

[REDACTED]

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 14 July 2022 10:21  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** LOCAL GOVT.BOUNDARY COMMISSION -EPPING FOREST D C

**Categories:** Submissions, [REDACTED]

Dear Review Officer

Although my postal address(see below) is an Essex one,my cottage is about 20 feet inside Hertfordshire and the immediately adjoining cottage([REDACTED]) is immediately on the Essex/Herts boundary line. This is because as you will know from your own records,the position was until 31<sup>st</sup> March 1993 the county boundary followed the course of the Old River Stort(ORS) which lies immediately behind my property. It had been the case,I believe,for several centuries and possibly back to the Domesday Book(c1086 Roydon being mentioned there).The course of the ORS is shown on a plan of Roydon village of c1597 and which can be found in the relevant volume of the Victoria County History of Essex.As you assume know, on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1993, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and a relevant part of the B181 became part of Hertfordshire and is now within East Herts DC,Stanstead Abbots Parish council area and in Bishops Stortford and East Herts Parliamentary constituency (please see the relevant Parliamentary Statutory Instrument bringing this into force) and Hertfordshire Highways.I trust therefore that this will not bar me from commenting on a couple of points set out in the article in the June 2022 issue of the Roydon Parish News(RPN) calling for comments/views on certain issues of yours.My points are as follows:-

1.There are issues re heavy traffic especially during rush hours on the B181, which fronts 191 and 193, and which, of course as you know from your maps, goes up the High Steet towards Harlow and in the other direction Stanstead Abbots/A414.May I respectfully suggest(if funds permit) that an officer visits Roydon High Street(both sides of the level crossing) to gain a view of the said traffic in both rush hours which often goes right up the High Street to the road junction and from the l/c down past St.James` church.Whether the traffic is up to pre-Covid levels I don`t know but one must now,I presume, include the working from home factor.I assume that the sections of EFDC/EHDCdealing with traffic would be able to advise.

2.In Roydon in the centre of the village which I assume is the Village Ward,there is McColls the convenience store which includes a Post Office, ,plus a pharmacy,an estate agent,2 pubs(the White Hart and the New Inn),a hairdressers(all sexes) and an accountant`s office and in the Epping Road a primary school.There are no parks or leisure centres in Roydon so far as I know but please check but there is plenty of countryside plus farms around the village.Bearing in mind that the civic parish of Roydon is huge and that I`ve no knowledge of what it`s boundaries consist of(save in point 4 below) I can`t really say what other businesses there may be hidden away in certain parts but you or the Council would have facilities for checking this(eg., business rates records).

3.As for new housing or commercial developments there has been a new housing estate created towards the Water Lane area on the right hand side as you go to the roundabout from the village up the Epping Road.I`m not sure what ward they might be in.As for new commercial developments I regret I`ve no knowledge but no doubt you have ways and means of finding out! There is the constant threat from Harlow as to the building about 10000 houses (eg.,at Gilston Park) and down to the Old House lane area on Roydon`s parish/Council boundary which might have severe consequences on Roydon`s road network( often narrow and crowded particularly during rush hours) and Roydon station.No doubt you will consider these and other pressures which may be brought to your attention.

4.As for the question in the RPN June 2022 issue(see my very first paragraph above) as to whether there are (inter alia) roads,rivers,etc.,that people believe form strong boundaries between neighbourhoods,this raises a very important matter so far as being the owner of [REDACTED] High Street Roydon(I can`t speak for [REDACTED]) is concerned.For the avoidance of doubt 191 and 193 plus the B181 up to the level crossing are now since 1<sup>st</sup> April 1993 in Hertfordshire.Part of Roydon Station built in c1843 and its forecourt (the former was the old ticket office and is now

a restaurant) plus the derelict building(shed formerly used for various business purposes) next to the restaurant plus the station car park are in Essex.

To my certain knowledge the core of the 191/193 cottages was built by the Great Eastern Railway in 1864 for its employees and they and their gardens remained in the railway's hands(British Rail) until the 1970s when they were sold and indeed each property is still subject to the covenants imposed by BR in order to protect the railway and its operations. Thus they have always(since 1864) formed part of the railway's landscape and therefore part of Roydon itself.

For some reason, on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 1993 the Boundary Commission in its wisdom(perhaps to increase the number of voters in the Parliamentary constituency of Bishops Stortford and East Herts) authorised the transfer of the properties and part of the B181 to Hertfordshire(as above) involving probably 4-5 people(even today) at the most and altering the boundary (inter alia) from the Old River Stort where it had been a strong and recognisable boundary for centuries(see above) to one past my neighbour's cottage (along its boundary with the forecourt) and including part of the B181 up to the level crossing.The first we knew about it was an article by the then Parish Clerk(RPC) in an issue of the RPN that year plus a "welcome" pack from Herts CC!!

I'm not clear if this current review is purely a paper exercise or whether officials are actually sent out to recce the areas in the light of any comments received.I've always considered the proposal by the BC in 1993 to put 191 and 193 into Hertfordshire(ok for the B181) a complete nonsense -it was clearly not thought out. I would have thought it logical that a fixture which has been there for centuries (see above) was and is a very strong boundary between neighbourhoods and what amounts to a fence between 191 and the forecourt is not.Sadly the plan on page 5 of "Surveying the Domesday Book" by Simon Keith published in 2022 of the counties of England in c1086(see above) is on too small a scale to help in showing what that particular boundary was at that date between Hertfordshire and Essex but being a river one must surmise it was.

Another point which the then BC did not apparently take on board(now doubt you will check on this) is that any official who might have visited our immediate area should have (hopefully ) seen that there are several miles of countryside between my property and Stanstead Abbots with very little(even today) human habitation in between. My property and [REDACTED] have clearly no connection in real life(not even a bus service ) whatsoever with Stanstead Abbots or its Parish Council or with East Herts DC or Hertfordshire as anything which happens in Roydon may affect the 2 properties and be very unlikely to effect any property in the rest Of Hertfordshire.I can't imagine that SA's Parish Council or East Herts DC or the Herts CC or the MP have the slightest interest in what happens to the 2 properties ,except of course,for the collection of council tax and for planning purposes/electoral registers, but the converse is not true.No doubt the BC aim to correct a demographic anomaly in 1993 over rode all other considerations.I personally very rarely travel into Hertfordshire save that the doctors' practice I go to very very occasionally is in Hertfordshire.I do go occasionally to the Spotlight in Hoddesdon(formerly the Broxbourne Civic Centre).I never shop usually there.I have to vote in the Parish Hall of St.Andrews instead of just up the High Street here in St.Peter's church hall which can be inconvenient.

As some 29 years have past since 1<sup>st</sup> April 1993,I suspect that the demographic scenario which the then BC dealt with (if that was in fact the basis on which their decision was made) has long since changed since then, can I respectfully ask therefore the LGBC to consider please whether Nos.191 and 193 can be moved back into Essex ,where from the historical and practical point of view, they rightfully belong and rejoin the Village Ward of Roydon in EFDC .

5.AS to decreasing the number of EFDC Councillors,being an "outlier"(see the first para.of this email),I'm not really in a position to comment save that:-

- (a) I've never seen a map of the EFDC area showing the ward boundaries
- (b) when you come to the public consultation please can you include(i) a plan showing the now current ward boundaries with the number of current councillors in each (ii) a plan showing the proposed wards and projected number of Councillors in each and (iii) an indication of the number of the present population of the EFDC area(perhaps from the 2021 census) and possibly the approximate numbers of people in each ward perhaps gleaned from council tax records,business rates records,electoral records and other relevant records(if any).

I await the the outcome of the Board's consultations with great interest please. I trust you find my observations of some assistance , use and interest.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature]



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