

Maidstone Borough Council

Personal Details:

Name:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Individual

Comment text:

I am proposing that the "eastern" boundary of the Ward of Barming and Teston is moved to the east to run down Hermitage Lane, Fountain Lane and Farleigh Lane with a further jink to the east to include the entire "community" to the north of Farleigh Bridge. Reasons for my proposal from north to south. 1) The area around the hospital was always referred to Barming Mental Hospital and is reputedly where the word "Barmy" comes from and it would be appropriate if this word was directly linked to Ward of Barming and Teston. 2) The Cemetery is known to have been linked to Barming Mental Hospital and again it is currently not in the Ward of Barming and Teston. 3) The "Playing Field" is known as Barming Heath and is currently not in the Ward of Barming and Teston. 4) Barming Village Hall which is on Heath Road and is one of the places where the residents of the Ward of Barming and Teston vote, is not in the Ward of Barming and Teston. (very confusing for many voters). 5) Longsole Church in Long Rede Lane which is part of the Parish of St Margaret's Barming is not in the Ward of Barming and Teston. 6) The boundary between the Ward of Barming and Teston and Heath follows for what most of us consider a completely "random" line through the Beverley Estate which all residents of the estate consider to be the centre of Barming and much of both Beverley Road and Abingdon Road are not in the Ward of Barming and Teston. 7) Barming Place (on the map as St Margaret's Preparatory School) and is the probably the largest residence in "Barming" and is not in the Ward of Barming and Teston. 8) Glebe Lane to the south of the Tonbridge Road which is linked to the historic glebe (church) land of the church of St Margaret's Barming is not in the Ward of Barming and Teston. 9) Rectory Lane which is again linked to the church of St Margaret's Barming and is where the Old Rectory now stands is not in the Ward of Barming and Teston. 10) the "community" to the north of East Farleigh Station is again randomly split and whilst historically linked to the parish of East Farleigh across the river would be better unified into a single Ward. It has many more similarities with some of the outlying communities in the Ward of Barming and Teston than the much more urban Ward of Fant. I have lived in Barming off Rectory Lane (to the south and so in the Ward of Barming and Teston) for over 60 years and I regularly speak to local residents many of whom have lived here for as many years as me. They are completely confused and bemused by this current eastern boundary and this in my view is bad for local democracy since it makes it even more confusing and remote. The area to the east of Farleigh Lane is known as Fant Farm and so it would not be appropriate to push my proposed boundary and further east (except for the proposed jink to the east round Three Pigeons). Whilst I am less well qualified to comment but I would propose that the area to the north of the Tonbridge Road and east of Hermitage Lane would be better referred as Oakwood rather than Heath since over the last 30 years the significant educational establishments which have been established on this site have become a recognisable name both for local residents as well as those living further away. I assume the name Heath was selected since it is the area at the junction of St Andrews Road, Queens, Tonbridge Road and Fant Lane – but has become less part of the regular description of this area. I hope these comments are seen as constructive in helping address what is a challenging area. I am initially submitting this as member of the public, however I am also a member of [REDACTED] and I will forward what I have written to the rest of the Council for consideration since currently they are my personal views and I am keen to get a submission underway!

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded