM SOUTH & VIGO WARD

127.

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MEOPHAM SOUTH & VIGO WARD PICTURES

Pic 172: A typical view

Meopham South and Vigo has a number of long, wooded lanes and roads which lead into small well-defined communities.

Pic 173: Village Hall and Library

Vigo Village Hall is home to Vigo Library and a number of regular clubs and societies.

Pic 174: Shopping Parade

The shops at Vigo offer locals with access to a number of community-focused independent businesses.

Pic 175: Hope Hill

The local camping ground of the Scouts.

Pic 176: The Villager Pub

A local pub in Vigo Village.

Pic 177: Harvel

Harvel is a small village in Meopham South complete with a village green and pond, a cricket team, a village hall, a greyhound rehoming centre and a public house, called The Amazon and Tiger.

Pic 178: The local Primary School

Culverstone Green is the local primary school which draws its students mainly from the ward area.

Pic 179: Churchside, Vigo

A typical view of the type of dwellings to be found here.

Pic 180: Dean Lane

An example of a typical road layout in the area.



Thank you for considering our submission

