

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

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Please see attached file titled Proposed Pilgrim Ward July 21. Please contact me if this document isn't accessible. Thank you

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Proposed Pilgrim Ward for Ightham, Wrotham, Stansted, Trottiscliffe and Addington

I write as a resident of Fairseat, which is a hamlet of Stansted.

I support this proposed ward as I think putting these villages together as one ward makes logical and comfortable sense. Although these villages are not all contiguous they have very much in common and could with benefit be represented on the Borough Council by the same Councillors.

All villages around this size would ideally like to be represented by their own Councillor but they know this is not possible, and in various combinations over the years they have become very used to sharing their representatives with other like villages.

For example, Ightham, Wrotham and Stansted are presently represented by the same Councillors; historically, Stansted, Trottiscliffe and Addington have shared the same Councillors.

They are all in the green belt and partly within the Kent Downs AONB. However, there is a long history of quarrying minerals with the attendant backfilling in this area. This has had an environmental impact in Ightham and still has in Trottiscliffe and Addington. Farming is important in each village.

Ightham, Wrotham, Stansted and Trottiscliffe all share the small town of Borough Green as their nearest shopping centre and railway station. Addington residents use Borough Green railway station, which is one stop nearer to London than their almost equidistant railway station at West Malling. The doctors' surgery most used by the residents of all five villages is on the Ightham side of Borough Green.

The work pattern is extremely varied for all these villages. Each one has residents who work locally and in Maidstone, Tonbridge, Gravesend, Kings Hill and London. Likewise children attend schools in all of the local towns, and some further afield.

The A227 is an important road for Trottiscliffe, Stansted, Wrotham and Ightham, the A25 is important for Ightham, and Wrotham. The A20 and M20 are significant for all five villages, leading as they do from the eastern part of Kent and the County town of Maidstone to London. Public transport by road is extremely limited for all five villages, which leads to intensive car usage and consequent congestion at busy times on all these roads.

In short, these villages are strongly similar in character and sufficiently close together to make an efficient and coherent ward.