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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 April 2022 19:39
To: reviews
Subject: Local Government Boundary Commission (Maidstone Consultation)

Categories: Submissions, [REDACTED]

To the review officer.
Maidstone Local Government Boundary Commission.
Maidstone consultation.

My husband and I wish to state our opposition to this proposed plan to split up the ward of Harrietsham and Lenham and move Lenham Heath, Sandway and Liverton Street into the Headcorn ward in the strongest possible terms.

We do not feel that this is a good idea and think that the most obvious clue is in the name Lenham and Lenham Heath. They share a name and a parish and we feel they should share a ward.

Lenham Heath and surrounding hamlets to the south all have many close connections to both Lenham and Harrietsham. There is a thriving community in Lenham, Harrietsham and surrounding hamlets none of whom have any connections whatsoever to Headcorn which is at least 6 miles away, and we cannot see why being in the ward of Headcorn would be advantageous to people in Lenham Heath and surrounding hamlets.

There is a close community spirit in Harrietsham, Lenham and Lenham Heath and to split it up would not be good for the area.

Both Harrietsham and Lenham are:
In the same KCC membership division and are served by the same KCC councillor.

Both have been designated in the 2017 Maidstone Local Plan as rural service centres.

Both are covered by the same county. Council Community warden

Both form part of the police area and also served by known and shared community support officers.

Both are covered by Len Valley GP practice with two surgeries.

There are many many clubs and classes who use the Lenham Community Centre which are enjoyed by the wider community

There are two elected councillors who are dedicated to the area and very involved in its life, and then we do not feel that we would get the same dedication from councillors based further away.

The amenities at Lenham are used by residents of the whole community with plentiful shops,

restaurants, dentist, pharmacy, with central free parking.

Lenham Heath would not have the same connections with Headcorn.

We support the suggestion made by Lenham Parish Council that parts of the North Down ward adjacent to and north of Lenham and Harrietsham such as Otterden, Witchling, Frinsted or Wormshill, which are currently in North Downs Ward could be incorporated into the Lenham and Harrietsham Ward. These areas are adjacent to both villages and already associate strongly with Lenham.

Yours faithfully

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.