

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 25 March 2022 12:36
To: reviews
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: TWBC Cabinet Submission to the Electoral Commission
Attachments: Map RTW Cabinet 2022-03 V01.0.pdf; Elect Comm Submission Cabinet 2022-03 V01.0.xlsx; TWBC Leader & Dep to Electoral Comm 2022-03 DS TD.pdf; TWBC Leader & Dep to Electoral Comm 2022-03 DS TD.docx

For the submissions log

[REDACTED]
Review Officer

[REDACTED]

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The
Local Government
Boundary Commission
for England



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From: David Scott (Cllr) <David.Scott@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 March 2022 12:18
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: Jane Clarke <Jane.Clarke@Tunbridgewells.gov.uk>; Tom Dawlings (Cllr) <Tom.Dawlings@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk>
Subject: TWBC Cabinet Submission to the Electoral Commission

Dear sir/madam

Please find attached our submission on behalf of me (Deputy Leader) and Tom Dawlings (Leader) of Tunbridge Wells Borough. We are happy to discuss this submission further with you as appropriate. However, we felt that this should provide a reasonable basis for consideration.

Best wishes

David

Cllr David Scott, Culverden Ward, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development

Web Info: <https://democracy.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/meetings/mgUserInfo.aspx?UID=50000699>

Tel. [REDACTED]

Dial 1 for my desk phone, 3 for my mobile or leave a message

Commentary to the Electoral Commission

The following observations regarding the makeup of electoral wards for the Borough of Tunbridge Wells is submitted on behalf of the Cabinet of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council (TWBC).

1. The Cabinet would prefer single or two person wards in the Borough as we feel these could be crafted to the different communities in the Borough more easily. However, we recognise that Full Council determined to continue to elect by thirds and so this option is not available until there is a majority in favour of changing to all-out elections. Our comments therefore reflect this position.
2. We agree that the maximum number of councillors should be 39. However, in considering warding arrangement we have concluded that 36 councillors would enable a fairer distribution of councillors in the unparished area of the town of Royal Tunbridge Wells. Reducing the number of councillors should lead to improved councillor efficiency and reduce call on officers.
3. The unparished area of Royal Tunbridge Wells would support 6 wards of 3 Councillors. These are shown on the attached map showing the proposed Ward Boundaries (hand drawn) and approximate numbers of voters per ward and current voting areas. We have tried to name the various smaller areas within each of the proposed Wards to provide examiners with a better understanding of each smaller community, many with close community and facility links to each other.
4. The following wards are proposed for Royal Tunbridge Wells (RTW):
 - a. RTW West: comprising of all areas to the west of the key main shopping streets of Eridge Road, The Pantiles (all those living in the immediate vicinity of the Pantiles, and The Potteries), The High Street, Mount Pleasant, Grosvenor Road and St John's Road. From a community standpoint Culverden and Bishops Down share a common view, a 20mph zone, a bus route through the area and all are impacted by the schools within the area. It clearly has the close links with the RTW Common which is also shared with Nevill Park, an area very similar in property and use of the common. The properties that face onto The Pantiles, including the new Potteries share this sense of place. As these and the properties on either side of the High Street link together being reduced traffic or pedestrianised areas much more so the along Mt Pleasant where the road is more of a separation between residents.
 - b. RTW South: Comprising of: (1) Ramslye and Showfields which share common properties, facilities, and outlook. Both are to the south of the historic railway line which creates a natural barrier. (2) Broadwater, St Marks and Banner Farm all have similarity with residents forming strong links to the 'Village' area around Grove Park with the 2 pubs, fish & Chips and Kabab shops, and the sports fields of Warrick Park. They see themselves separated from but fully enjoy the walk down the hill to the High Street and Pantile areas.
 - c. RTW Central: including the areas east of the High Street and Mount Pleasant, including the majority of Christ Church, all of Camden Park, Town Hall, St Peters, Park ward and Hawkenbury. These area link closely together around

both Calverley Grounds and Dunorlan Park. Forest road forms a key artery of the area with houses on either side forming close relationships and use of the cluster of shops at the northern end of Forest Road. The sense of community also appears to relate to those living along the southern side of the Pembury Road – which creates a greater barrier between communities due to the high level of traffic. Properties along Cornford Lane are part of this, although see themselves suffering from the rat run of traffic along their otherwise quiet ‘farm like’ road.

- d. RTW Grosvenor & Hilbert; Camden and St James areas link strongly to the Grosvenor & Hilbert Park. Grosvenor, from Queens Road and Dunstan Rd forms a cohesive area, although both sides of these roads should be combined in the area (or included in the St Johns and St Luke’s areas to the north).
 - e. RTW North: Everything to the east of St Johns Road, including St Johns East, St Luke’s, and High Brooms to the west of the railway line have strong links to each other and form a cohesive community.
 - f. RTW North Woods: The railway line and Sandhurst Lane probably form effective separation between other areas and Sherwood North. Knights Wood, provides a recent but different community.
5. The above boundaries are based on existing community identities and their relationship to the town centre. However consideration may be given to the following comments and adjustments:
- a. Swap areas of wests St John’s (north of the natural divide north of Southfield Road) for Grosvenor. Note, both sides of Queens Road and also Culverden Down should be in single wards rather than those communities being split).
 - b. Ramslye and Showfields, should preferably be in the same ward as close connections exist.
 - c. The best dividing line is the east (or west) of the shopping and hospitality streets of The Pantiles and The High Street, rather than the A21.
 - d. The dividing line of Powder Mill Road provides a reasonable divide between communities between people who relate more to either Southborough or High Brooms.
6. The various parishes to the west of RTW including Rusthall, Langton Green, Speldhurst should be incorporated into a single ward. A suitable name may be Western TW Parishes. Each of these have separate identities but a commonality being parishes on the western side of RTW.
7. To achieve reasonable balanced numbers of voters, the community area of Bidborough may be joined with the other western TW parishes or combined with Southborough.
8. Southborough may be combined as a single ward, north of the proposed RTW West, RTW North wards. However the eastern side of Southborough links more with High Brooms station and the shops and businesses in that area and those of Silverdale.
9. If possible, the areas of Paddock Wood and the potential development areas of Tudeley / Capel Ward should be unified in a single ward. Relatively low numbers of voters may be acceptable in this ward due to the imminent planning approvals

currently considered likely under the Local Plan. These areas relate more to the town of Paddock Wood and the forthcoming substantial expansion of houses in the area. There are likely to be many views on this expressed when the first suggested warding arrangements are proposed.

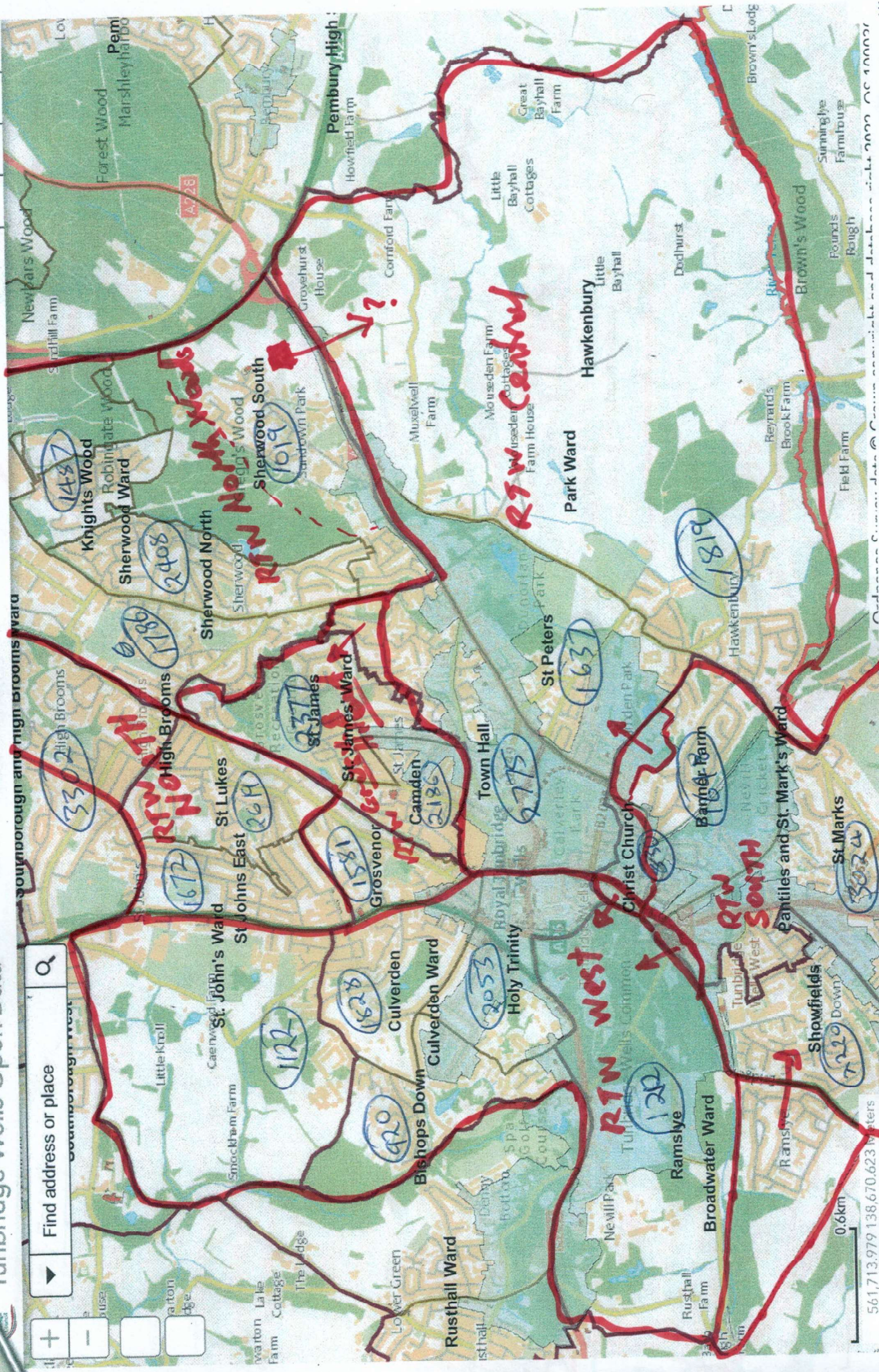
10. The eastern part of the Borough is focused on the towns of Cranbrook and Hawkhurst and surrounding parishes. Cranbrook shares a parish council with Sissinghurst so there is logic in Cranbrook and Sissinghurst being in the same ward - this together with Frittenden as there would be nowhere else for Frittenden to go. Benenden could as easily be combined with Hawkhurst and Sandhurst as with Cranbrook.
11. The clear message being received from the parishes is that none would welcome being divided between wards.

Tunbridge Wells Open Data

with Web AppBuilder for ArcGIS

Find address or place

+ -



0.6km

561,713,979 138,670,623 meters

	39 Cllrs	36 Cllrs	
less 10%	6,351	6,878	
median	7,056	7,642	
plus 10%	7,761	8,407	

Paddock Wood

M	Paddock Wood West	Paddock Wood Town	West Ward
MA	Paddock Wood East	Paddock Wood Town	East Ward

2027 Electorate

Paddock Wood West	4,117
Paddock Wood East	4,084
	559
	7%

Notes

Would need to remove 440 electors from MA to get within +10% on 39 Cllrs. This could possibly be done by splitting MA along the river lines east of the town, so that Mile Oak, Knells Farm and Queen Street are moved into a different ward.

Would need to split O so that Cranbrook total is reduced and Hawkhurst total is increased. This could possibly be done along New Pond Road, but it looks like that would split some residents in Benenden village off from the village centre, which would be represented by a different ward.

Cranbrook

R	Cranbrook	Parish of Cranbrook and Siss	Cranbrook Ward
S	Sissinghurst	Parish of Cranbrook and Siss	Sissinghurst Ward
T	Frittenden	Parish of Frittenden	
O	Benenden	Parish of Benenden	
P	Benenden East	Parish of Benenden	

Benenden and Cranbrook	4,208
Frittenden and Sissinghurst	1,113
Frittenden and Sissinghurst	720
Benenden and Cranbrook	968
Benenden and Cranbrook	170
-	463
	-6%

Hawkhurst

X	Hawkhurst	Parish of Hawkhurst	
Y	Hawkhurst Moor	Parish of Hawkhurst	
YY	Sandhurst	Parish of Sandhurst	
Q	Benenden South	Parish of Benenden	
W	Kilndown	Parish of Goudhurst	Kilndown Ward

Hawkhurst and Sandhurst	3,019
Hawkhurst and Sandhurst	929
Hawkhurst and Sandhurst	1,179
Benenden and Cranbrook	406
Goudhurst and Lamberhurst	641
-	1,468
	-19%

Would need to add at least 177 from O to bring in line with the minimum 10% variance.

Pembury

N	Pembury High Street	Parish of Pembury	
NA	Pembury Lower Green	Parish of Pembury	
I	Capel	Parish of Capel	
J	Tudeley	Parish of Capel	
CC	Knights Wood		

Pembury	2,046
Pembury	2,643
Capel	1,610
Capel	287
Sherwood	1,487
	431
	6%

close links with Pembury

Southborough

C	Southborough North	Southborough Town Council North Ward	
B	Southborough West	Southborough Town Council West Ward	
D	Bidborough	Parish of Bidborough	
A	High Brooms	Southborough Town Council West of High Brooms Wa	

Southborough North	3,415
Southborough and High Broom	2,468
Speldhurst and Bidborough	912
Southborough and High Broom	1,101
	254
	3%

33% Split approx along Powder Mill rd

Rusthall						
OO	Rusthall West	Parish of Rusthall	Rusthall	2,228		
PP	Rusthall East	Parish of Rusthall	Rusthall	1,614		
E	Langton	Parish of Speldhurst	Speldhurst and Bidborough	2,755		
F	Speldhurst	Parish of Speldhurst	Speldhurst and Bidborough	1,247		
			202	7,844		
			3%			
Rural TW						
G	Brenchley	Parish of Brenchley and Matfield	Brenchley and Horsmonden	1,205		
H	Matfield	Parish of Brenchley and Matfield	Brenchley and Horsmonden	1,212		
K	Horsmonden	Parish of Horsmonden	Brenchley and Horsmonden	1,902		
L	Lamberhurst	Parish of Lamberhurst	Goudhurst and Lamberhurst	1,310		
U	Curtisden Green	Parish of Goudhurst	Goudhurst and Lamberhurst	291		
V	Goudhurst	Parish of Goudhurst	Goudhurst and Lamberhurst	1,490		
			-	232	7,410	
			-3%			
RTW South						
MM	Showfields	Southern part	Broadwater	2,220		
JJ	St Marks		Pantiles and St Mark's	3,024	Possibly move Pantiles into West TW 67% Hawkenbury only	
II	Hawkenbury		Park	1,213		
KK	Banner Farm		Pantiles and St Mark's	1,648		
			463	8,105		
			6%			
RTW Central						
HH	St Peters	Northern part	Park	1,091	67%	
LL	Christ Church		Pantiles and St Mark's	830		
AA	Camden		St James'	2,186		
GG	Town Hall		Park	2,775		
II	Hawkenbury		Park	606	33%	East of St Peters except Hawhenbury estates
			-	153	7,489	
			-2%			
RTW West						
RR	St Johns West		St John's	1,122		
QQ	Bishops Down		Culverden	920		
UU	Culverden		Culverden	1,828		
NN	Ramslye		Broadwater	1,212		
HH	St Peters		Park	546	33% High street and west	
VV	Holy Trinity		Culverden	2,053		
			39	7,681		
			1%			

Possibly move Pantiles into West TW
67% Hawkenbury only

67%
33% East of St Peters except Hawhenbury estates

33% High street and west

BB St James'
DD Oak Road
EE Sherwood North
FF Sherwood South

RTW North Woods

St James'		2,377
Sherwood		1,786
Sherwood		2,408
Sherwood		1,019
-	52	7,590
	-1%	

A High Brooms
WW Grosvenor
SS St Johns East
TT St Lukes

RTW North Woods

Southborough Town Council East and High Brooms W	Southborough and High Broom	2,201	67%	Split approx along Powder Mill rd
	Culverden	1,581		
	St John's	1,672		
	St John's	2,619		
	432	8,074		
	6%			

- - Tunbridge Wells 38,938 5 RTW ex Knight's Wood
7,788