

# Thanet

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## Comment text:

Good evening,

Please find attached the Conservative Groups proposal on the new pattern of wards in response to LGBCE's current review of Thanet District Council's electoral arrangements.

If you have any questions, please do let me know.

Yours sincerely,

George

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George Lawrence Kup

Chairman

Herne Bay & Sandwich Conservative Association

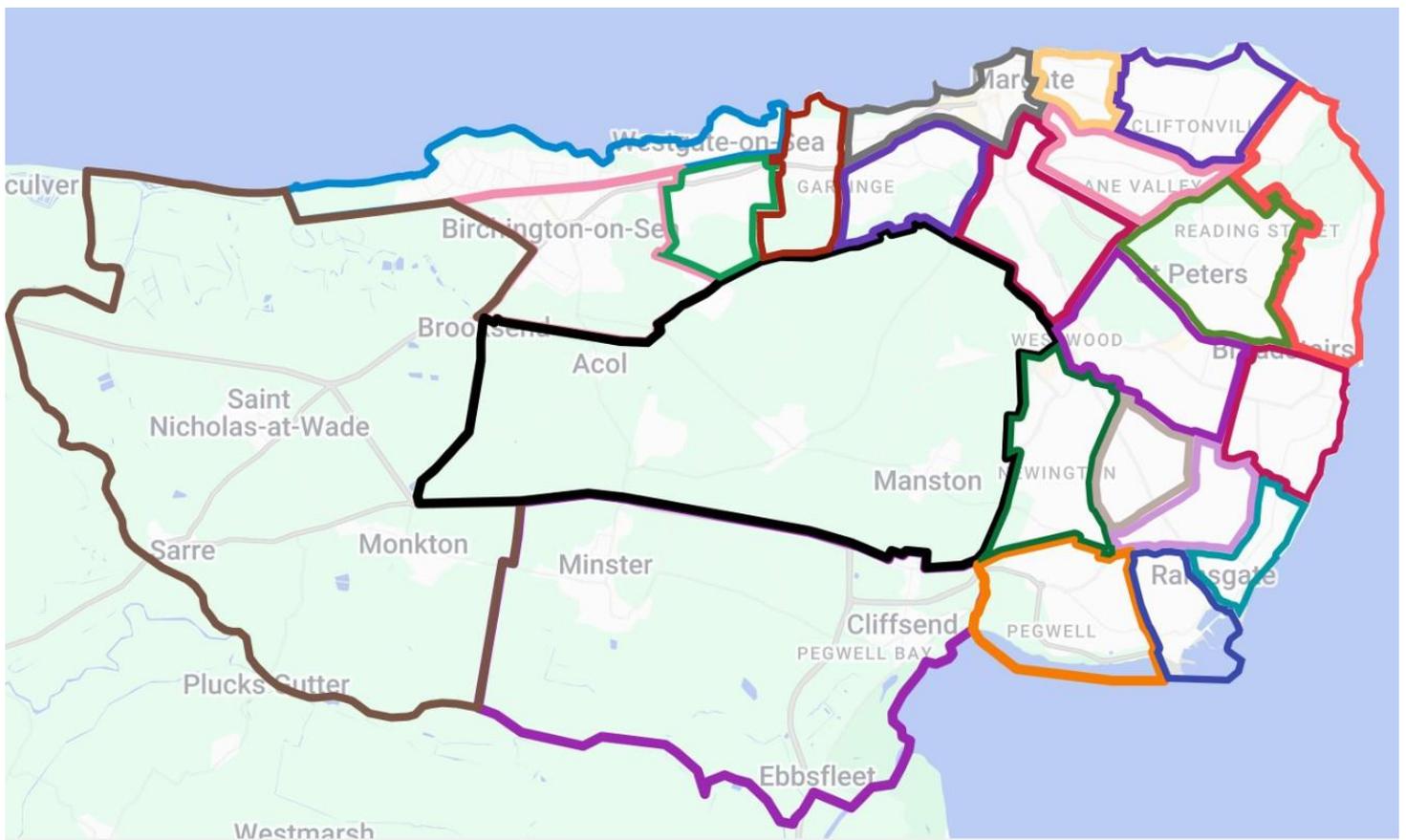
## Attached Documents:

- [boundary-review-conservative-group-thanet---may-2024.pdf](#)

# ELECTORAL REVIEW OF THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL

## WARDING PATTERN SUBMISSION BY THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP

26 MAY 2024



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## Executive Summary

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) is undertaking a review of Thanet District Council's electoral arrangements. The outcome of the review will be implemented for the May 2027 Council elections.

The review will cover the entire district. The statutory criteria that the LGBCE will apply when making its proposals are: -

1. Electoral equality (a consistent number of electors per councillor).
2. Community identity (strong ward boundaries that reflect communities); and
3. Effective and convenient local government (coherent wards with good internal transport links).

The review was initiated in 2024 and the preliminary stage of the review determined the future Council size: the preferred option of LGBCE is to decrease the size of the Council from 56 to 42.

The period for interested parties to submit their ideas for warding patterns closes on 27 May 2024.

It is the opinion of the Conservative Group that the majority of the wards in the district need realigning to ensure greater electoral equality and ensure community identity is achieved where there are large new housing developments coming on stream.

This document sets out how the warding pattern for those wards within the Thanet District.

# Methodology

Our methodology was:

Where current wards meet most if, not all criterion below, changes to existing boundaries have not been made.

Where changes to boundaries are proposed a commonsense approach has been taken. Each existing ward has been carefully considered, looking at the demographic, geographic and political outcomes and the subsequent impact of any proposed change.

## **Demographic:**

- Ambition to have an electorate per Councillor as close to 2,805.
- Margin either side of 15% - 421
- The population of each town/area should be represented by the following number of councillors:
  - Ramsgate: 12
  - Broadstairs: 7
  - Margate: 13
  - Birchington, Westgate & The Villages: 10

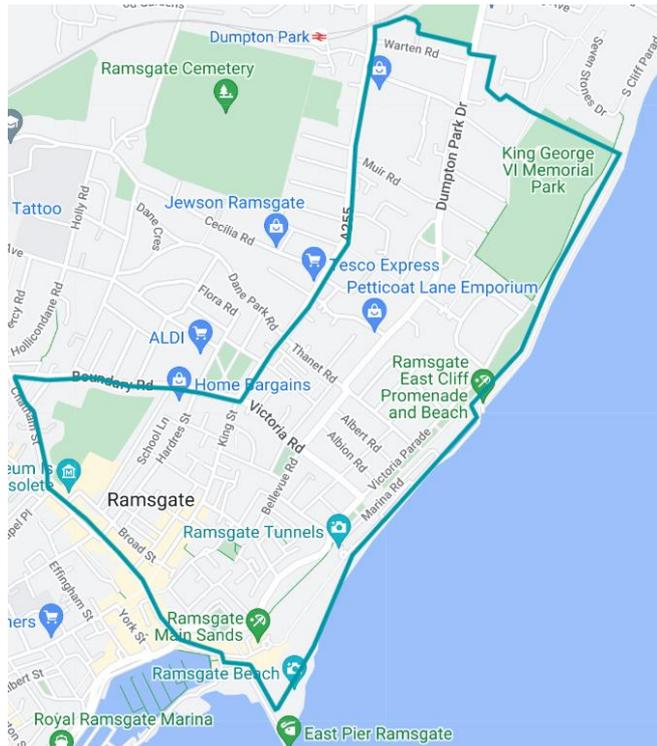
## **Geographic:**

- Wards should keep to existing Parish boundaries as much as possible.
- Where Parishes are split the new ward should already have an established sense of place.

## GRANVILLE

We propose the creation of a new ward in Ramsgate which replaces the existing wards of Eastcliff and Sir Moses Montefiore. The boundaries would be the north-eastern edge of King George Park up to the parish boundary between Ramsgate and Broadstairs and taking in Hereson Road (A255). The boundary would extend to take in Boundary Road up to Chatham Street and then down the High Street and onto Harbour Parade where it meets the natural boundary of the coastline.

The proposed number of councillors for this ward is two. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 5,317 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 2,659.**



The current boundaries of Eastcliff and Sir Moses Montefiore are not fit for purpose, the entire stretch of coastline which encompasses both at present is known as the East Cliff and the border of Hereson road is often seen as a distinction between the Cliff and the more residential parts of the town. Residents have a lot in common with the Granville Theatre and Ramsgate Tunnels acting as key community venues. The area is also heavily reliant on tourism. There is little scope to for large scale development in this area and so population figures should remain steady for the foreseeable future.

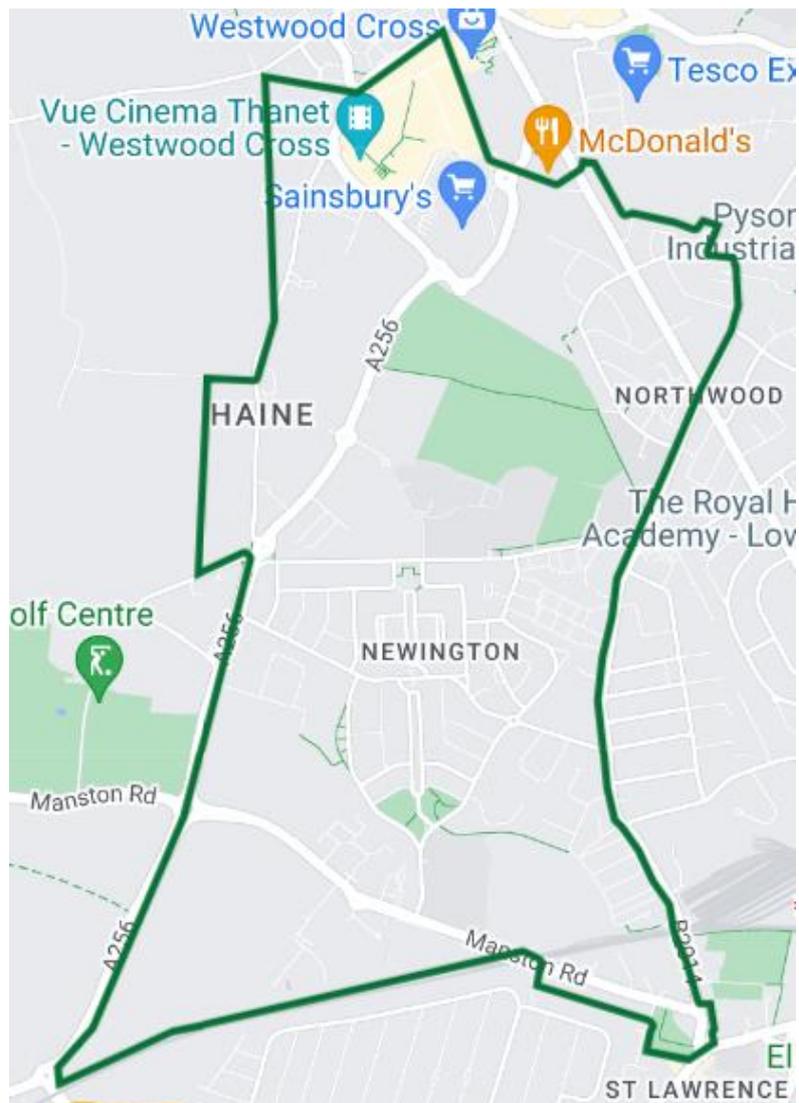
## NEWINGTON

We propose that the existing boundaries for Newington are amended to include the western portion of the existing Northwood ward. The boundary would be along Newington Road (B2014) up to the parish boundary and taking everything west of Northdown Road up to the western edge of the parish boundary along Hain Road where it joins the existing boundary for Newington.

The proposed number of councillors for this ward is two. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 5,015 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 2,506.**

The main population centre in this ward is the Newington estate. The ward consists of the Westwood Cross shopping

centre and a number of schools meaning that residents shared priorities are traffic, parking and road safety equally. There is on-going development along Haine Road which further joins up the residential in the south to the residential in the north. Jackey Bakers (the large patch of green in the north) is well used by local children and football clubs, many consider this to be in Newington however it currently sits in the existing Northwood ward.

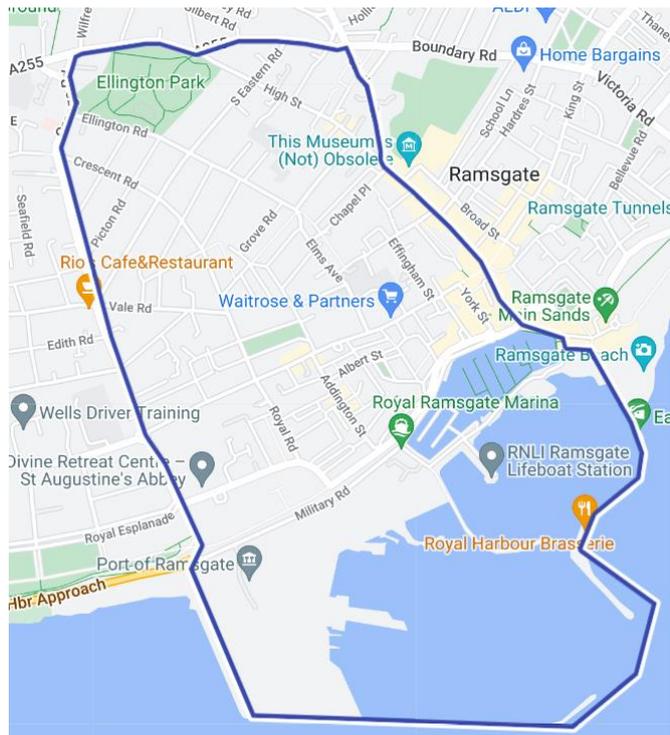


## RAMSGATE HARBOUR

We propose that the existing Central Harbour ward be amended to include the current ward except for everything north of Park Road (A255) up to the railway station.

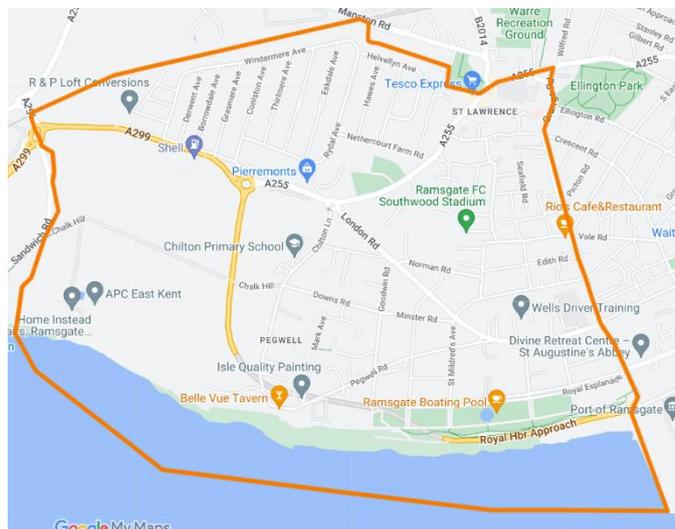
The proposed number of councillors for this ward is two. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 5,000 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 2,500.**

This ward consists of what many residents would consider Ramsgate town centre. It includes the High Street, the Royal Harbour and Port of Ramsgate in the south and a largely residential area to the north. There are good transport links and walking from the extreme north to the harbour takes no more than 15 minutes.



## ST LAWRENCE AND PEGWELL

Our proposal is for the existing Cliffsend and Pegwell ward to be split along the parish lines and for Pegwell to join with what was the Nethercourt ward. The new boundary would be along Grange Road to the east, until it meets the A255 taking in all of the Nethercourt estate in the north leading down following the parish boundary along Sandwich Road where it meets the natural boundary of the coastline in the south.



The proposed number of councillors for this ward is two. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 6,386 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 3,193.**

The existing ward of Cliffsend and Pegwell does not make sense as it crosses parish lines unnecessarily. Pegwell is most definitely Ramsgate and currently elects a councillor to Ramsgate Town Council while Cliffsend does not. It already borders the Nethercourt estate, of which is a key population centre in this new ward. There are strong local road networks joining the areas and residents share more in common with neighbours in Nethercourt than

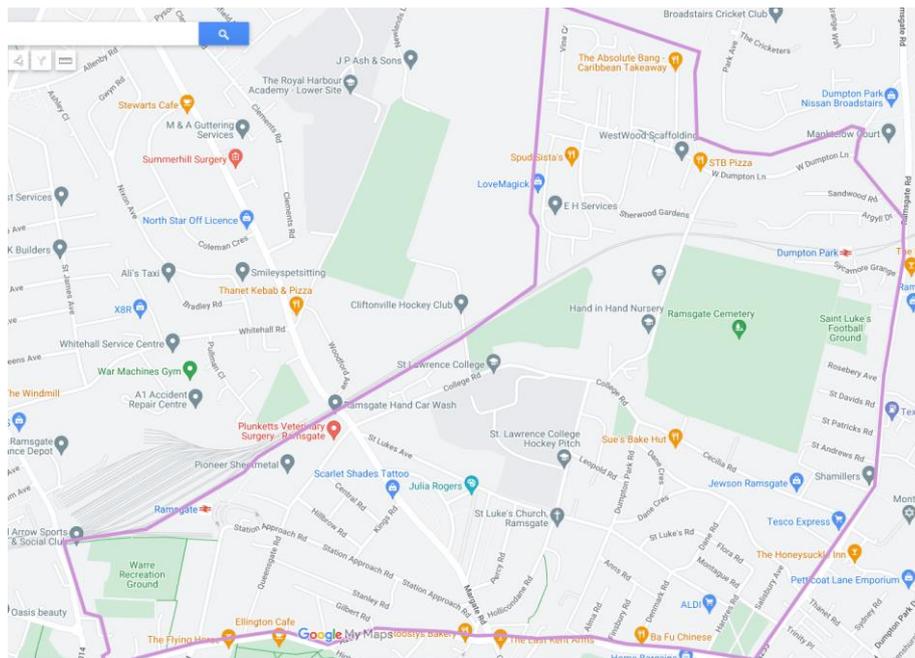
they do in Cliffsend. The church in St Lawrence (Laurence) dates back as far as 1062 and is a well known local landmark.

## ST LUKE’S AND DUMPTON

We propose that a new ward called St Luke’s and Dumpton be created from the existing Eastcliff, Central Harbour and Sir Moses Montefiore wards. The boundary would follow Hereson Road in the west, following the parish boundary in the north to take in Dumpton where it then follows the boundary of the rail line, meeting Newington Road and joining up with the A255 in the south until it reaches Hereson Road.

The proposed number of councillors for this ward is two. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 5,903 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 2,951.**

The areas included in this ward are distinct and different from their existing wards mainly due to this being a heavily residential and commuter area. The proposed ward would bring these areas together.



## VIADUCT

We propose that the majority of the existing Northwood ward remain largely unchanged save for the north-western portion from Newington Road the Northwood Road. The new boundaries would be the B2014 up to Northwood Road in the West, following the current Ramsgate parish boundary in the North and then down across the fields to the railway line.

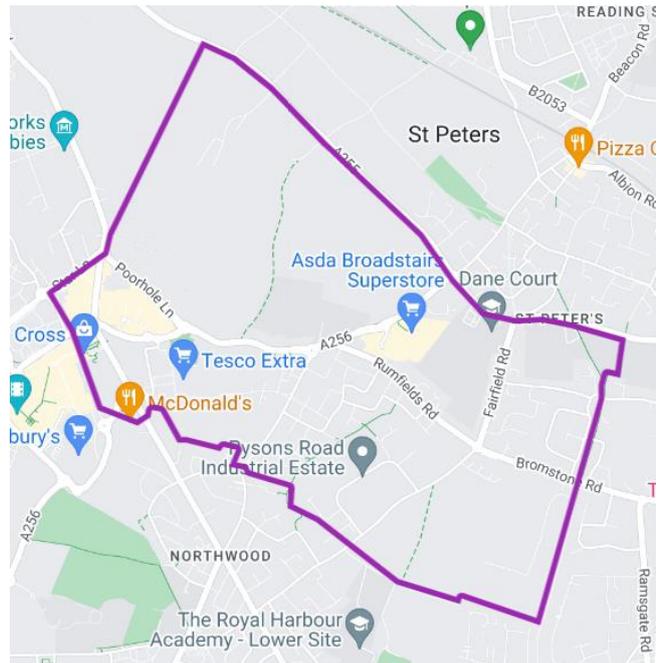
The proposed number of councillors for this ward is two. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 5,781 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 2,890.**

The local landmark of the Ramsgate viaduct is key in physically separating this part of the town from the rest. We have suggested the amendment to remove the north-western part of the existing ward so to comply with as generalised figure as possible for an average electorate. The area is heavily residential with one secondary school and some open space. The area has a well-established sense of place with Margate Road being a key artery for the access to the whole of the town.



## BROMSTONE

We propose the creation of a new ward in Broadstairs called 'Bromstone' which is split from the existing St. Peter's ward to include everything south of Dane Court Road (A225) and following the existing boundaries for St Peter's ward therein. The ward boundary would be Westwood Road taking in the north-eastern part of Westwood Cross following the parish boundary along Margate Road, encompassing Pysons Road (up until the industrial estate) with its eastern most boundary running parallel at the junction where Wilkes Road meets Bromstone Road where it meets the A225.



The proposed number of councillors for this ward is one. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 2,803 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 2,803.**

The main population centre of this area is what is colloquially known as the 'Wimpey Estate' which is everything south of Rumfields Road and East of Northwood Road. The area contains three secondary schools, a number of supermarkets and borders the shopping centre of Westwood Cross. The area borders both Ramsgate and Margate and therefore community activities often take part across parish lines. It makes sense that this is a standalone ward with one member as residents do not refer to themselves as 'Living in St. Peter's'.

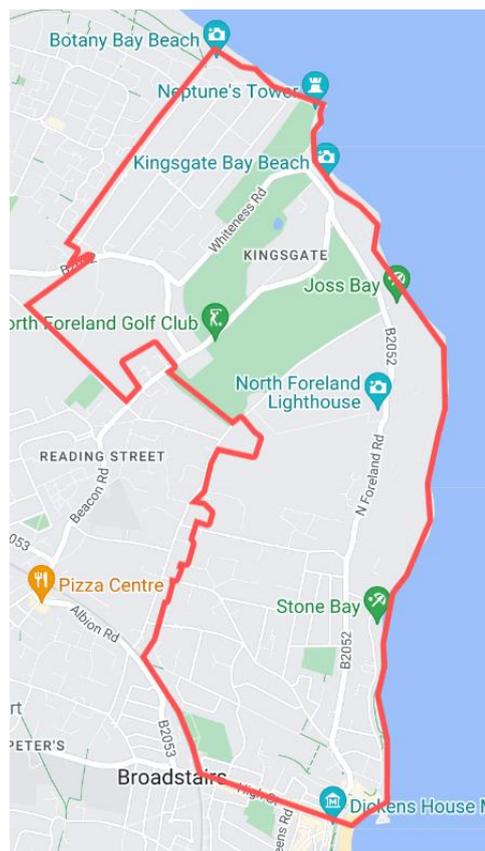
## KINGSGATE AND STONE BAY

We propose that a new ward should be created entirely encompassing the existing wards of Kingsgate ward and Bradstowe ward. The boundary would take in all of the coastline from Botany Bay down to Broadstairs Harbour. Going up along the High Street and following the trainline along to but not including Bairds Hill and Callis Court Road. The boundary takes in everything north of Reading Street and Reading Street Road.

The proposed number of councillors for this ward is two. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 5,254 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 2,627.**

The existing wards are already heavily interconnected with one main road (North Foreland Road) joining them. The community is heavily focussed on beach-related activities as the area takes in Stone Bay, Joss Bay, Kingsgate Bay and Botany Bay.

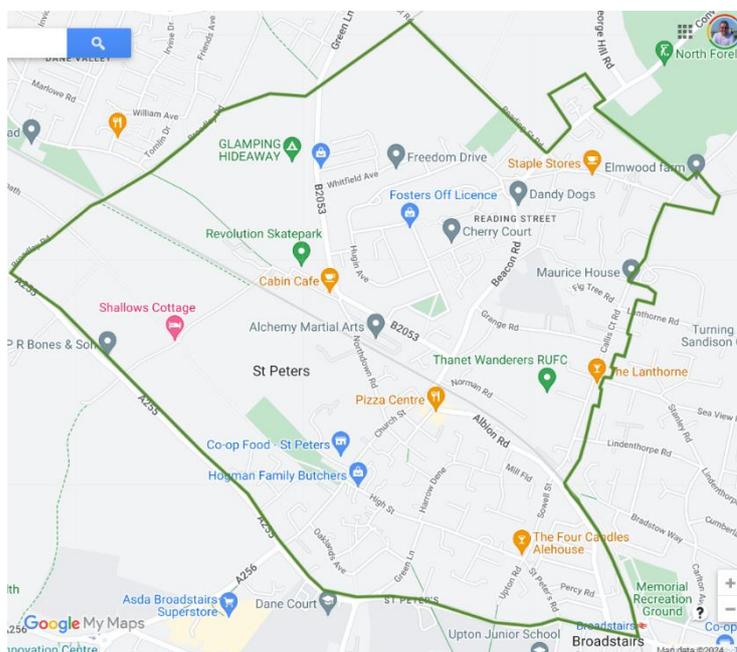
The area includes a Golf Club, Bowls Club and Tennis Courts as well as well-known local landmarks such as Kingsgate Castle, the North Foreland Lighthouse and Bleak House giving the area an already established sense of place.



## ST PETER'S

We propose that the existing St. Peter's ward is split to include everything North of Dane Court Road (A225) to encompass the village of St. Peter's proper. This ward would also take in the entirety of the existing Beacon Road ward.

The new boundaries would consist of everything North of the A225, along to The Broadway and following the trainline up to Bairds Hill and Callis Court Road, taking in Reading Street and Convent Road up to Rosetower Court in the north. The boundary would then follow Reading Street Road following the edge of the farmland, taking



in Northdown Hill Road where it borders the existing (and proposed) boundary of Dane Valley Ward along Broadley Road.

The proposed number of councillors for this ward is two. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 6,675 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 3,338.**

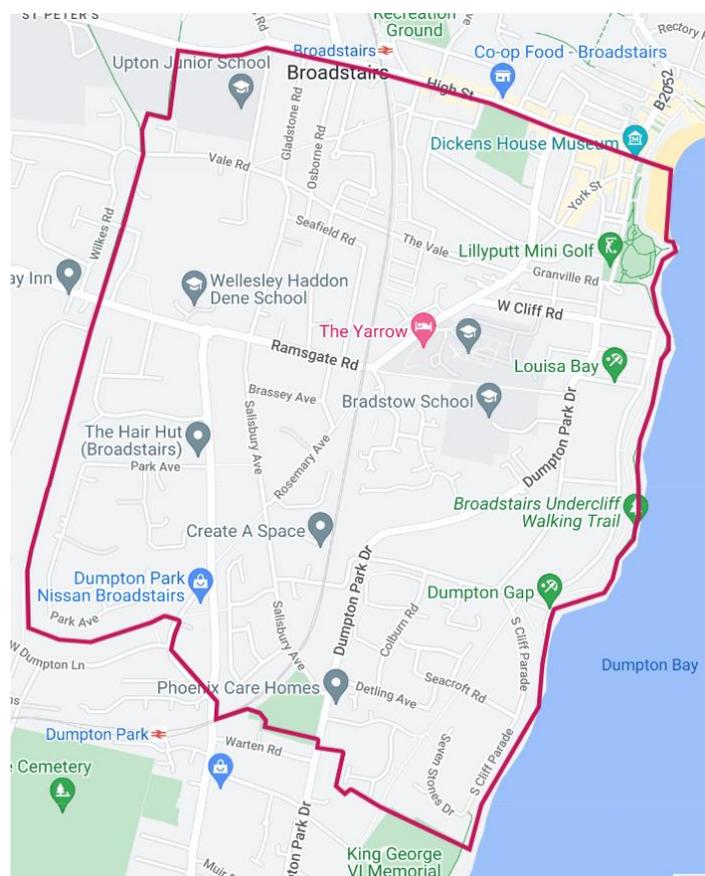
We have proposed that the village of St. Peter's and the existing Beacon Road wards are joined as this is one community and even locally the Beacon Road is colloquially known as the St. Peter's estate and the largest area of open green space is called the St Peter's Recreation Ground. The area encompasses two historic areas of St Peter's village and Reading Street, both some of the oldest historic centres on the Isle. Community hotspots include the Co-op, Cabin Café and The Pavillion Youth and Community Café as well as the St Peter-In-Thonet CE Junior School along Beacon Road.

## VIKING

Our proposal is for the current boundaries for Viking ward to remain unchanged. The boundary would be the High Street down to the coastline which carries on along South Cliff Parade until it meets the parish boundary and cuts along the edge of King George VI Park, taking in Ramsgate Road up to Park Avenue following the farmland to the west and meeting Bromstone Road and The Broadway.

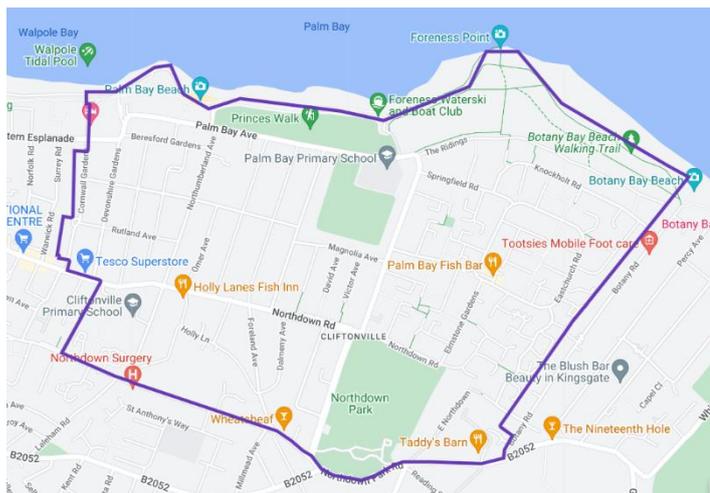
The proposed number of councillors for this ward is two. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 6,004 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 3,002.**

The sense of place is already well-established in Viking ward with the focus here heavily on tourism due to the location of Viking Bay, the Promenade and Victoria Gardens. Residents share common issues in the busy tourist season such as parking. There is little room for any additional development and therefore rapid increased population and therefore submit that the existing boundaries remain unchanged.



## CLIFTONVILLE EAST

We propose that the boundaries for Cliftonville East remain unchanged. The boundaries extend from starting in the North from Palm Bay Avenue to Cornwall Gardens in the west, the junction of Northumberland Avenue and Northdown Park Road to the South leading to but not including Botany Road in the East.

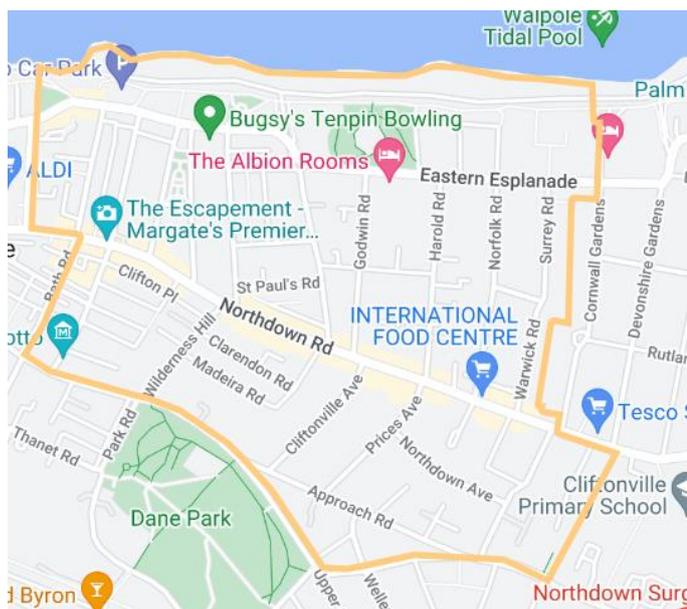


The number of councillors for this ward would change from three to two. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 5,593 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 2,797.**

The area and main population centre is the Palm Bay Estate with the centre of the community being St. Philips Church. There are well established community groups operating in this area including but not limited to Palm Bay & Northdown Community Group and The Friends of Botany Bay.

## CLIFTONVILLE WEST

The proposed boundaries for Cliftonville West remain largely unchanged. The northern most boundary is the Eastern Esplanade stopping at Fort Crescent, and following Zion Place down into Bath Road. The boundary remains true to the existing and follows Dane Road into North Down Park Road and extends to Laleham Lane. The eastern most boundary as above takes in Northdown Road along Warwick Road and Surrey Road.

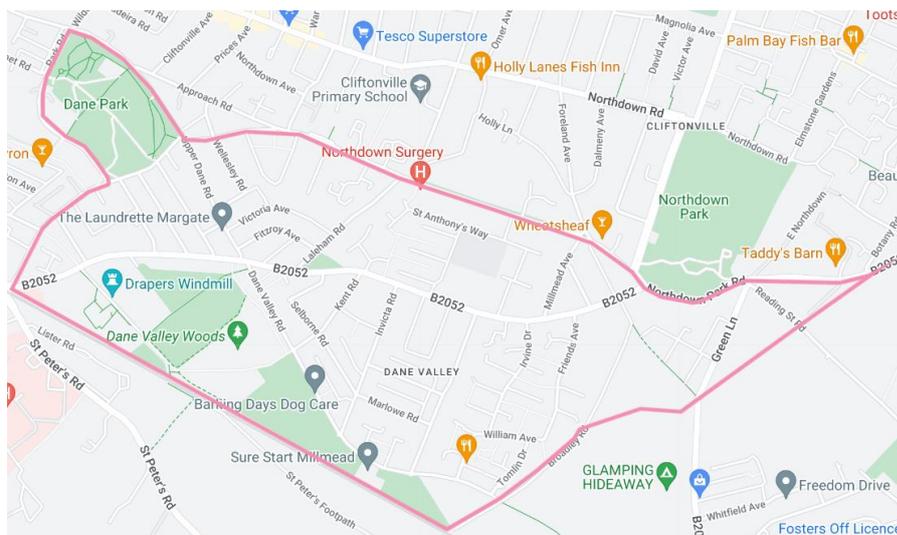


The number of councillors for this ward would change from three to two. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 5,819 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 2,910.**

There is a distinctive community feel for Cliftonville West, main appropriated to the small pop-ups and independent businesses that operate along Northdown Road. The ward also takes in the Oval Bandstand where a local group have taken on this project and involve the community in weekly events from crafts festivals to outdoor cinema screenings.

## DANE VALLEY

The proposed boundaries for Dane Valley remain unchanged. Bordering the trainline, the boundary follows the farm track of Broadley Road cutting across the farm to encompass Green Lane and St Michaels Avenue, then running along the south of Northdown Park Road and Dane Road taking in the entirety of Dane Park and Addiscombe Road where it meets the trainline.



The number of councillors for this ward would change from three to two. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 5,639 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 2,820.**

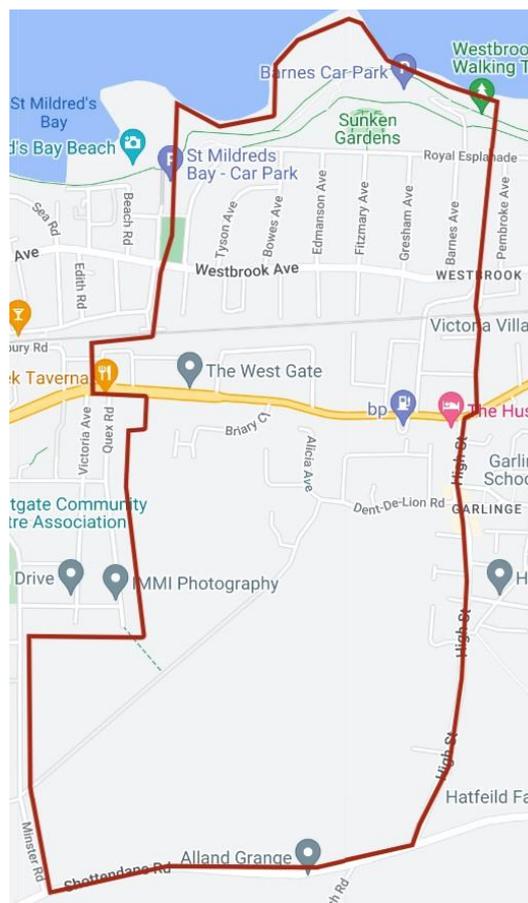
Dane Valley is a large ward with a strong community surrounding the Dane Valley Road and Milmead Estate. There are regular football matches held in Dane Park with local schools and groups participating. There are well subscribed and attended allotments and an adjoining Forest School on Dane Valley Road, with Dane Valley Woods being a particular hotspot for community activities.

## DENT DE-LION AND WESTBROOK WEST

We propose that the existing Westbrook and Garlinge wards are split with the western side of Westbrook ward, between Old Boundary Road and Norman Road in the west and Barnes Avenue and Pembroke Avenue, and Old Crossings Road in the east, representing the new boundary of this ward. Within the Garlinge ward, all streets to the west of High Street would move into this new ward.

The number of councillors for this ward is two. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 5,900 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 2,950.**

Westbrook West and Dent De Lion are two distinct communities that whilst they have been enveloped by development over time, continue to remain unique. Westbrook West is centred on the eastern edge of St Mildred's Bay and the Royal Esplanade whilst Dent De Lion is the remnants of a medieval settlement which has been continually inhabited since its foundation.

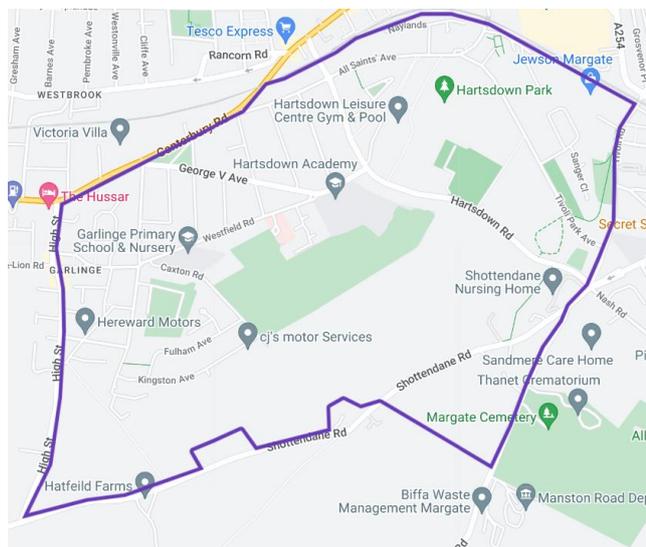


## HARTSDOWN

We propose the remaining eastern side of the current Garlinge ward incorporates a section of the west side of Salmestone ward.

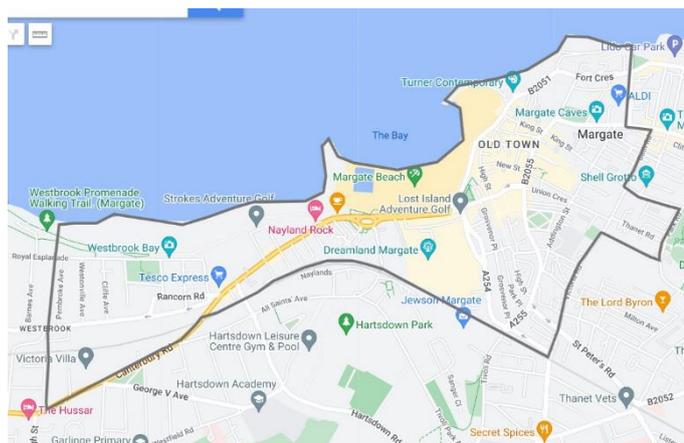
The number of councillors for this ward is two. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 4,773 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 2,387.**

Hartdown ward is centred on Hartdown Park which is the remnants of the former Hartdown House estate. The section of Salmestone ward that will be included within this new ward has a stronger affinity to Hartdown. The community is close knit and there are regular football matches held in Hartdown Park for local football teams as well as the location of Margate Football Club.



## WESTBROOK EAST & MARGATE

We propose that the current Westbrook ward is split and the eastern section between Pembroke Avenue and Station Road joins with the current Margate Central ward. We also propose the inclusion of the southern section of the former



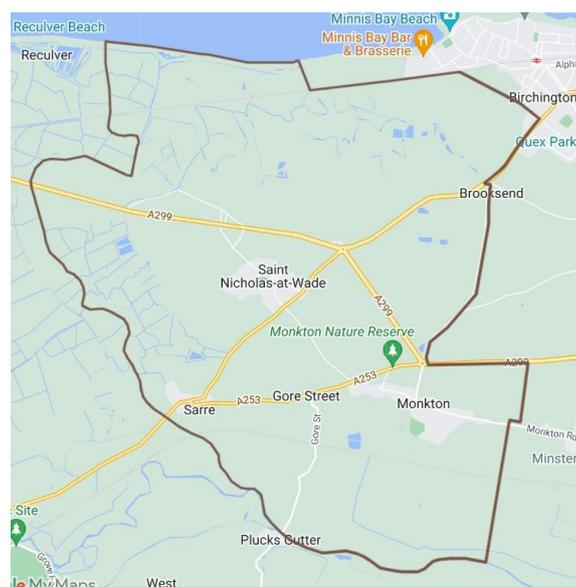
Cliftonville West ward which includes Dane Road between Victoria Road and Park Lane, and associated roads in between down to and including Thanet Road.

The number of councillors for this ward is two. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 6,448 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 3,224.**

There is a distinctive community feel to Westbrook East and Margate, with major regeneration schemes taking place across the ward. The Nayland Rock Hotel in the west marks the beginning of the Edwardian style of guesthouses and hotels that line the coastline along to the Winter Gardens in the east of the ward. The former Cliftonville West roads have a close affinity to the Old Town and Marine Terrace.

## THANET LITTLE VILLAGES

We propose that the eastern section of the current Thanet Villages ward combines with the western side of the current Birchington South ward to create the Thanet Little Villages ward. This ward would follow the parish boundary of Monkton adjacent to Minster parish northwards towards the southern parish boundary of Birchington, encapsulating Birchington parish north of Canterbury Road and south of Essex Gardens. The new ward would include all of St Nicholas at Wade with Sarre parish.



The number of councillors for this ward is one. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 2,708 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 2,708.**

The parishes of St Nicholas at Wade with Sarre and Monkton are distinctive communities with strong social connections and cooperation

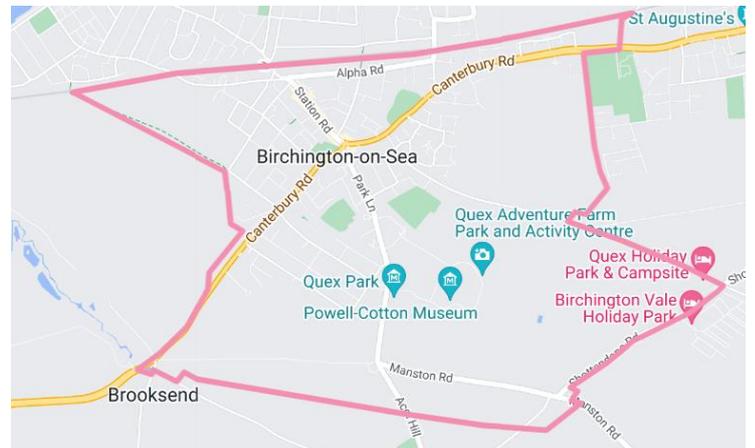
between them. Both parishes have well established amateur football teams that frequently compete against each other at both an adult and junior level across many age groups.

## BIRCHINGTON EAST

We propose that the current Birchington South ward is separated from the western section that incorporates the Birchington parish south of Essex Gardens, north of Mill Row and north of Canterbury Road.

The number of councillors for this ward is two. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 5,909 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 2,955.**

There is a distinctive community feel to Birchington East, with many leisure and recreational activities centred on the Memorial Recreation Ground and Quex Park.

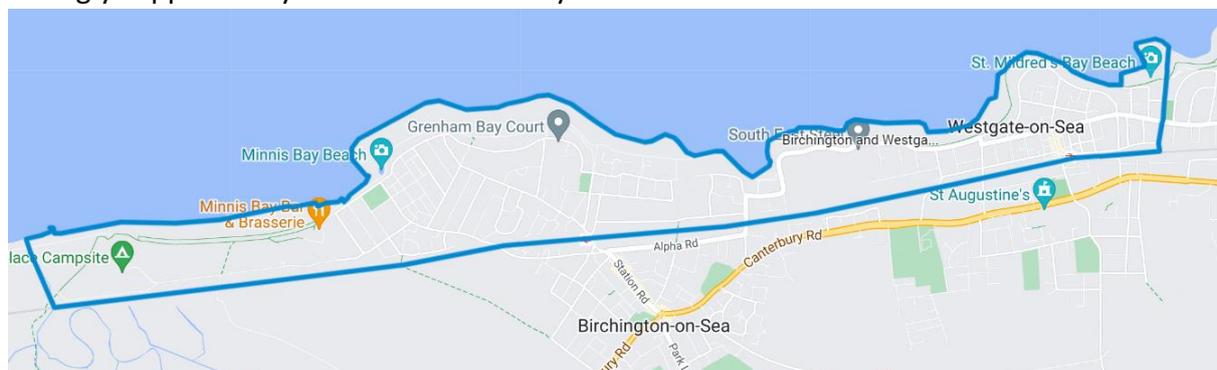


## BIRCHINGTON AND WESTGATE COASTAL

We propose merging the current Birchington North ward with the northern section of the current Westgate ward from the railway line.

The number of councillors for this ward is two. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 6,416 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 3,208.**

Birchington and Westgate Coastal is a large ward with a strong community surrounding the various bays along the coastline: from Minnis Bay in the west, to West Bay in the east. The community is active in fundraising, with recent efforts to restore twelve sea shelters being strongly supported by the local community.



## WESTGATE SOUTH

We propose that the current Westgate ward south of the railway line becomes the new ward of Westgate South.

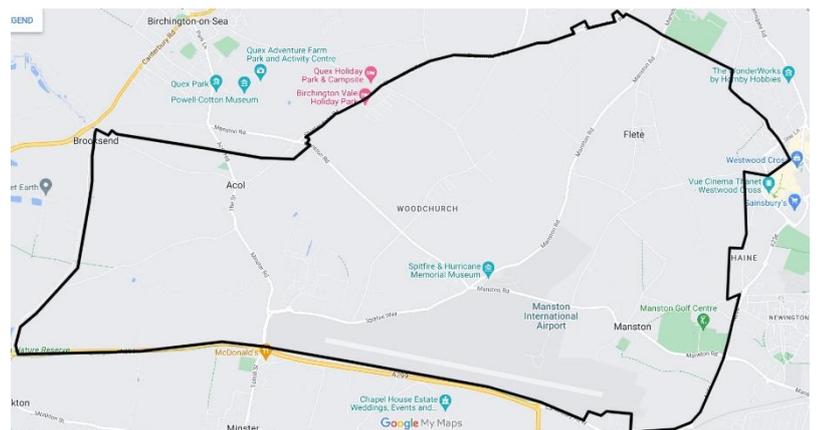
The number of councillors for this ward is one. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 2,878 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 2,878.**

Westgate South has a strong and distinct community, centred on the Westgate Community Centre, St Augustine's and the local infant school, St Crispins, and the catholic secondary school, St Ursuline's College.



## ACOL AND MANSTON

We propose that the north eastern section of the current Thanet Villages ward which includes Manston parish and Acol parish become the new ward of Acol and Manston. The ward boundary follows the current eastern boundary for Thanet Villages ward and the A299 towards Acol. The ward boundary would expand Manston parish boundary to include Manston Airport.



The number of councillors for this ward is two. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 4,933 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 2,467.**

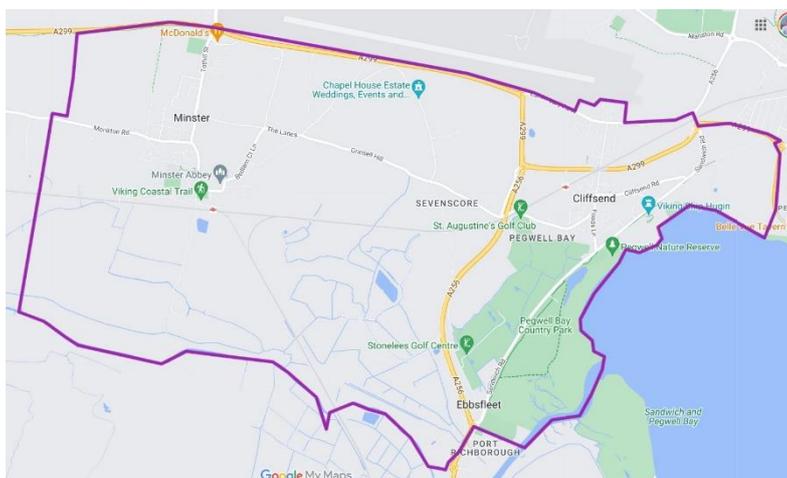
The parishes of Acol and Manston have distinct and strong communities with strong social connections and interactions between them. Both parishes have strong connections to Manston Airport, with a history of local air service men and women living within these communities with many continuing to do so after the RAF turned the airport over to civilian use.

## MINSTER AND CLIFFSEND

We propose that the parish of Minster that currently sits within the Thanet Villages ward is joined with the parish of Cliffsend. The northern ward boundary will be the A299 and Canterbury Road West.

The number of councillors for this ward is two. **The predicted electorate for 2030 is 4,926 meaning an average electorate per councillor of 2,463.**

The parishes of Minster and Cliffsend have distinct and strong communities, with the hamlets of Way and Sevenscore situated between them. Both parishes include distinctive natural habitats along the former Wantsum Channel, Minster marshes and Pegwell Bay Country Park.



## Conclusion

We believe that we have met the methodology that was set. In summary:

- 42 Councillors across the District.
- 23 Wards:
  - 20, two member wards
  - 3, one member ward
- Across the District there is an average electorate per Councillor of 2825 (0.7% over the recommended 2805).