

[REDACTED]

The Local Government Boundary Commission
For England.
Review Office (Maidstone)
LGBCE
PO Box 133
Bythe, NE24 9FE.

Dear Madam / Sir (*Whoever this may concern*),

Re: Parish & Ward Boundary Considerations.

I have been informed that a change of Parish & Ward Boundaries is being considered in the Parishes of Boughton Monchelsea & nearby Parkwood in Kent.

I would like to express my concerns regarding this as my address as seen above, is under the village of *Boughton Monchelsea* and has been that way since the estate I live on was built in the year 2000 rather than that of Parkwood which not a village itself but more a small suburb that extends 4 miles out of the town of Maidstone.

I moved to the Boughton Monchelsea in September 2012 having lived in a town previously, and with a "*conscious view*" of obtaining "*a more rural village way of life and with a community type spirit attached*". I live on the "*Joywood Estate*" in Lockham Farm Avenue, which is part of Boughton Monchelsea. This is less than five minutes away from a beautiful countryside setting and less than a half a mile, through a country lane to the centre of the village of Boughton Monchelsea itself. From a historical point of view, my avenue was named after a local farm called "*Lockham Farm*" of which the farmhouse remains there today and is situated in a lane at the back of my estate. Lockham Farm was also built on the Roman remains of a settlement that has always been in the parish boundaries of Boughton Monchelsea, and from when our village first got its name. It has *never* been part of Parkwood. Parkwood was built during the 1960/ 70's as a housing development with a plan for social housing in mind at that time. Our Joywood estate is privately owned and is not part of the social house setting as found on many parts of Parkwood today. I like to class myself as being part of the Boughton Monchelsea Village community regarding Parish and Ward Boundaries, rather than that of Parkwood. I can't see why there is a need to change the boundaries within our parish which will mean for many of us an "*identity change*" and perhaps a change of address too which could potentially affect property prices when selling our homes in the future. I foresee that this would have financial implications to yourselves in organising this boundary change which at a time when the country is already in a financial predicament is not really cost effect to the public purse. We as residents are already under the Boughton Monchelsea Parish and do not want this change to happen, hence why I feel the importance of writing to you regarding this matter.

I feel like many people, we are part of the village community of Boughton Monchelsea. My son attended the local village primary school and is still part of the local Boughton Monchelsea Scout Group too and having gone through the ranks of the local Scouting Association from Beavers, Cubs and now a Scout. He has done many activities around our village to help support it including the planting of trees and helping at our local restaurant called the Curious Eatery. There are many other aspects to our way of country living and activities we support like the local yearly village fete and Christmas Fayres. I would also like to mention that any changes in boundaries would influence our local policing. We have a local Voluntary Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) who we have all got to know well and this could mean that she will no longer cover our areas and ensure that crime levels are kept to a minimal level for a rural country community. She has been available to sort out any issues we have had.

Being part of a village community and playing a part in local village activities on-line group has also meant that I and many other people in my area, have been able to voice our concerns on local issues affecting us such as speed limits on our roads and ensuring repairs have been done preventing the build-up of potholes etc amongst many other things that affect our daily lives. I would like to mention that we have some amazing local groups such as the playgroup, a local village hall and our church too which if you were to change the boundaries would mean we would be viewed as not being part of that supporting local community. It would also mean local children on my estate would not be in the parish boundaries to be able to attend the village school either which has a good Ofsted rating and has an old village feel to it with many events connected to the village and the church too which they would miss out on if parish and ward boundaries were to change. It's worth mentioning to we have some dedicated parish counsellors who represent our needs and who have been born and bred and lived in our village for many years and would no longer be part of our lives if boundaries and wards were moved. They have fought hard to prevent our rural live being eaten away by new housing developments happening. We have some amazing people in our village community who also do voluntary roles to keep the village clean with litter picking, helping hands for the elderly and many other local organisations and shops too which are part of us. I would find this very sad to see many aspects of our village life disappear or eroded away as if you were to consider changing our parish boundaries and wards. I would therefore ask that you not to make any boundary or ward changes due to what I have referred to above. Please consider this in your decision-making process.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. I also feel it is important in this current climate we live in to "*keep communities together*" to support each other rather than fragment them which will only create a sense of isolation for many in the village of Boughton Monchelsea.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,

