

Councillor Andrew Schrader

Member for Billericay East



The Local Gov't. Boundary Commission for England
via email

11th . July 2022

Dear Sirs,

Re: Electoral Review of Basildon Council: Warding Arrangements

I write in respect of the above review in my capacity as a Conservative Basildon borough councillor. I have been one of the three councillors representing Billericay East since 2013.

As you will be aware, this is the first time the boundaries have been reviewed in twenty years. Basildon Council is elected by thirds, with forty-two councillors currently elected across sixteen electoral wards in elections held three out of every four years. Although most wards elect three councillors, the Commission will be aware that there are currently six smaller wards that only elect two, meaning they do not always have elections at the same time as everyone else.

This arrangement can be very confusing to residents in the two-member wards when everyone around them has a vote, but they do not. As the Council would like to maintain the system of electing by thirds, it is clearly desirable to eliminate the anomaly of two-member wards. Given the Council also wishes to maintain the total number of councillors at forty-two, clearly, that means there will have to be fourteen wards – a reduction of two.

I am cognisant, however, that this cannot simply be a shallow numbers game and it is also necessary to ensure new boundaries are appropriate and reflect existing community ties and local identity.

Looking at the review requirements, I would suggest that **Billericay East** be kept as it is, comprised of the four existing polling districts, namely 'Chantry' (BA), 'Norsey' (BB), 'St. Mary's' (BC) and 'Sunnymede' (BD). This is already a three-member ward with an electorate of a little over 9,400 and the boundaries are coterminous with the boundaries of the Billericay Town Council ward of the same name. Likewise, **Billericay West** should remain in its present boundaries.

Cont...

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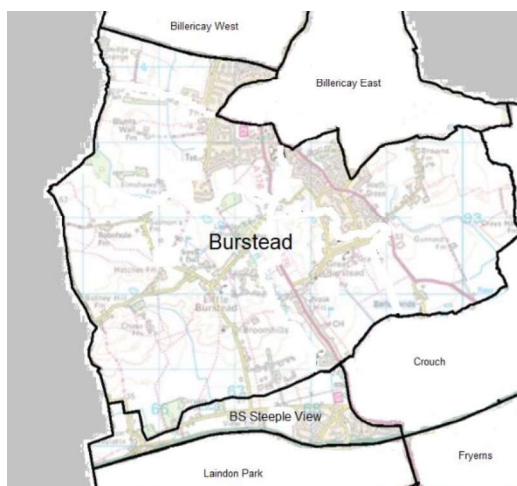
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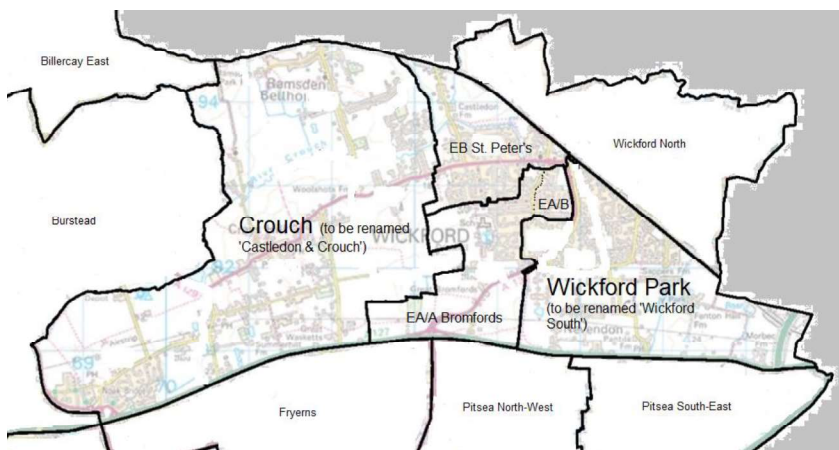
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Burstead, despite the physical size of the ward, is quite sparsely populated – currently comprising the south-west of Billericay Town proper (BL ‘*Summerdale*’), as well as the villages of *Great Burstead* and *South Green* (BI and BK) and *Little Burstead* (BJ). Given that the two-member Crouch ward must be abolished, I suggest that *Steeple View* (BS), currently the westernmost part of Crouch, be added to Burstead, creating an enlarged ward.

The A127 makes for a natural southern boundary and the Steeple View community have good links to Burstead – the name Steeple View itself being in part derived from their views of the steeple of St. Mary Magdalene Church in Great Burstead.



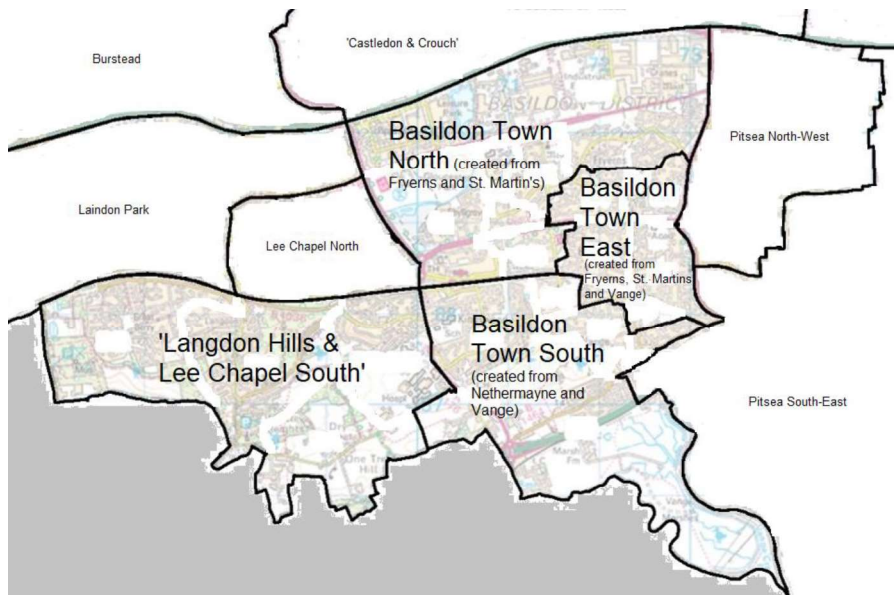
The rest of **Crouch**, namely the parishes of *Noak Bridge* (BN), *Ramsden Bellhouse* (BO and BP) and *Ramsden Crays* (BQ and BR) could then merge with most of the current two-member **Wickford Castledon** ward, namely *St. Peter’s* (EB) and most of *Bromfords* (EA), to form a new three-member ‘**Castledon & Crouch**’ ward.

I think you would need to sub-divide the *Bromfords* (EA) polling district, placing part of it into the two-member **Wickford Park** ward to make that a new three-member ward (which it would probably make sense to call ‘**Wickford South**’).

Wickford North, I would submit, can be left unchanged.

That would take care of the two-member wards north of the A127. South of the Arterial, I suggest that **Laindon Park**, **Lee Chapel North**, **Pitsea North-West** and **Pitsea South-East** could be left as they are.

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I would take three of the **Fryerns** polling districts, namely *Honeypot* (BU), *Whitmore* (BW) and *Willows* (BX), and combine these with two of the **St. Martin's** polling districts, *Fairhouse* (CH) and *Ghyllgrove* (CI), to form a new ward, which I have given the placeholder name '**Basildon Town North**' for the purpose of this

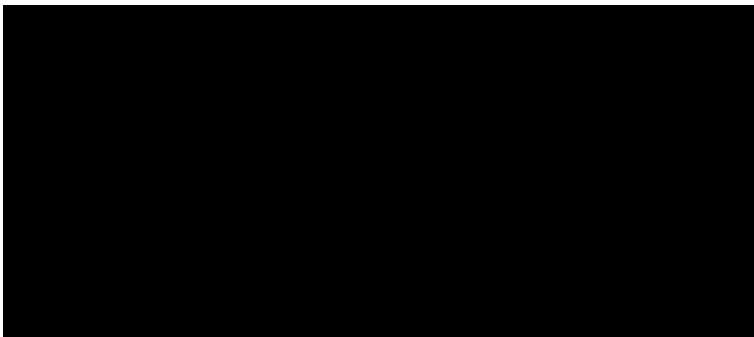
submission. This ward could retain the name 'Fryerns' but I do not believe there is a distinct Fryerns identity, and the name 'St. Martin's' derives purely from the church in the ward. I have always found it odd that none of the New Town wards contain the name 'Basildon' (though I would include the word 'town' so that it is distinct from Basildon Borough).

I would then take the rest of Fryerns – *Craylands* (BT) and *St. Andrew's* (BV) – and combine it with the last of St. Martin's – *Timberlog* (CJ) – along with two of the four **Vange** wards – *Bardfield* (DS) and *Luncies* (DT) – to create a new '**Basildon Town East**' ward.

To deal with the current two-member **Langdon Hills** ward, I would add most of *Lee Chapel South* (DF), currently part of **Nethermayne**, to create a new three-member ward called '**Langdon Hills & Lee Chapel South**'. I would recommend this name to reflect the separate identities of the two settlements.

The remainder of Nethermayne could then be combined with the remainder of Vange – *St. Chad's* (DU) and *Vange Hill* (DV) – to create a new '**Basildon Town South**' ward. Again, the name Nethermayne is derived from a road and carries with it no clear local identity. Vange, on the other hand, does have a very well-established identity, so it may be worth considering '**Basildon Town South & Vange**', as a possible alternative.

iberations. I am, in the meantime,



Cllr. ANDREW SCHRADER

Gillespie, Matthew

From: Andrew Schrader <Andrew.Schrader@members.basildon.gov.uk>
Sent: 11 July 2022 10:12
To: reviews
Subject: Basildon Borough Boundary Review
Attachments: Basildon Boundary Review Submission.pdf

Categories: Matt, Submissions

Dear Sirs,

Please find attached my own modest submission to your deliberations.

Kind regards,

Cllr. Andrew Schrader

Member for Billericay East | Cabinet Member for Housing & Estate Renewal

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