

Having studied the proposal by Tonbridge and Malling Borough council discussed at their General Purposes committee meeting of 12 July 2021 I am in general agreement with the majority of the new ward suggestions. However, the suggestion for the East Malling Ward in which I live and represent for the Borough and Parish councils, I find is to say the least extremely odd. It appears that to attach the properties in Lunsford Lane is an exercise simply to balance 'the numbers'. Those residents in Lunsford Lane I am sure would agree that they have no connection to the community of East Malling. Indeed, they I am sure will consider they have a much closer definite connection to Larkfield.

I have myself made a study of the requirement of elector numbers in East Malling and my findings I show below in two Options.

1. Polling District TEA for 2021 electorate is 3870 and projected in 2027 is 4197. I am not sure what the increase in numbers represent but I am aware that here are certainly two approved developments to be completed before 2027.
 - a) The first development of which is known as Land West of Winterfield Lane, known locally as 40 Acres and has outline planning permission for up to 250 Houses. Application No. TM/19/01814/OA and was passed on appeal by the government inspector. Using a multiplier of 1.8 electors per property this would give a proposed electorate of 450.
 - b) The second development known as Parkside, Land East of Clare Park Estate, Application No. 21/00323/RM and is for 110 houses and on which work has started. Using a similar multiplier of 1.8 elector per property would give 198 electors.

These two developments would increase the number of electors by 648. By adding this number (648) to the 2021 elector count for East Malling the new figure would be 4518. Taking the mean figure for total electors in the borough and increasing it pro rata you arrive at a mean figure for each councillor of 2491. Using these figures would give a requirement of 1.8 councillors (2) this gives variance against the requirement of -10%. There are also several smaller approved developments within East Malling which would serve to reduce the variance to nearer zero. For simplicity I have not included these in my calculations. If indeed the proposed figure used by TMBC of 4197 does not include either of these developments then the variance would only be -3%.

2. In not using the developments spoken of above it is also possible to increase the electorate in East Malling by again taking electors from an area of Larkfield South Ward that I feel would have a greater feeling of community than those in Lunsford Lane. If we considered taking all the properties between New Road East Malling along the south side of A 20 London Road to the boundary with Ditton Ward which would include Walnut Tree Court a total of 39, all the properties on the north of London Road a total of 23, plus those in Larkfield Road and Close a total of 40, plus all properties on the West side of New Hythe Lane south of Kingfisher Road a total of 34 and on the East side of New Hythe Lane South of Laburnham Drive a total of 20 properties. This would give a grand total of 156 properties and using the 1.8 multiplier a total 280 electors and added to the projected 2027 numbers with 2 councillors would add up to a total of 4477 electors giving a variance of just under 11%. The position of hard boundaries for this suggestion is that there are paved footpaths to enclose the suggested areas. The 11% variance will of course be slightly outside of the required parameters but will be addressed by ad hoc builds in East Malling village in addition to those developments related to above.

I make no other representation for the borough as I believe it's being addressed by other members particularly from the Tonbridge area.

I ask that you take the suggestions above and consider them in the overall scheme. East Malling is a very close community and is attached to Larkfield South. Both areas are served by St James the Great and Brookfield Primary Schools, The Malling Secondary School, Morrisons Super Market, B & Q DIY Store South Ward Playing Fields and additional other smaller shops and services. The nearest Railway to both these areas is East Malling and bus services to Maidstone Hospital and Maidstone town centre also connects both areas.

I should be pleased to clarify any of the above if required.

Roger Roud.