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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 03 April 2022 19:06
To: reviews
Subject: Maidstone Electoral Review

Categories: Submissions, [REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am responding to your call for views on the Maidstone Electoral Review. I am a resident in the parish of Loose and my comments relate solely to the draft proposals published by Maidstone Borough Council relating to Loose.

My understanding is that the object of the Review is to amend Ward boundaries is to achieve electoral equality. In doing this I note that with regard to Parish Councils, the Commission would, wherever possible, seek to incorporate existing boundaries as they stand and use these as building blocks in deciding on the new electoral wards.

If I am right in this, then the recommendations being put forward by MBC in relation to Loose is deeply flawed. The Borough Council's suggestion is that the Parish of Loose should be split roughly in half, one part to be included in a new urban ward to be called Tovil and North Loose and the other part to be included in a new rural ward to be called Boughton Monchelsea and Loose. Quite clearly this runs counter to the desire to incorporate whole parishes into the new wards and furthermore it is counter to the key objective to achieve electoral equality. The new urban ward of Tovil and North Loose would be by some distance the largest ward in the whole borough with over 9600 electors, but the new rural ward of Boughton Monchelsea and Loose would be one of the smallest wards with some 3000 electors.

Surely the most obvious solution and one which would be welcomed by the parishioners would be to include the whole of Loose parish within the proposed ward of Boughton Monchelsea and Loose.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]