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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.

	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%
		7,179

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%
		6,174

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%
		8,073

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%
		7,896

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	Curtisden Green Ward	291
V	Goudhurst	Parish of Goudhurst	Goudhurst and Lamberhurst	1,490
			-	232
			-3%	7,410

RTW South

MM	Showfields		Broadwater	2,220	
JJ	St Marks		Pantiles and St Mark's	3,024	Possibly move Pantiles into West TW
II	Hawkenbury	Southern part	Park	1,213	67% Hawkenbury only
KK	Banner Farm		Pantiles and St Mark's	1,648	
			463	8,105	
			6%		

RTW Central

HH	St Peters		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	Northern part	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%		

RTW North Woods

BB	St James'	St James'	2,377
DD	Oak Road	Sherwood	1,786
EE	Sherwood North	Sherwood	2,408
FF	Sherwood South	Sherwood	1,019
		-	52
			7,590
			-1%

RTW North Woods

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

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