

Cllr David Snowden

Caring & Campaigning for Bishop's Stortford



Cllr David Snowden

Meads Ward (Conservative)
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The Review Officer (East Hertfordshire)
LGBCE
PO Box 133,
Blyth
NE24 9FE

8th May 2022

Dear Review Officer,

I am writing in response to the Electoral Review of East Hertfordshire District Council, and the consultation being carried out at present into the draft recommendations.

I have been a councillor for Meads Ward on Bishop's Stortford Town Council since 2018 and East Herts District Council since 2019. I am the Deputy Leader of Bishop's Stortford Town Council and Chairman of its Finance Committee.

Generally, I am supportive of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's draft recommendation both within Bishop's Stortford and more widely across East Hertfordshire. I am particularly in support of the arrangements to the east of Bishop's Stortford. The use of the River Stort to provide a strong western boundary for the proposed All Saints and Parsonage wards is a good decision. In discussing the boundary review with residents in the Stansted Road area (the eastern part of the current Meads Ward that I represent), it is clear that they believe that being in a ward with the Parsonage Estate is more logical than the alternative of a cross-town ward. Similarly, on the western side of town, the proposed North ward would take in the whole of the area covered by the Chantry Residents Association. The Chantry Residents Association's area runs from Rye Street in the east to Dane Park in the west. As such I believe that the proposed wards to accurately reflect community ties.

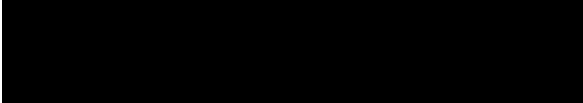
However, I do agree with the East Herts District Council Conservative Group that minor improvements could be made to the plan in at the borders of the proposed Thorley Manor, Central and North wards in the town centre.

It is clear that the County Division boundaries mitigate against a clean solution to encapsulating the whole of Bishop's Stortford town centre within one District Council ward. However, I agree with the District Council's Conservative Group that moving the Windhill area from Thorley Manor to Central Ward would be the optimal decision. Windhill includes the 17th century old Monastery complex which includes the Town Council offices, and the next door Catholic Church. These should all more properly be placed in Central Ward. Central Ward contains much of the older, more established, section of Stortford, whilst Thorley Manor is predominately 1970s-1990s residential construction. The nearby streets including Bells Hill,

Regency Close and The Stewarts are all more town centre orientated than modern suburban in character. As such they should ideally be in Central Ward rather than Thorley Manor.

I also support moving 67-83 Hadham Road from Thorley Manor to North. This would make the boundary much easier to understand in this area.

Yours faithfully,



Cllr David Snowdon