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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 March 2022 15:08
To: reviews
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Boundary Changes Lenham & Harrietsham (Maidstone Borough Council)

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Dear Boundaries Commissioner

We write regarding the proposed boundary changes to the Lenham and Harrietsham Ward as proposed by Maidstone Borough Council.

We consider this proposal a direct attack on the democratic process of Local Government

This comes as no surprise to those that have witnessed the antics of MBC over the past decades.

The current ward is represented by two totally dedicated Borough Councillors Tom and Janetta Sams. They are both Independent Councillors who are not in any way influenced by party politics but are focused totally on serving the people they represent. It would be difficult to imagine any two people with a higher respect for the community and the democratic process.

The ward of Lenham and Harrietsham has been very well supported, encouraged and guided under their stewardship. This has not always been welcomed by MBC who to a large extent consider themselves to have a monopoly on decision making and any deviation from this obscure belief is met with scorn.

We have past examples of this but the issue that is currently focussing minds is that of the proposed Heathland Garden Village. A development of 5,000 houses at Lenham Heath. As one would expect, this has been met with considerable opposition in no small part by the "Save our Heathlands" campaign and our Borough Councillors. The resistance to this project has been very well organised and demonstrated the multiple shortcomings of the proposal as defined by MBC.

What do MBC do to counter this growing and well managed opposition to their Master Plan?

They attempt to change the Ward Boundaries. By removing several Hamlets to the south of Lenham from the Lenham and Harrietsham ward, they hope to (a) divide the community and break their spirit and (b) move the proposed development out of Lenham and into the Headcorn Ward where they hope opposition will be reduced.

If this boundary change is allowed to proceed it will be a very dark day for democracy and will indicate the support of a bureaucratic Borough Council who have no intention of listening to the people they are supposed to represent.

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