

Essex

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Comment text:

Please see attached proposals for new county divisions in the Epping Forest district, as part of the Essex County Council electoral review.

Compared to the existing divisions these proposals:

1. enlarge Epping and Theydon Bois to include Theydon Garnon and Theydon Mount, creating a new Epping and Theydon division. The communities of Epping, Coopersale (which lies in Epping parish), Thornwood, Theydon Bois, Theydon Garnon and Theydon Mount all look predominantly to Epping as their local market town and to the Central Line (stations in Epping and Theydon Bois) as their main public transport link. The historic links between Theydon Bois, Theydon Garnon and Theydon Mount are clear from the parish names.
2. keeps Buckhurst Hill and Loughton South the same apart from moving AY to Loughton Central for better electoral equality - however it could be moved back without causing particular issues if this was felt to be better for reasons of community identity.
3. enlarges Loughton Central to include AY (from Buckhurst Hill & Loughton South) and AT from Chigwell & Loughton Broadway) for better electoral equality.
4. Pairs Chigwell and Lambourne (in line with the recent district council electoral review) to create a Chigwell, Lambourne and Loughton Broadway division. Ideally we wouldn't have included the orphan Loughton polling district with Chigwell and Lambourne but it's necessary to make the numbers work and reflects the current position
5. Reconfigures the North Weald and Nazeing division, to create a Nazeing and Rural West division joining the Roydon, Nazeing and Epping Upland parishes (plus Hastingwood) with High Beach which shares many of the rural characteristics of Broadley Common etc. Sewardstone is a linear community with a mix of commercial and residential alongside the River Lea. Roydon and Nazeing are also riverside communities and parts of both Nazeing and Sewardstone are within the Lea Valley Regional Park. High Beach can't stay with the rest of Waltham Abbey parish for

reasons of electoral equity, and hiving off urban parts of Waltham Abbey doesn't make sense for community identity reasons.

6. The Ongar, North Weald and Rural East division (which could remain Ongar Rural if preferred) unites North Weald with Ongar. Both communities sit on the A414 corridor.

7. The urban part of Waltham Abbey remains in a single Waltham Abbey division

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Attached Documents:

- Epping Forest county boundaries.png
- Epping_Forest.xlsx