

Maidstone Borough Council

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Comment text:

Please see comments in attached document

Uploaded Documents:

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Maidstone Green Party

Boundary Review Comments

Principles

1. We prefer two councillors per ward in general. A single councillor representing a ward reduces resilience and increases burden and isolation. Wards with three councillors are large and therefore reduce the amount of democratic engagement.
2. The proposed additional housing in the Local Plan should be taken into consideration particularly where this will result in material impact in the short term.

Specifics

A Bridge Ward

- We believe that this should encompass the area around Hart St, Douglas Rd and Upper Fant Rd along to Clare Park. This gives a greater consistency of tenure and community and would require an increase of 3000 voters.
- MBC's inclusion of a tiny number of homes in the Somerfield Rd area feels wrong and not in keeping with the rest of the community. We think these should either sit outside MBC's Bridge ward or the boundary adjusted to include Carisbrooke Drive, Greenwich Close and a portion of Queens Rd.
- This results in an electorate of c. 6200 which is 1% higher than recommended (or 4% lower if Queens Rd is excluded).

B Oakwood

- The loss of the eastern end of Fant ward and the inclusion of Oakwood Park and voters to the south allows for a defined community to be represented by 2 councillors.

C Penenden Heath and Ringlestone

- There is a very distinct line across the community between older terraces close to town and the 1950-1970's developments beyond.
- Combining these areas allows for a two councillor ward.

D Central North

- The High Street forms a natural community boundary and those to the north in Victorian terraces and modern flats provide a good basis for a ward with two councillors.

E Central South

- The areas around Hastings Rd and Tovil are a natural community with a good mix of older properties and flats.

- This area should be served by 2 councillors.

The Suttons / F: Langley and Sutton / G: Headcorn

- The Suttons (proposed by MBC) has a low number of voters and is dissected by the county boundary. We suggest that the new Headcorn ward is extended to the county boundary.
- We would suggest the rest of The Suttons is combined with Langley to provide a two member ward. We would include Boughton Monchelsea in this ward.

H Marden

- The current Marden and Yalding ward is dissected by a county boundary and should be split into two. Marden appears the right size for a two councillor ward.

I Yalding and Farleigh

- We suggest that Yalding is combined with West Farleigh and East Farleigh as a two member ward.

J Coxheath and Loose

- Coxheath and Loose are a good combination for a two member ward.



