

East Hertfordshire District Council

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Here is my summary of suggestions for ward boundary changes in East Herts I would like to see the transfer of polling district HCA6 from Hertford Castle ward into Hertford Bengoe ward. This could be achieved by altering the ward boundary so that it runs along the rivers Lea and Mimram and the railway as a strong physical boundary, rather than along the artificial boundary of North Road. Residents in HCA6 already share many links including schools, sports and arts facilities and shopping etc with Bengoe residents. They already travel into and through Bengoe ward to reach Hertford via North rd and St Andrew St and use the shopping and church on St Andrew St. They travel to Bengoe's schools at Mill Mead on Port Vale, St Josephs on North Rd, Duncombe on Warren Park rd and Bengoe on Bengoe St. Families with primary school-age children make strong bonds with other families in the same community, most of whom already live in Bengoe. HCA6 residents use Bengoe for sports facilities at Hartham and arts facilities at Courtyard Arts on Port Vale, so cultural facilities and interests are shared. I would also like to see the ward boundary in the north west corner of Hertford Bengoe altered so that it includes the community east of the river Beane at Waterford, and change the boundary to reflect this, by moving the boundary from the current arbitrary position so that it follows the river Beane instead. Residents in this community made up of Waterford Common, Barleycroft and Vicarage Lane are already linked to Bengoe through a number of local ties and commonalities such as schools and other local facilities. Residents on Vicarage Lane, Waterford Common and Barleycroft have stronger community and cultural ties with Bengoe ward, than they do with Waterford and Bengoe Rural North, via the primary school on Bengoe St and the key shops and facilities along The Avenue, the Bengoe community centre at Duncombe rd, Trinity Church, and the 2 pubs and the Bengoe Club, all on Bengoe St in Hertford Bengoe ward. Also, development has spread along Sacombe rd and Vicarage Lane with new homes at The Stiles and Waterford Wick creating a series of community links along the road to Waterford. These residents also share a strong cultural tie with Bengoe residents through shared use of Bengoe's Waterford nature reserves, and through the series of footpaths and rights of way that link them. They also share common issues of traffic problems, through the issue of rat running vehicles along Vicarage Lane, as well as interest in local community campaigning against quarry developments to the northeast of Sacombe Rd. I think these changes are important since ward councillors have a high work load due to the challenging nature of its mixed town centre/suburb/rural make-up, including 3 schools and a significant number of businesses and community buildings. This means a full quota of 3 cllrs should be retained. I would like to move the current western boundary of Hertford Kingsmead ward west into Hertford Castle Ward to include residents in Beechwood Close, Copperwood and The Spinney. Residents here share common interests with those who live along Ware rd to the east including issues with development, parking and transport issues. Currently they are cut off from the rest of Castle ward to the west by the Caxton Hill Industrial area. These moves will help achieve electoral balance and provide a logical improvement to better local government effectiveness. In Ware, the boundary of Ware St Marys ward should be altered by moving polling district WTR1 from Ware Trinity into Ware St Marys. Residents in WTR1 are already enclosed by St Marys ward and share many local cultural and other interests such as school, shopping, sports and arts facilities. I would also support Moving most of WTR2 polling district in Ware Trinity to Ware Christchurch, so that the new boundary runs along Homefield, Fanhams and Queens Rds. We should also extend Ware Trinity ward north to include those parts of WARE2 not in Ware Christchurch and adjust the boundary of Ware Town so that WARE2 falls inside it. With these changes it makes sense to reduce the number of councillors representing Ware Trinity to 1. These changes will create a new linked community and help bring new residents in WARE2 into the existing town community. It would mark an improvement in the way residents are represented. In Hunsdon ward, I suggest splitting Wareside parish between Thundridge and Standon, Much Hadham and Stanstead Abbots wards to improve overall elector balance and reflect the interests and identities of local rural

communities. The new Hunsdon ward will contain Widford, Hunsdon, Eastwick and Gilston parishes and have improved electoral balance, and help tie these parishes together in the face of further new development. I would want to see an increase the number of councillors in Bishops Stortford Silverleys Ward to 3 to handle the new numbers of residents and the new communities formed. This improves electoral equality and representation. We should also move ward boundaries between Bishops Stortford All Saints, Meads and Central to improve overall elector equality and reflect the changes in interests and identities of local communities. I believe we should split up Hertford Rural North Ward so that Bramfield and Stapleford parishes become part of the Watton at Stone ward. These parishes already have strong links to Watton at Stone, via school and shopping, and community centre useage, plus road and geographical layouts strengthen these ties, as well as overlapping patterns of land ownership. Linking these villages with Watton would deliver electoral equality, with overall elector numbers in the new ward reaching within 8% or so of optimal. It would better reflect the identities and interests of those local communities, and would promote effective local government. Tewin North parish should be recombined with Tewin South as part of a new enlarged Hertford Rural South Ward. This reflects long standing common interests in the Tewin north and south communities. This will create a new slightly enlarged HRS ward with a better electoral balance, and reflect the changes in interests and identities of local communities. Current ward boundaries should also be realigned by combining the linked communities of Tonwell in Bengoe Rural parish, with Sacombe and Dane End in Little Mundon parish and include Burn's Green and Benington in Bengington parish to bring together rural communities with similar character to form a new rural ward comprising Benington, Little Mundon, Bengoe rural and Sacombe parishes. Walkern ward itself can be realigned by combining Walkern and Ardeley parishes with Great Mundon and Westmill. These parishes have an easterly border defined roughly by the A10 and the river Rib and a west edge by the river Beane and Stevenage. The land between the Rib and the Beane has long been linked culturally and with south east/north west road links, so this new ward arrangement would return this ancient form. Buntingford ward has too many residents for a 2 cllr ward, but the town itself is too compact and the community too tightly knit to split up. So Buntingford parish should be combined with those of Aspenden and Cottered into a new Buntingford ward with 3 councillors. Aspenden and Buntingford have always had strong links, especially now due to spreading developments along Aspenden Road. The communities of Throcking, Cottered and Aspenden continue to have a number of cultural overlaps and matched interests with the town of Buntingford, such as school and social links. The wards of Braughing, Buntingford and Little Hadham should be realigned by combining parishes of Buckland, Wyddial, Anstey, Meesdon, the Pelhams and Hornead, to form a new single ward with approximately 2200 electors. And by combining the parishes of Braughing, Albury and Little Hadham, a second new ward with close to the optimal number of electors. This has the advantage of bringing the 3 Pelhams together in one ward, and combining all rural northern 'border' communities into one ward with strong geographical ties. I believe these proposals provide improved electoral balance, reflect changing community identities across the district and provide identifiable boundaries. These suggestions enhance local governance and take cultural and community interests, physical and human geography into account. They also maintain the total number of councillors across the district at 50.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded