

Canterbury

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Comment text:

Related subject: The whole council

Canterbury & Coastal Liberal Democrats have drawn up proposals for the whole Canterbury District as part of the re-warding exercise. They are detailed in the attached word document.

Attached Documents:

- Canterbury re-warding 2023 Lib Dem Proposals..docx



Canterbury City Council Re-warding 2023/24

Introduction

The Canterbury & Coastal Liberal Democrats local party operates within an area identical to the Canterbury City Council area and wish to submit proposals for the re-warding of the council.

Firstly, we would wish to say that we feel that the process for considering such changes to electoral areas of local government is flawed. Specifically we believe that;

1. A narrow focus on tying elector numbers to an arbitrary number of councillors makes it much harder to construct sensible wards or divisions that have good community links.
2. Basing the size of wards/divisions on the number of electors rather than the number of residents builds in discrepancies in areas (like Canterbury city) where there is a high number of unregistered residents. In our case, thousands of un-registered University students.

Having said that, it is also right that councillors should represent a broadly similar number of people – electors or residents.

In drawing up our proposals we have endeavoured to apply the following principles;

- The number of electors/cllr is 3186 +/-10% on the 2029 anticipated numbers..
- Parishes should not be split across two or more wards.
- Wards should not cross the new parliamentary boundaries. (Canterbury. Herne Bay & Sandwich).
- Use existing polling districts as the building blocks, but adjust their boundaries where necessary. Where this has been done we have made the best estimate we can on 2029 elector numbers.

Unchanged Wards

We propose that the following existing wards should be unchanged from their current boundaries.

Chestfield (2 cllrs) although we propose a name change to “Chestfield & South Tankerton”.

Gorrell (3 cllrs)

Little Stour & Adisham (1 cllr)

Nailbourne (1 cllr)

Seasalter (2 cllrs)

Swalecliffe (1 cllr)

Tankerton (1 cllr)

West Bay (1 cllr)

Herne Bay & Sandwich Constituency area

We propose seven wards with 14 councillors.



Beltinge Ward: 2 councillors.

Consisting of HB1, HB2 (east of Mickleburgh Hill), HB3, part of HH3 (area bounded by Beacon Hill, Canterbury Road and Mickleburgh Hill) and part of HR3 (Bishopstone & Sanderling Park areas) polling districts. Electorate 7002. +10%. The portions of HR3 are urban extensions of Beltinge and not a good fit with the rural areas of Chislet and Hoath where they currently sit.

Greenhill & Eddington Ward: 2 councillors

Existing Greenhill Ward plus HH5 (Eddington). Electorate 6433. +1%. This restores an earlier ward from before the last boundary changes.

Heron Ward: 3 councillors.

Comprising the existing HH1, HH2, HH3 (less the area bounded by Beacon Hill, Canterbury Road and Mickleburgh Hill), HH4, HH6 and part of HB2 (south and west of Mickleburgh Hill) polling districts. Electorate 10,166. +6%

Herne & Reculver Ward: 3 councillors.

Existing Herne & Broomfield Ward (and Parish), plus HB4 (Talmead), HR1 (Hoath) and part of HR3 (Reculver, Reculver Lane, Sweechbridge Road and land to the south). Electorate 9034. -5%.

Hersden & Chislet Ward: 1 councillor.

Hersden Parish (RS5 and RS8), plus Chislet Parish (HR2) Electorate 3488. +9%.

This combines two growing communities along the A28 corridor with similar traffic and transport issues.

Sturry Ward: 2 councillors.

Comprising RS1, RS2, RS3, RS4, RS6, RS7 and RS8, i.e. the existing Sturry ward less Hersden parish. Electorate 6325. -1% This becomes co-terminous with Sturry parish council and Fordwich town council.

West Bay Ward: 1 councillor.

Unchanged from existing ward. Electorate 3326. +4%.

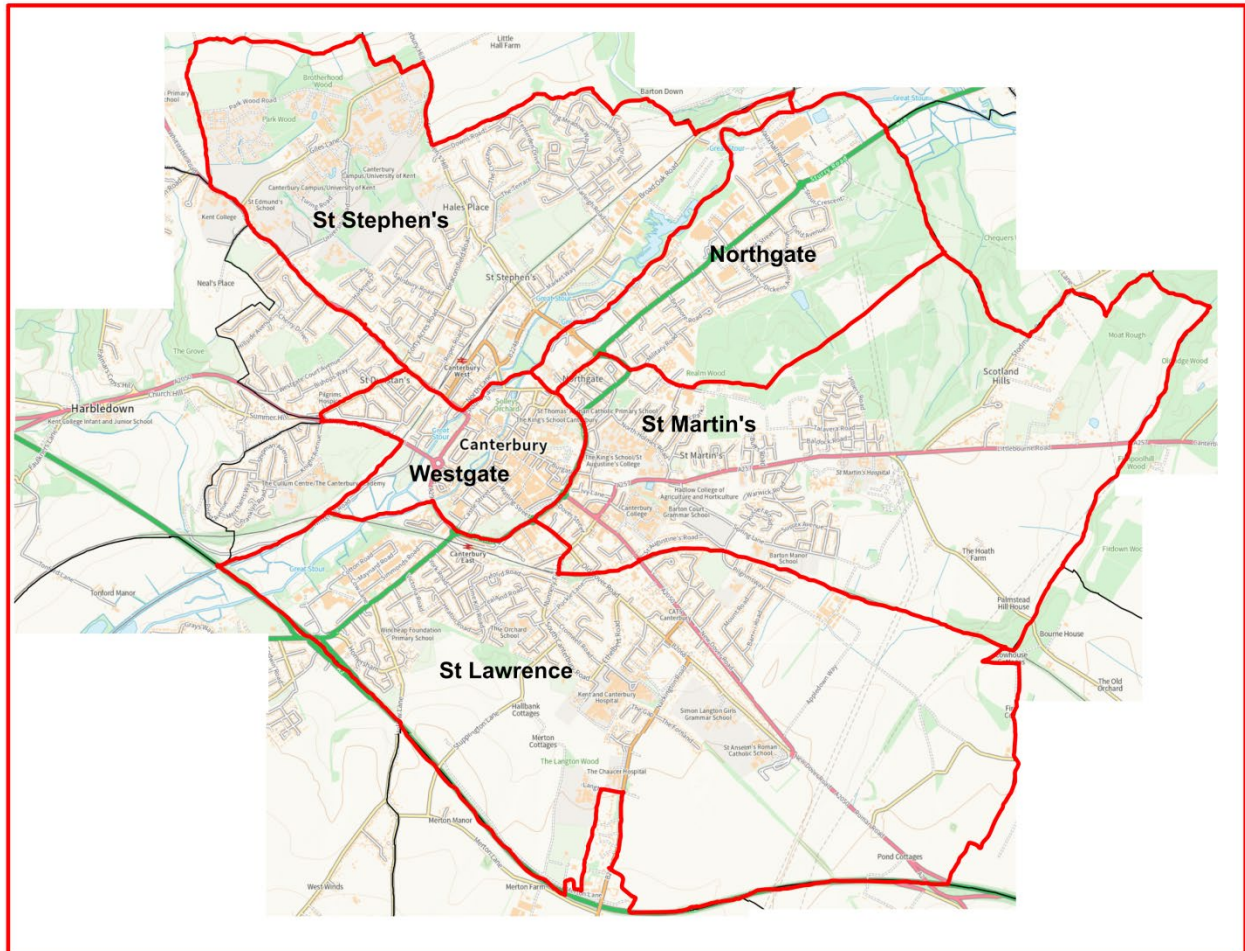
Whitstable Area

We do not propose any changes to the existing ward boundaries. However, we suggest that Chestfield ward be renamed to Chestfield & South Tankerton. The ward is made up from the parish of Chestfield (polling district WC3), plus the unparished areas of South Tankerton and South Street (polling districts WC1 and WC2). The current name can cause confusion when referring to issues outside the parished areas.

Canterbury Constituency

Canterbury City Area

We propose five wards with 9 councillors.



St Lawrence Ward: 3 councillors.

Comprising CWI3 (Hollow Lane), CWI4 (Martyr's Field), CWI5 (South Canterbury Rd), part of CWE5 (Bingley Court), part of CB4 (Pilgrims Way area, south of railway line), CB5 and CB6. Electorate 9204. -4%.

As neither the historic ward names of Wincheap or Barton can really take precedence, we have named this ward St Lawrence, after the county cricket ground.

Northgate Ward: 1 councillor.

Comprising part of CN1 (area north of Tourtel Road), CN2 and CN3 less St Stephen's Road area). Electorate 3207. +1%.

St Martin's Ward: 2 councillors.

Comprising CB1, CB2, CB3, part of CB4 (north of the railway line), CB7, CB8 and part of CN1 (area north of Military Rd and west of Tourtel Road). Electorate 5915. -7%.

This ward is essentially the ward for the A257 corridor and the various developments, old and new, leading off it. The southern boundary of the ward is mainly the Canterbury East railway line.

St Stephen's Ward: 2 councillors.

Comprising the existing St Stephen's ward plus RBF2 & RBF3 (University of Kent), part of CN3 (St Stephen's Road area), CWE1 and part of CWE2 (portion north of St Dunstan's St). Electorate 6493. +2%.

The existing St Stephen's ward has a high level of student accommodation in houses of multiple occupation (HMO's) so it makes sense to incorporate the University of Kent into an expanded ward.

The St Stephen's Rd area transferred from Northgate ward has always been an illogical part of Northgate separated as it is by The Great Stour river and sits sensibly into St Stephen's ward.

Westgate Ward: 1 councillor.

Comprising part of CWE2 south of London Road and St Dunstan's Street, CWE4 and CWE5 less the Bingley Court area. Electorate 3060. -4%.

Canterbury Rural Area

We propose four wards with 7 councillors.

Little Stour & Adisham Ward: 1 councillor. Unchanged. Electorate 3386. +6%.

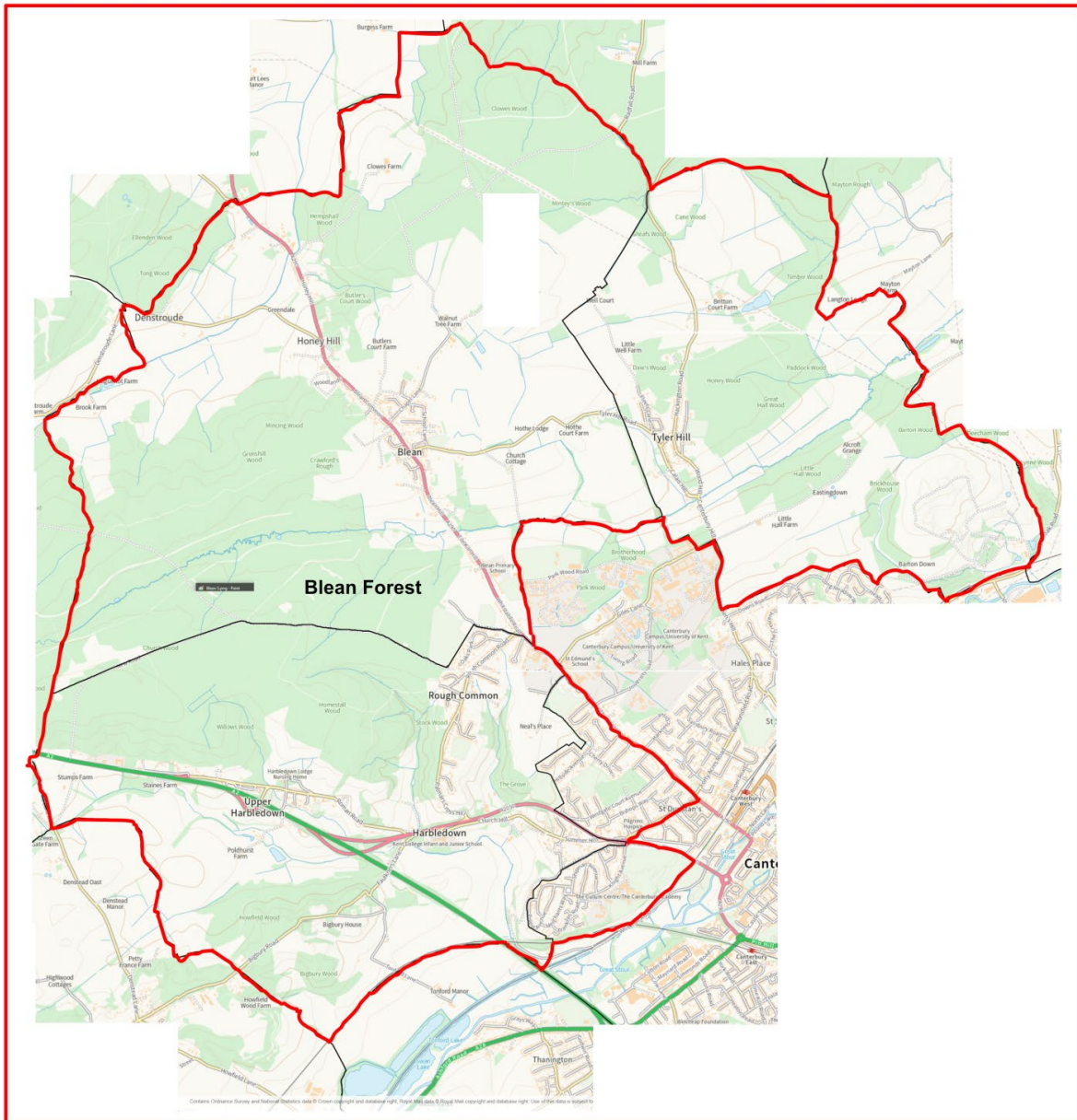
Nailbourne Ward: 1 councillor. Unchanged. Electorate 3323. +4%.

Blean Forest Ward: 2 councillors.

Comprises RBF1, RBF4, RBF5, RBF6, RCS8, part of CWE2 (area north of London Road) and CWE3. Electorate 6783. +6%.

This proposal brings the whole of Harbledown & Rough Common parish council area into one ward. It is currently split with Harbledown in the current Chartham & Stone Street ward and Rough Common within Blean Forest ward.

The portion of CWE2 is similar in character to RBF5 and is a continuation of that area. CWE3 is something of an orphan area whichever ward it sits in, but at least has close physical links with Harbledown.



Chartham, Thanington & Stone Street Ward : 3 councillors.

Comprising RCS1, RCS2, RCS3, RCS4, RCS5, RCS6, RCS7, CWI1, CWI2. Electorate 8930. -7%.

This would see the transfer of the Thanington parish council area from the current Wincheap ward to this area, balanced to some extent by the loss of Harbledown to our proposed Blean Forest Ward.

