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**From:** Tom Wren <Tom.Wren@stevenage.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 28 February 2022 13:12  
**To:** reviews  
**Cc:** Robin Parker (robin.parker@hertfordshire.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** Stevenage Ward Boundaries Review - Liberal Democrat Group Submission  
**Attachments:** STE\_WARDS\_3 2022-02-28 13-01-30.zip; Stevenage Ward Boundary Review - Liberal Democrat Group Submission.pdf  
**Categories:** Submissions, Simon

On behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group at Stevenage Borough Council, I would like to submit the attached documents for the review of ward boundaries.

The attached documents are;

- Proposed Ward boundaries with commentary as to why these have been suggested and alternative ward names
- GIS Shape files of the proposed ward boundaries

Please could you acknowledge these documents to confirm they have been received successfully.

Regards

Tom Wren

**Councillor Tom Wren**

**Chells Ward | Stevenage Borough Council | Liberal Democrat Group**

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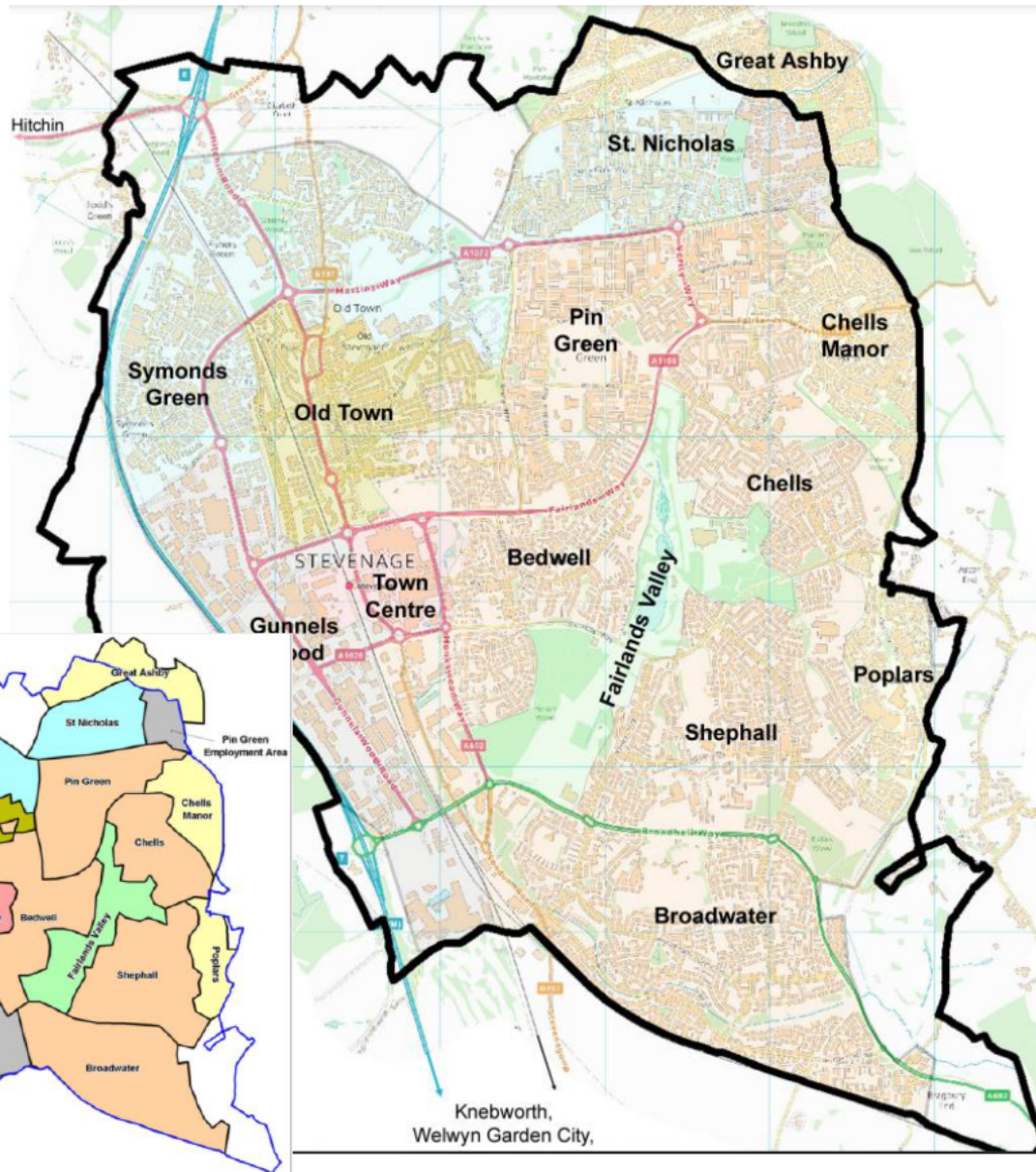
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# Stevenage Borough Council Ward Boundary Review

Liberal Democrat Group  
Submission

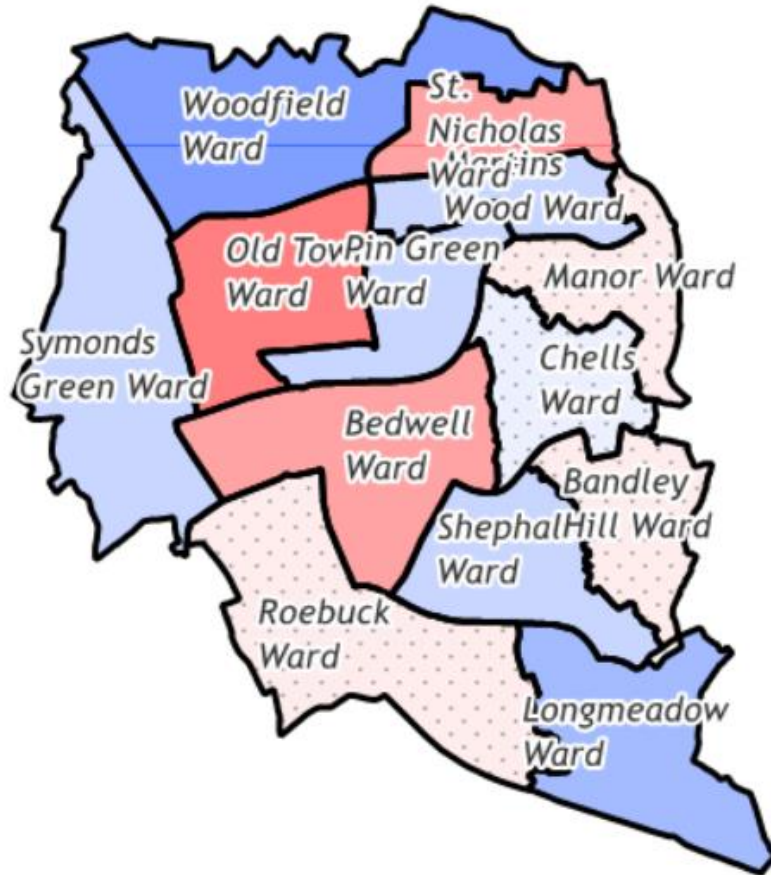
28<sup>th</sup> February 2022

# Principles



- In addition to achieving Electoral Equality our proposal aims to achieve sensible ward boundaries which correlate with communities that electors associate with.
- Stevenage new town was originally planned as 6 separate neighbourhoods each with their own neighbourhood centres, shops, churches and primary schools.
- The original 6 neighbourhoods of Old Town, Bedwell, Broadwater, Shephall, Chells and Pin Green were followed by new neighbourhoods in Symonds Green and St Nicholas. Further neighbourhoods, Poplars, Chells Manor and Great Ashby were built in the 1980s and onwards.
- Residents still strongly associate themselves with these neighbourhoods. Current ward boundaries which deviate from these neighbourhoods often cause confusion for residents who can be unsure who their elected representatives are.
- Our proposed warding pattern seeks to align boundaries with the historic neighbourhoods wherever possible.

# Current Wards Overview



| Ward               | Elector count (Deviation) | Difference | Councillors: 39 |
|--------------------|---------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Bandley Hill Ward  | <b>5114</b> (-307)        | -5.7%      | 3               |
| Bedwell Ward       | <b>7900</b> (+2479)       | +45.7%     | 3               |
| Chells Ward        | <b>5044</b> (-377)        | -6.9%      | 3               |
| Longmeadow Ward    | <b>4733</b> (-688)        | -12.7%     | 3               |
| Manor Ward         | <b>5170</b> (-251)        | -4.6%      | 3               |
| Martins Wood Ward  | <b>4727</b> (-694)        | -12.8%     | 3               |
| Old Town Ward      | <b>6687</b> (+1266)       | +23.4%     | 3               |
| Pin Green Ward     | <b>4918</b> (-503)        | -9.3%      | 3               |
| Roebuck Ward       | <b>5323</b> (-98)         | -1.8%      | 3               |
| Shephall Ward      | <b>4715</b> (-706)        | -13.0%     | 3               |
| St. Nicholas Ward  | <b>5642</b> (+221)        | +4.1%      | 3               |
| Symonds Green Ward | <b>5454</b> (+33)         | +0.6%      | 3               |
| Woodfield Ward     | <b>5040</b> (-381)        | -7.0%      | 3               |

Maximum deviation: 2479 electors, 45.7%



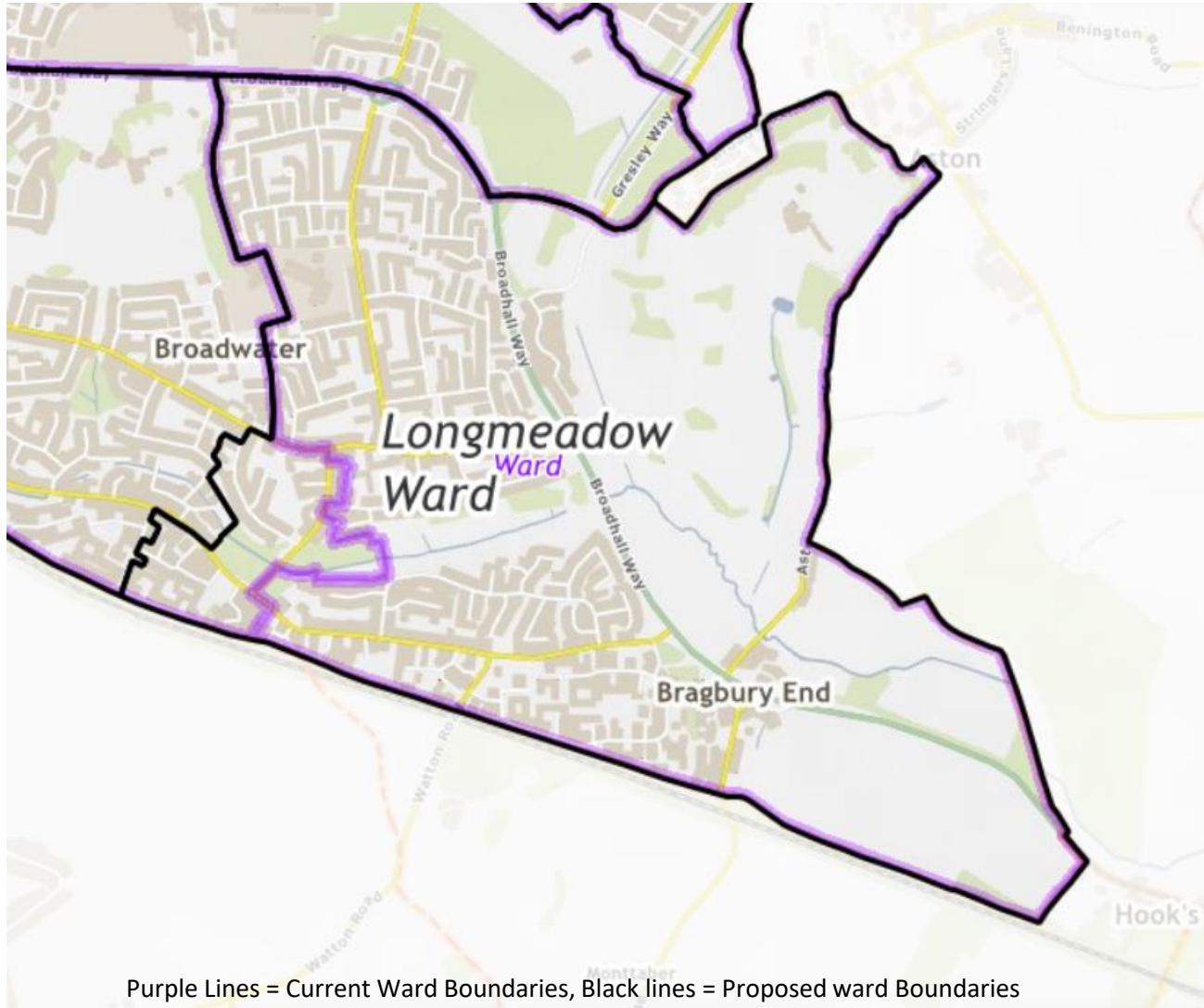
# Proposed Wards Overview



| Ward               | Elector count (Deviation) | Difference | Councillors: 39 |
|--------------------|---------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Bandley Hill Ward  | <b>5429</b> (+8)          | +0.2%      | 3               |
| Bedwell Ward       | <b>5463</b> (+42)         | +0.8%      | 3               |
| Chells Ward        | <b>5537</b> (+116)        | +2.1%      | 3               |
| Longmeadow Ward    | <b>5371</b> (-50)         | -0.9%      | 3               |
| Manor Ward         | <b>5527</b> (+106)        | +2.0%      | 3               |
| Martins Wood Ward  | <b>5308</b> (-113)        | -2.1%      | 3               |
| Old Town Ward      | <b>5433</b> (+12)         | +0.2%      | 3               |
| Pin Green Ward     | <b>5437</b> (+16)         | +0.3%      | 3               |
| Roebuck Ward       | <b>5304</b> (-117)        | -2.1%      | 3               |
| Shephall Ward      | <b>5312</b> (-109)        | -2.0%      | 3               |
| St. Nicholas Ward  | <b>5354</b> (-67)         | -1.2%      | 3               |
| Symonds Green Ward | <b>5501</b> (+80)         | +1.5%      | 3               |
| Woodfield Ward     | <b>5491</b> (+70)         | +1.3%      | 3               |

Maximum deviation: 117 electors, 2.1%

# Longmeadow

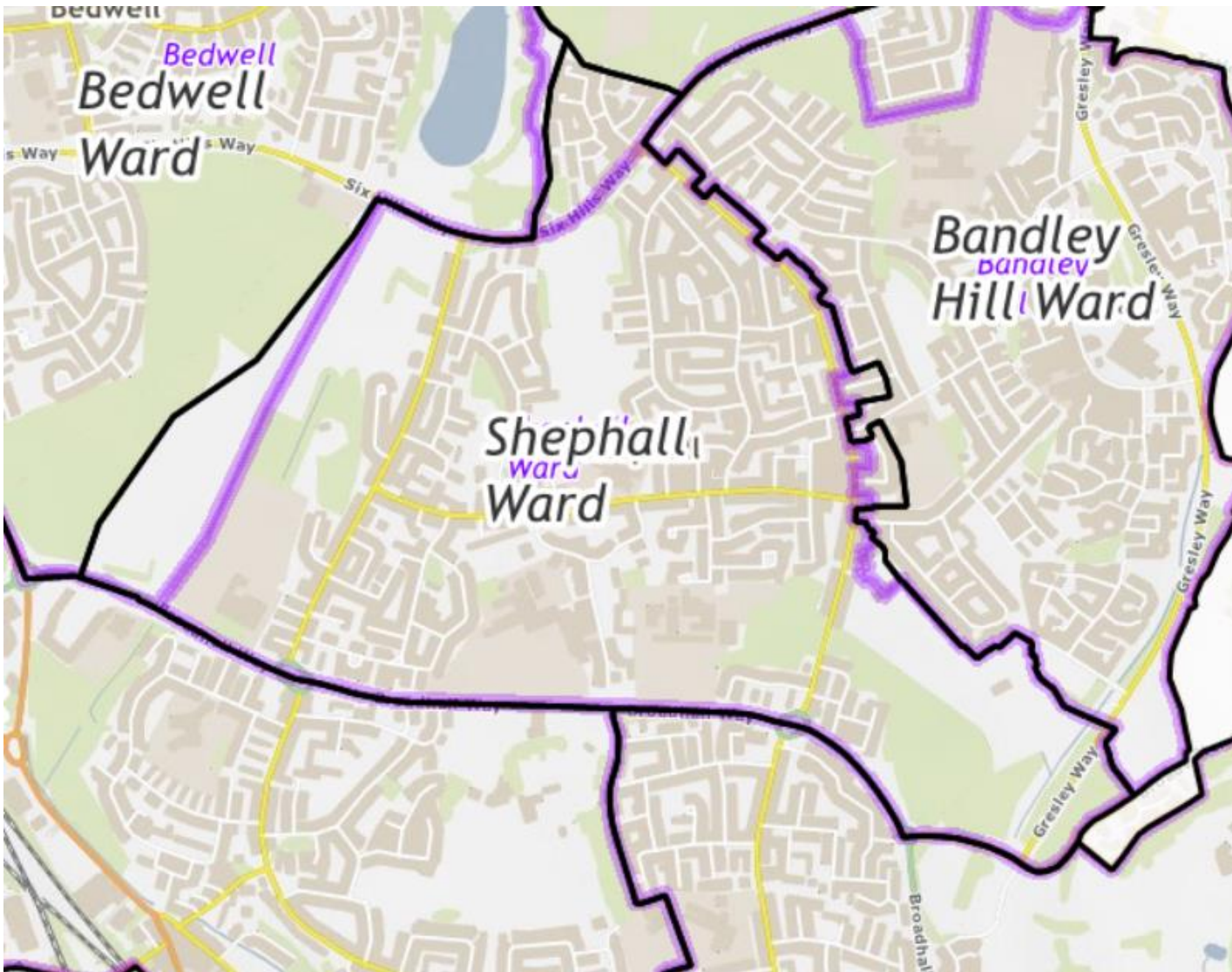


- Current ward boundary with Shephall to the north is kept at the A602 dual carriageway. This is the historic neighbourhood boundary and a strong boundary
- Longmeadow gains a number of streets from Roebuck in the Ashdown Road area as this is seen as a softer boundary

Purple Lines = Current Ward Boundaries, Black lines = Proposed ward Boundaries



# Shephall

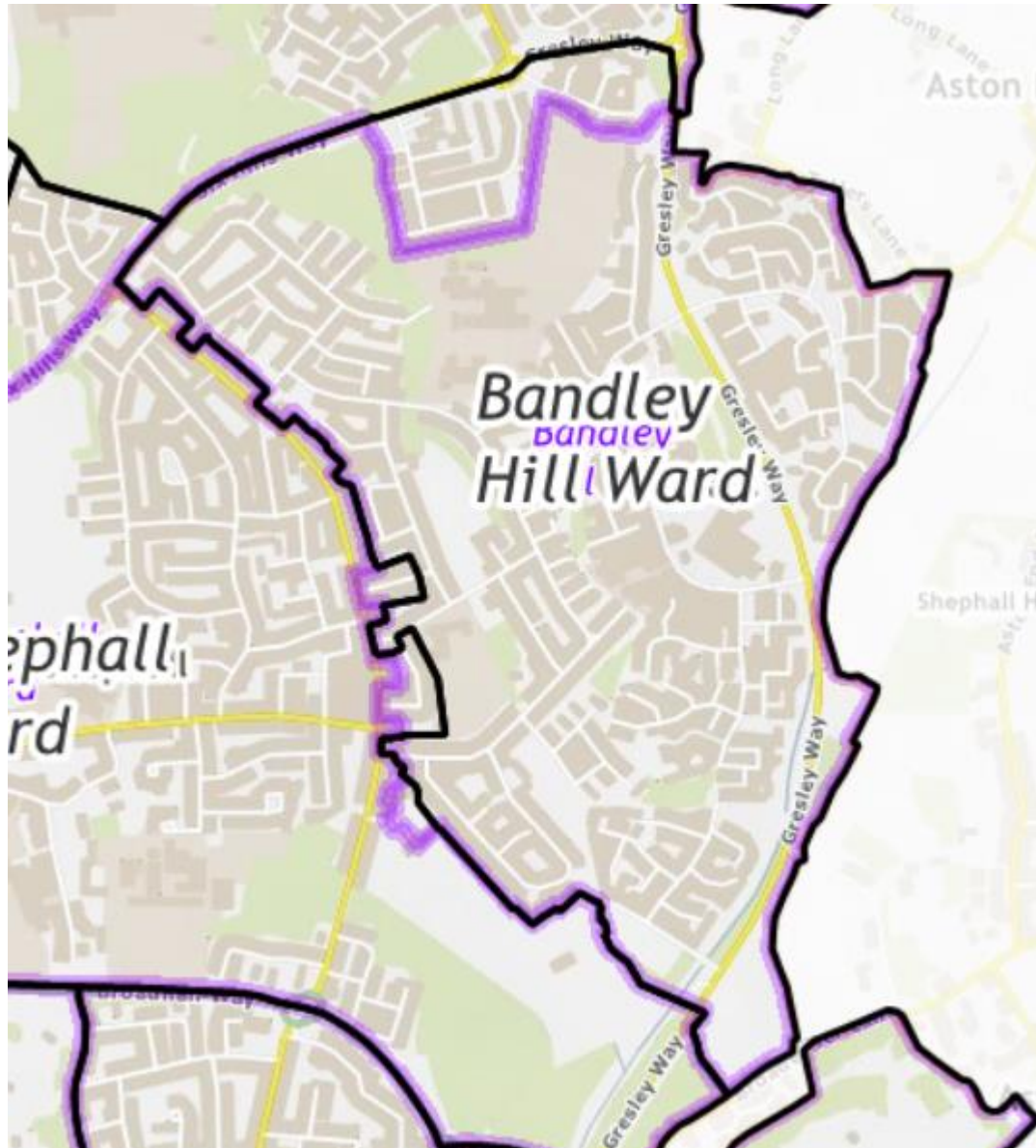


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- Current ward boundary with Longmeadow and Roebuck to the south is kept at the A602 dual carriageway. This is the historic neighbourhood boundary and a strong boundary
- Current boundary with Bedwell is kept at Fairlands Valley as this is a strong natural boundary
- Shephall gains Brittain Way area from Chells. This is detached from the main part of Chells and is more closely associated with Shephall.
- The closest shops and community assets for Brittain Way area are within the Shephall area and it has little association with its current location in Chells Ward.
- Shephall gains a number of streets from Bandle Hill in the Shephall Way area as this is seen as a softer boundary



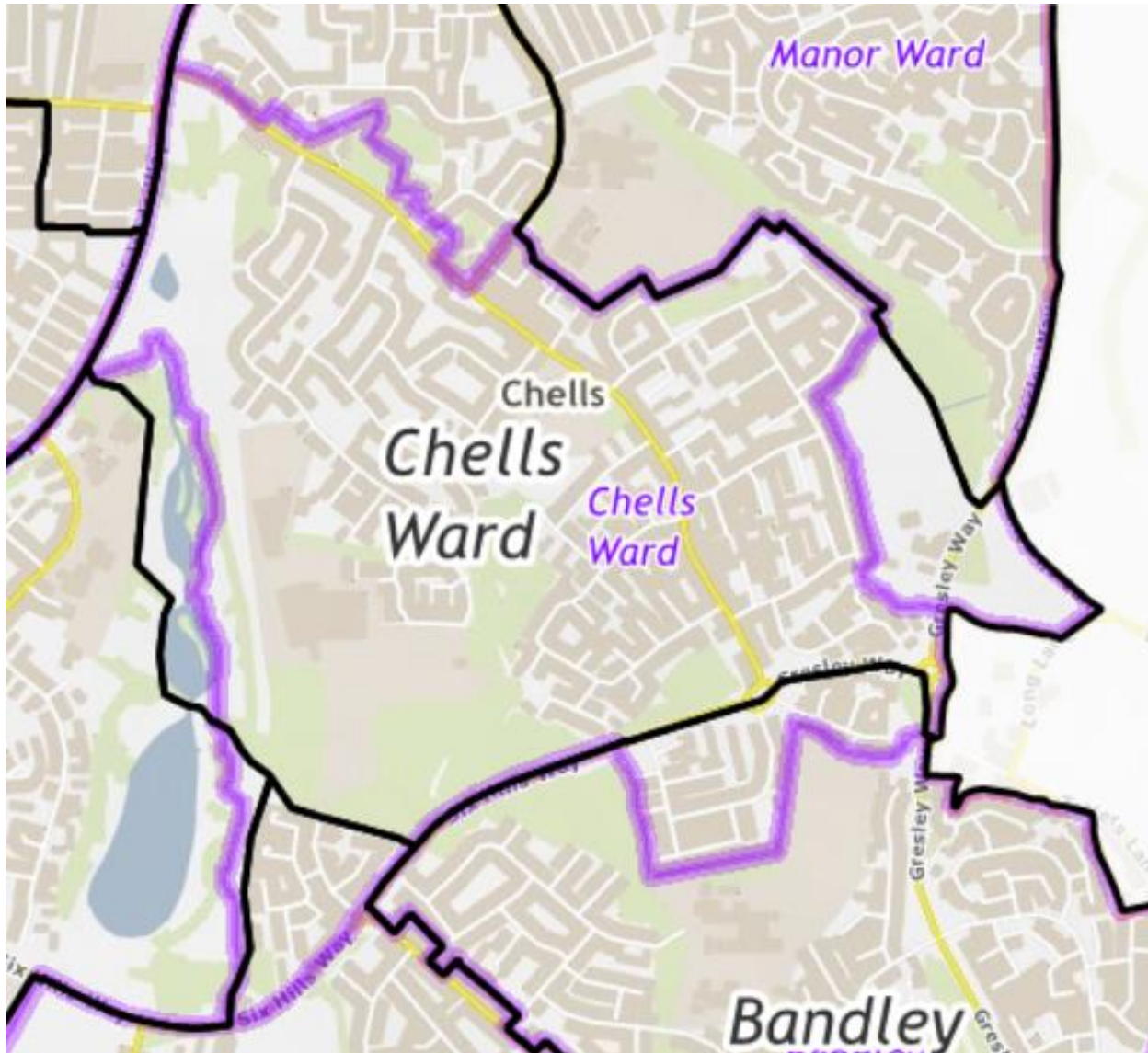
# Bandley Hill



Purple Lines = Current Ward Boundaries,  
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- Bandley Hill gains Marlborough Road area from Chells. Whilst associated with Chells currently, this brings the boundary to the Six Hills Way main road which forms a significant natural barrier.
- Traditionally as a neighbourhood area, the Marlborough Road area forms part of Shephall and has recently moved into the County area for Shephall in a recent boundary review for Hertfordshire.
- Bandley Hill loses a number of streets to Shephall in the Shephall Way area as this is seen as a softer boundary.

# Chells

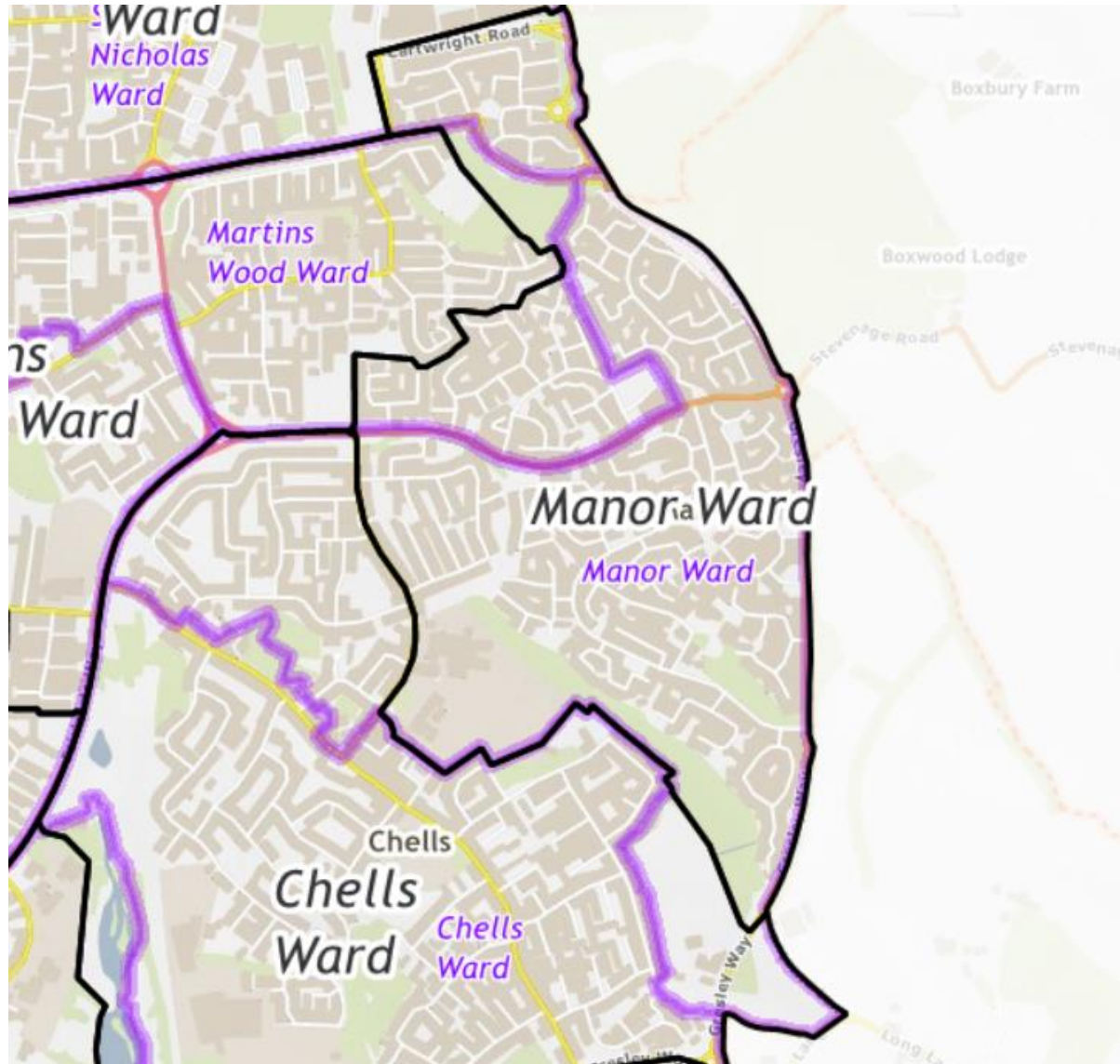


- Chells loses Marlborough Road area to Bandle Hill and Brittain Way area to Shephall.
- Chells gains the west side of Mobbsbury area from Manor. This is associated as part of the Chells neighbourhood and centres the ward around the Glebe neighbourhood centre.
- Chells also gains Poston Place from Manor and the boundary moved to the edge of Chells Park.

Purple Lines = Current Ward Boundaries, Black lines = Proposed Ward Boundaries



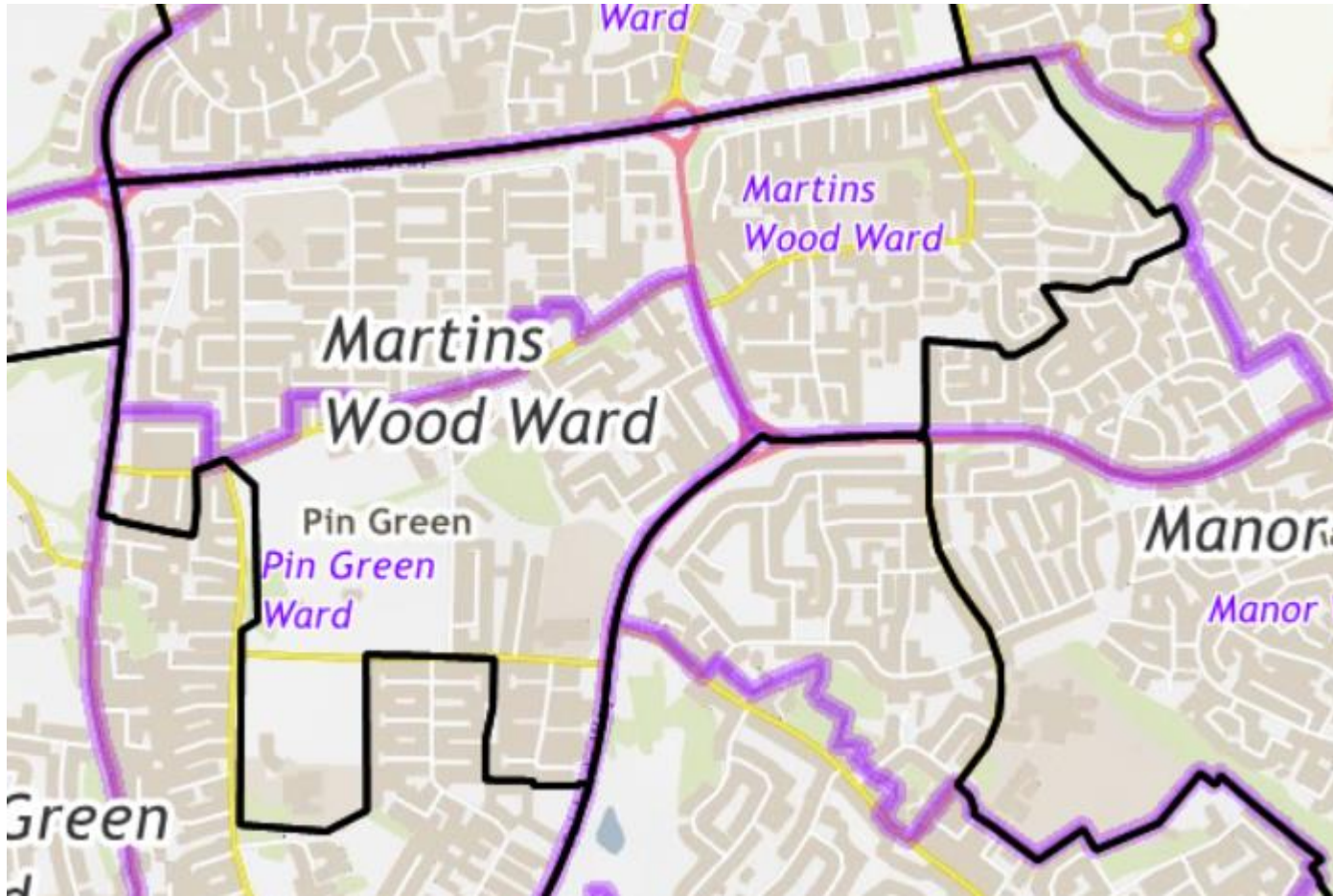
# Manor



- Manor gains the Pacatian Way area and roads accessed from Fairlands Way from Martins Wood. This centres the ward on the Emperors Gate neighbourhood centre which is used predominantly by residents in Manor Ward.
- This housing was developed at a similar time as Chells Manor so retains consistent character.
- Manor gains the Admiral Drive area from St Nicholas. This is a new estate which doesn't have a strong connection with the main part of St Nicholas.
- Manor loses the west side of Mobbsbury area to Chells but keeps the Poets area.

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# Martins Wood



Purple Lines = Current Ward Boundaries, Black lines = Proposed Ward Boundaries

- The boundary to the north with St Nicholas is kept at the Martins Way dual carriage way as this is a strong boundary which is aligned to the historic neighbourhood boundary
- Martins Wood gains the Douglas Drive and Webb Rise areas from Pin Green. This then centres the ward around the Oval neighbourhood centre.
- Martins Wood loses the Pacatian Way area to Manor. The roads in this area have a stronger connection to Manor



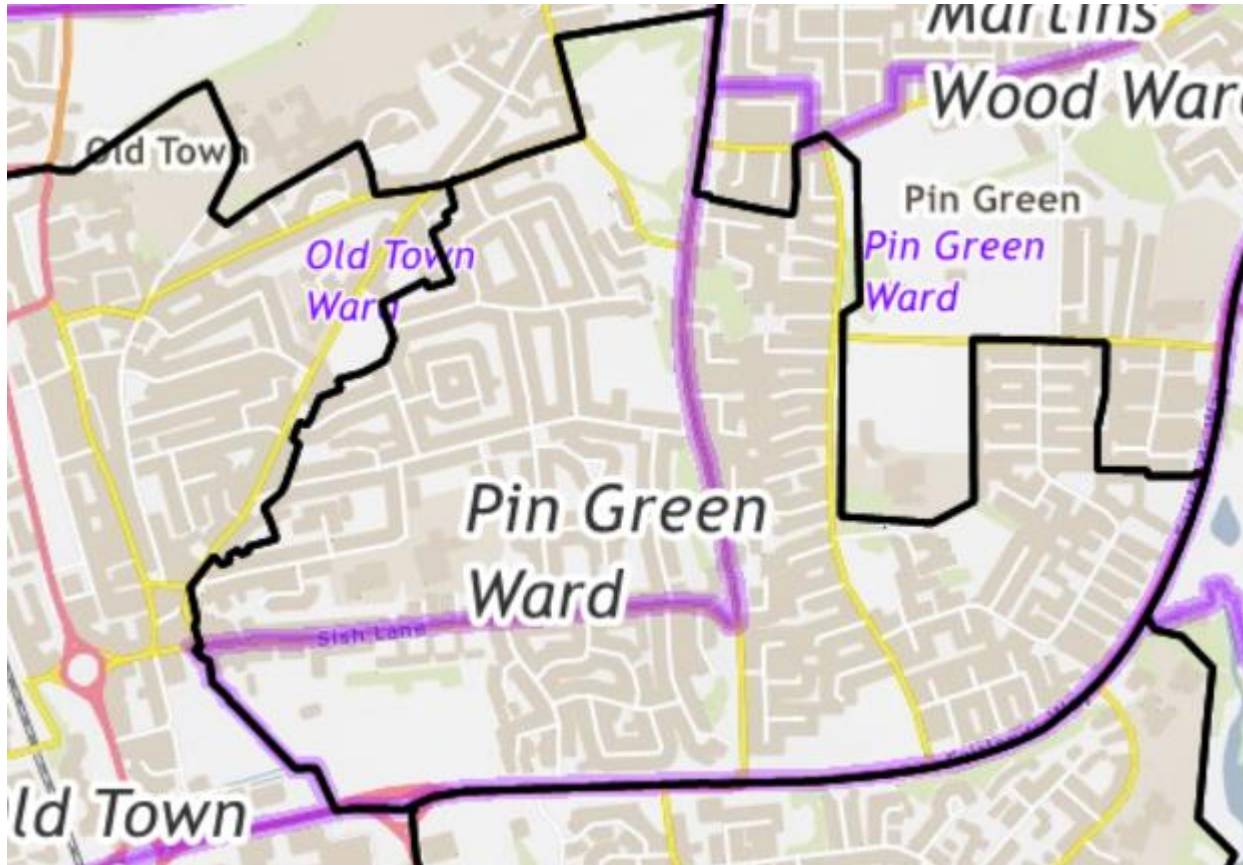
# St Nicholas



Purple Lines = Current Ward Boundaries, Black lines = Proposed Ward Boundaries

- The boundary to the south with Martins Wood is kept at the Martins Way dual carriage way as this is a strong boundary which is aligned to the historic neighbourhood boundary
- St Nicholas gains the Salisbury Road and Guildford Close areas from Woodfield. These streets are more associated with St Nicholas and part of the historic neighbourhood.
- The Admiral Drive area is lost to Manor

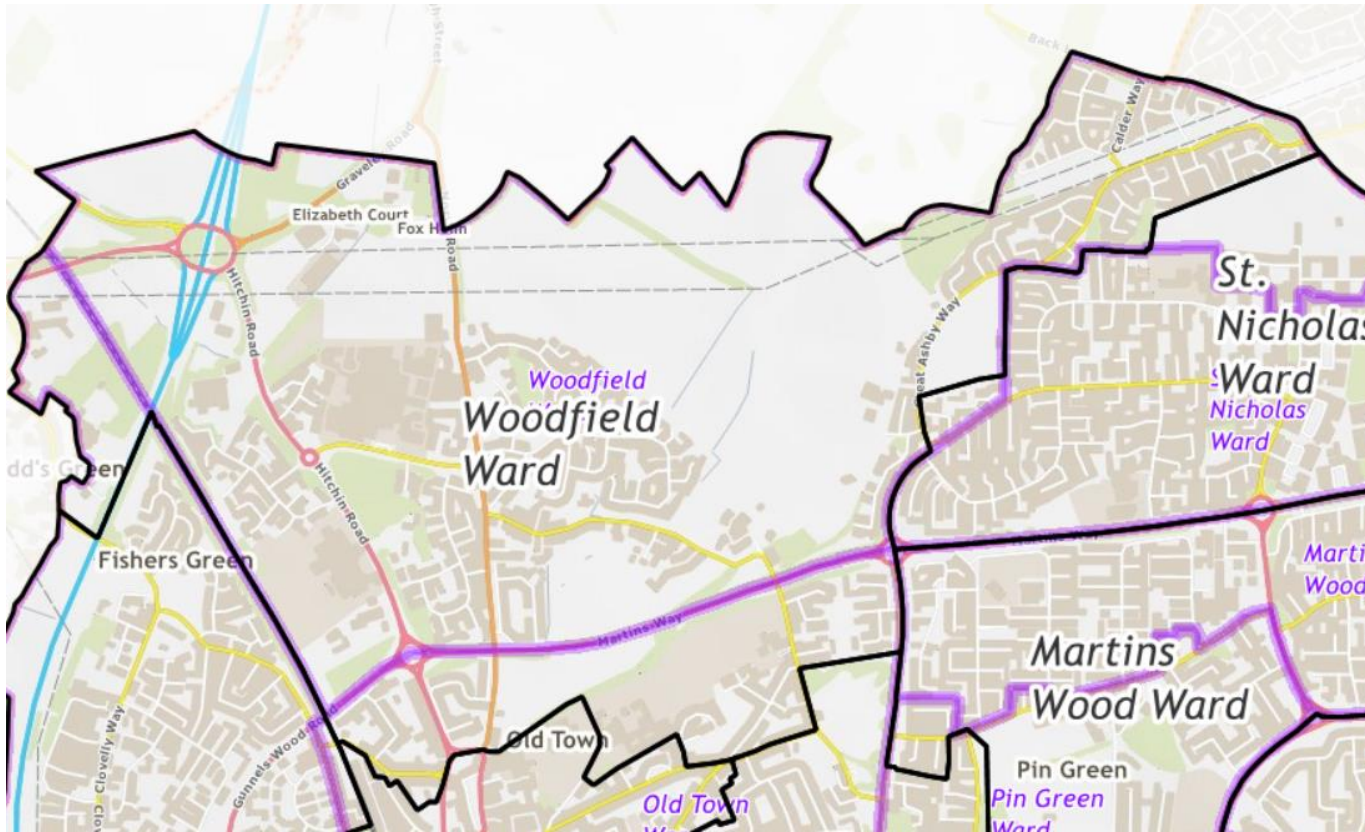
# Pin Green



Purple Lines = Current Ward Boundaries, Black lines = Proposed Ward Boundaries

- The boundary to the south with Bedwell is kept at Fairland Way as this is a strong boundary which is aligned to the historic neighbourhood boundary
- Pin Green gains the roads east of Letchmore Road from Old Town.
- The Douglas Drive and Webb Rise area is lost to Martins Wood.
- This ward is then served by 3 smaller neighbour centres at Lonsdale Road, Popple Way and Archer Road.

# Woodfield

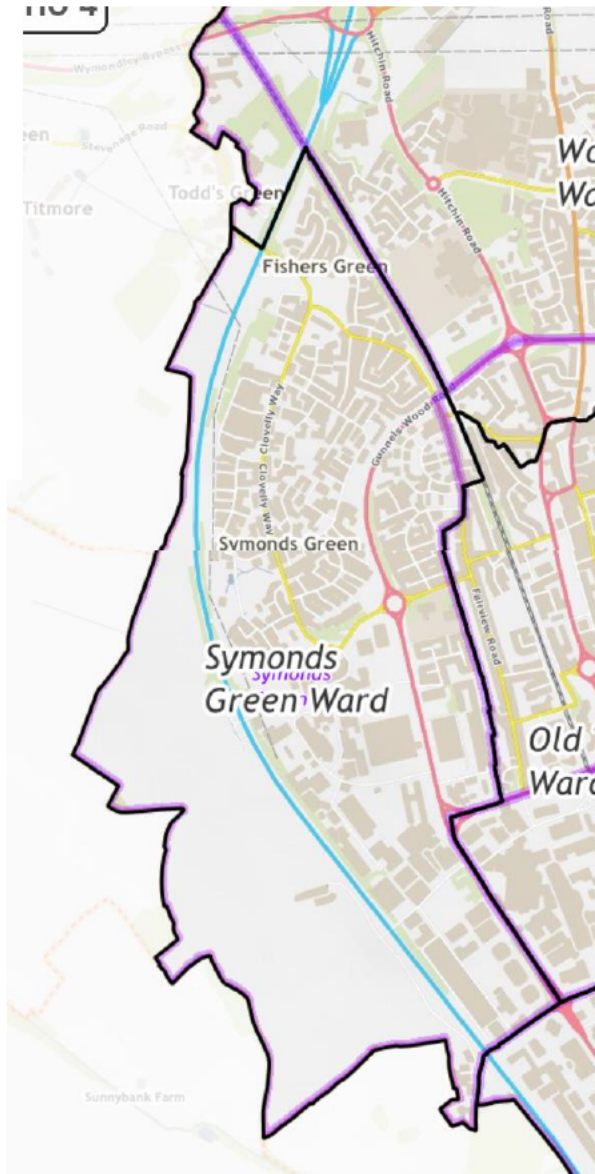


Purple Lines = Current Ward Boundaries, Black lines = Proposed Ward Boundaries

- Woodfield gains the Weston Road area and Julians Road area from Old Town.
- The main boundary with Symonds Green is kept at the railway line.
- The isolated houses in Todds Green are moved from Symonds Green to Woodfield.



# Symonds Green

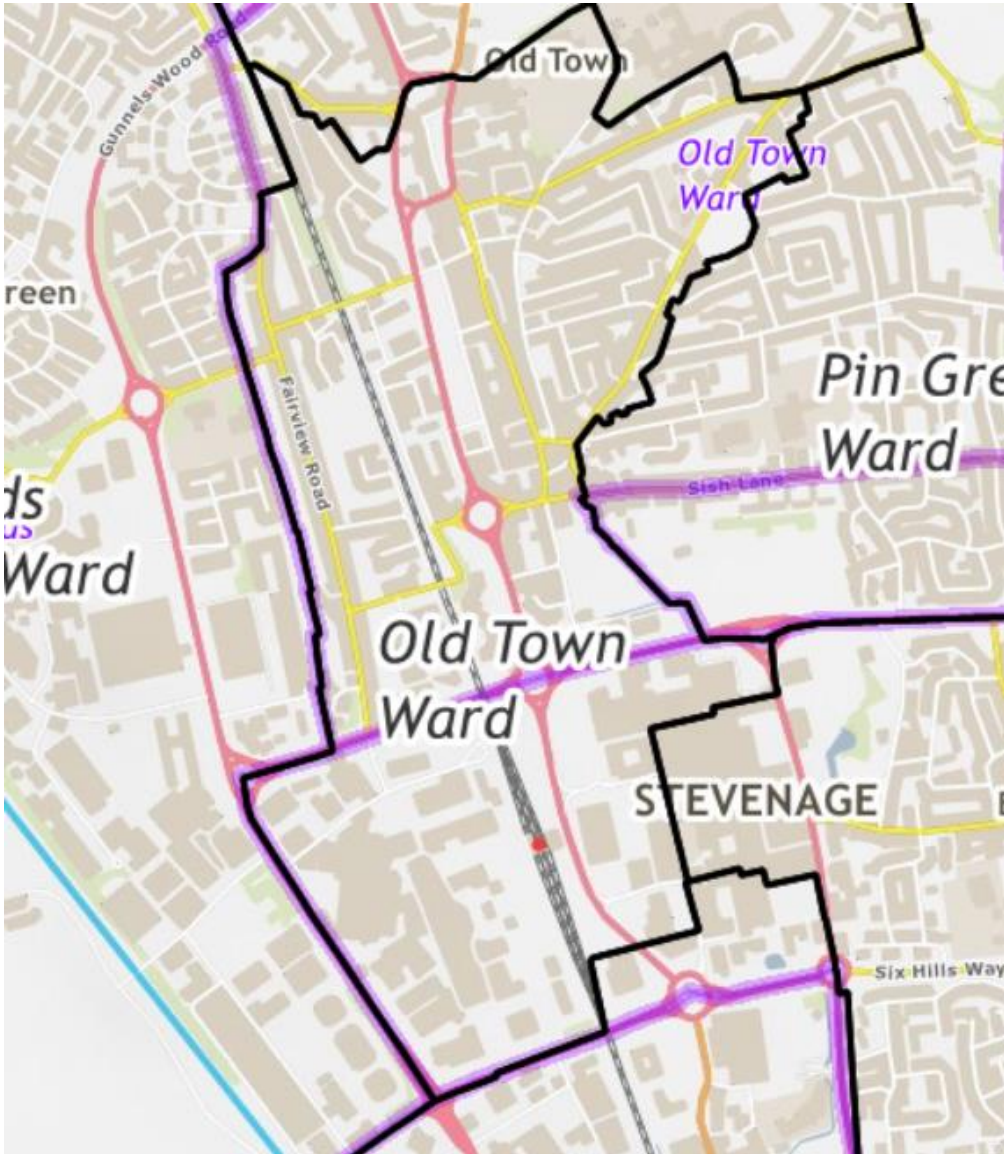


Purple Lines = Current Ward Boundaries,  
Black lines = Proposed Ward Boundaries

- Symonds Green boundaries remain fairly static as they are aligned well with the historic neighbourhood
- The isolated houses in Todds Green are moved from Symonds Green to Woodfield.



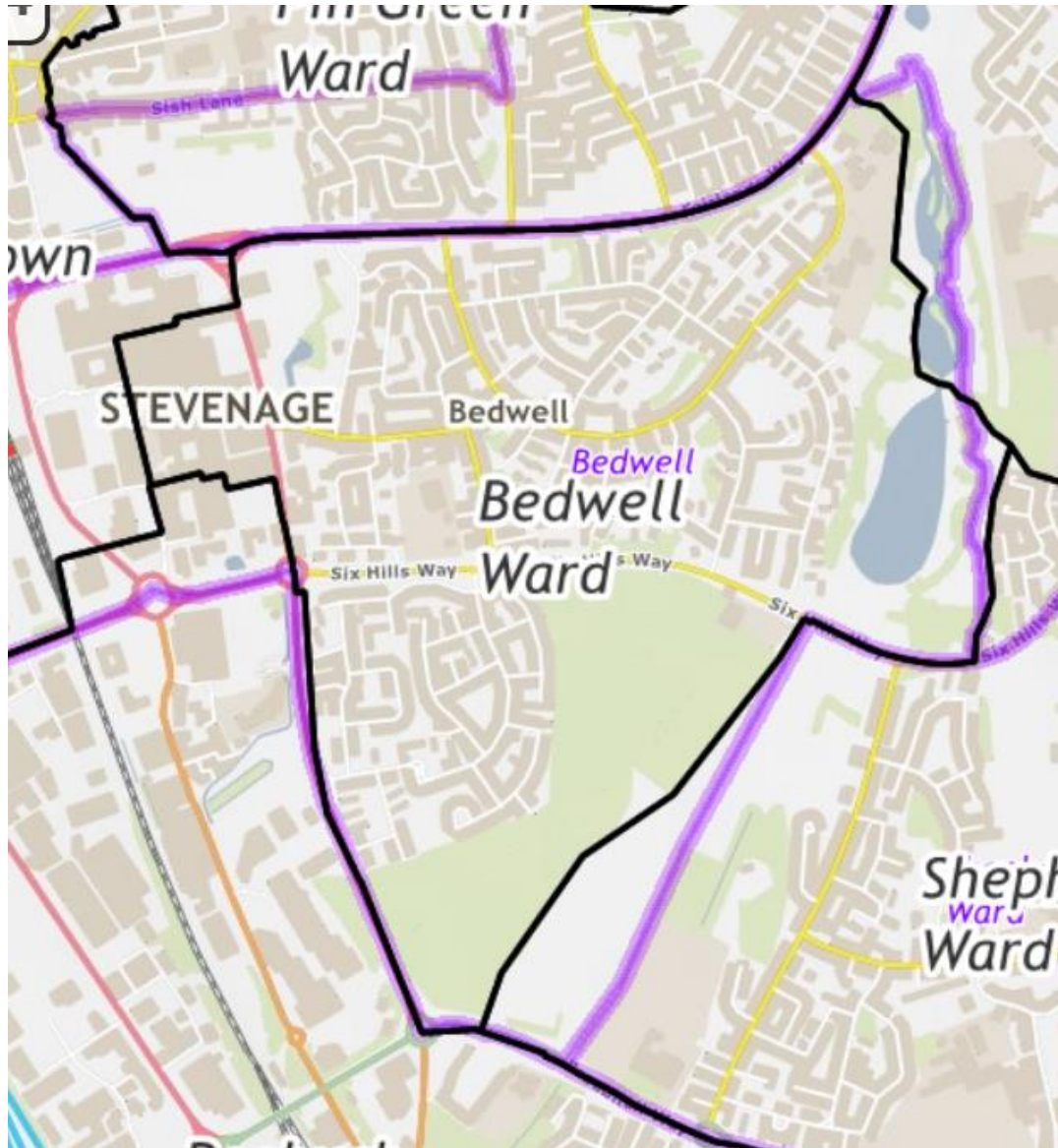
# Old Town



Purple Lines = Current Ward Boundaries, Black lines = Proposed Ward Boundaries

- Old Town loses some streets to the north to Woodfield and its Eastern Side to Pin Green.
- Old Town gains some parts of the Town Centre from Bedwell.
- A large number of residential developments have been built or are planned in town centre. This increase in electors is difficult to absorb into a single ward without radically deviating from the historic neighbourhoods which people identify with.
- The solution proposed in this warding pattern is to split the Town Centre between 3 wards, Old Town, Bedwell and Roebuck.

# Bedwell

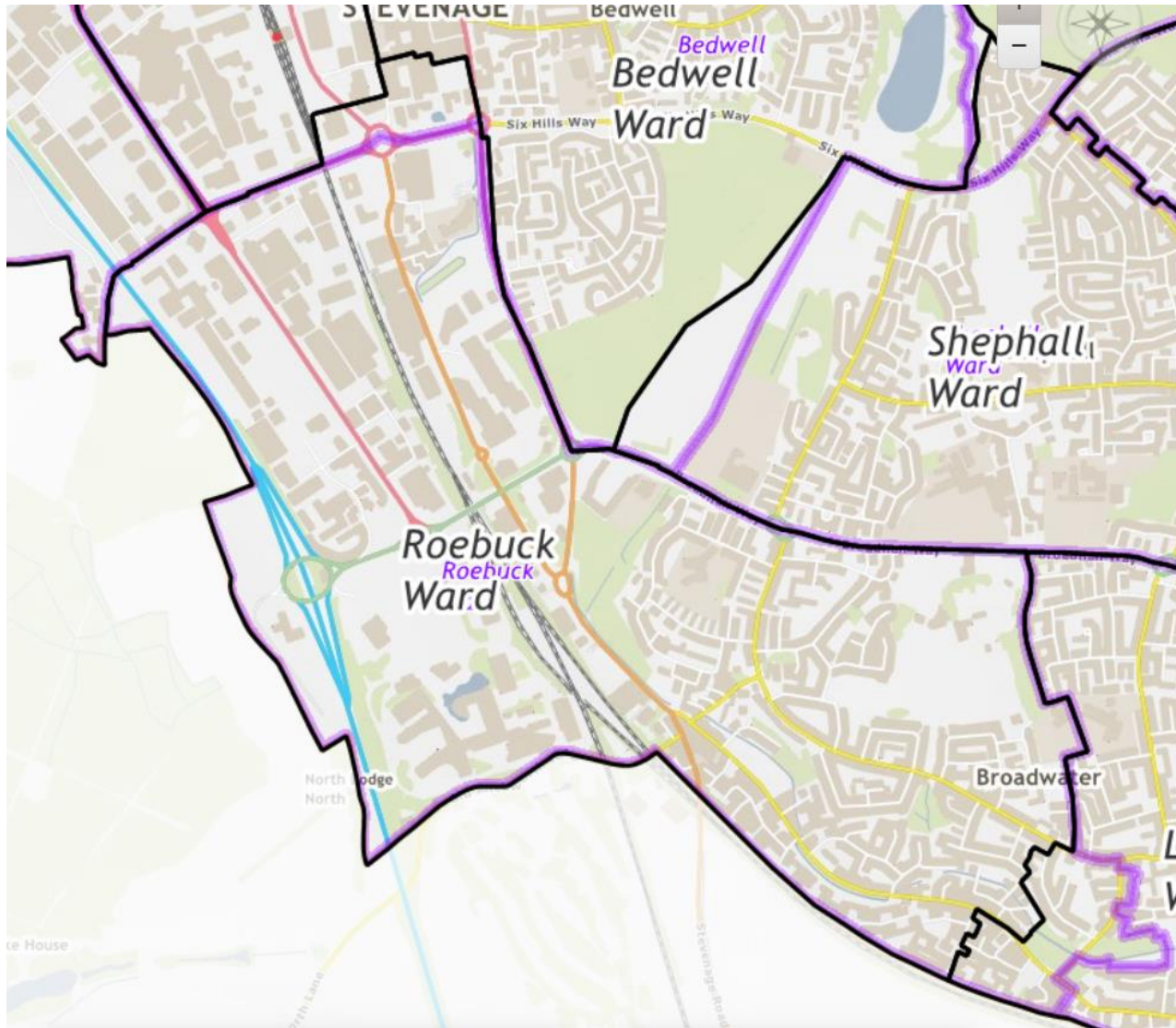


- Bedwell maintains its historic neighbourhood to the north at the Fairlands Way road as this is a strong boundary.
- The Fairlands Valley and Lakes boundaries are kept which physically separate the ward from Chells and Shephall.
- Parts of the Town Centre are lost to Old Town and Roebuck to achieve electoral equality.
- The ward is now centred around the Bedwell Crescent and Rockingham Way neighbourhood centres.

Purple Lines = Current Ward Boundaries, Black lines = Proposed Ward Boundaries



# Roebuck



- Roebuck keeps its northern boundaries with Shephall and Bedwell along the A602 and Monkswood way dual carriageways.
- This maintains the historic neighbourhood boundaries.
- Roebuck loses streets in the Ashdown Road area to Longmeadow which is seen as a more fluid boundary.
- Roebuck gains parts of the town centre from Bedwell so that it has a greater number of residential properties at its northern end.

# Alternative Ward Names

- If ward boundaries start to deviate away from the historic neighbourhood boundaries we consider ward name changes would be needed to avoid confusion for residents.
- Currently, voters are very often confused already, because they know that they live in geographical/historical area X but the ward is called Y.
- Examples of current confusion are found all over the borough. In particular:
  - Bandle Hill confused with Shephall
  - Chells confused with Manor
  - Longmeadow confused with Roebuck
  - Old Town confused with Symonds Green.
- In our proposed warding pattern we suggest that at least the names of the Pin Green and Martins Wood wards are changed. There is an argument for changing all the ward names to completely new names, because:
  - (a) It would certainly avoid this confusion.
  - (b) It might also reinvigorate voters interest in local politics.
- Proposed ward names which could be used are suggested on the next page. We have based them on local features and avoided the old names.



# Alternative Ward Names

| Current Ward Name | Possible Ward Names                                       |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Bandley Hill      | Poplars, Ridlins, Ashtree                                 |
| Bedwell           | Fairlands, Lakes, St Georges, Monkswood                   |
| Chells            | Glebe, Mobbsbury, Lakes, Camps Hill, Lodge, Pescotts      |
| Longmeadow        | Oaks, Bragbury,                                           |
| Manor             | Boxfield, Emperor, Gresley, Lanterns                      |
| Martins Wood      | Oval, Hampson, Moss Bury, Verity                          |
| Old Town          | Lytton, Central, Grange                                   |
| Pin Green         | Almonds Hill, Old Town East, Grace,                       |
| Roebuck           | Six Hills, Shephalbury, Broadhall, Marymead, Brook        |
| Shephall          | Hyde, Valley, Peartree,                                   |
| St Nicholas       | Cathedral, Wellfield, Canterbury                          |
| Symonds Green     | Greens, Gunnels, Fishers, Meadway, Norton,                |
| Woodfield         | Lister, Coreys Mill, Forster, Rooks, Whitney, Great Ashby |