

Maidstone Borough Council

Personal Details:

Name:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I have been made aware that Maidstone Borough Council is proposing changes to the existing Lenham and Harrietsham Ward which would place our village of Platts Heath in Headcorn ward. I wish to object to this proposal on the following grounds: Platts Heath is 5.5 miles from the centre of Headcorn, 1.7 miles from the centre of Lenham. It is not logical to place the village with somewhere that is so much farther away. There is nothing that happens in Platts Heath that is connected with Headcorn. All local activities, clubs, organisations are based in Lenham. An entire new relationship between Headcorn and Platts Heath would have to be established which will take many years. This is not necessary as Platts Heath's existing relationship with Lenham works well. Local train services are provided at Lenham station (1.5 miles away) and bus services from Lenham centre (1.7) miles away. Headcorn station and bus stops are roughly six miles distant. We understand that the existing bus service from Grafty Green (One mile distant) is shortly to be withdrawn. Platts Heath needs local representation for its local public transport. Placing it in Headcorn will destroy the current arrangements which provide that local representation. There is a great deal of concern locally at the impact Maidstone Borough Council's proposed garden village ("Heathlands") will have on the Platts Heath area. It is planned to build at least 5,000 houses on open countryside less than one mile from our village of Platts Heath. All the activity in responding to this proposal is taking place through Lenham, NOT Headcorn. If we are moved to Headcorn ward it will make it very much more difficult to have our voices heard in the important debate over the proposals. Given we are a rural area the local population density is smaller therefore it is vital that all voices are heard. Given Maidstone Borough Council's unwillingness to engage with local people on the "Heathlands" proposal, evidenced by poor publication consultation and a blanket refusal to answer correspondence on the subject, it could be thought that this boundary change is a deliberate act by Maidstone Borough Council to weaken opposition to their scheme. We ask that the Boundary Commission thoroughly investigate this aspect of the proposals and satisfy themselves as to whether or not this is the case.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded