



14 July 2021

Local Government Boundary Commission for England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0TL

Dear Sirs

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

I should like to comment on the proposed boundary arrangements from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.

In setting out my own position, as a Borough Councillor for 31 years, I speak as an elected member who knows the patch well. For the record, I voted against the proposals at a Full Council meeting held on Tuesday 13 July 2021.

There is no obvious commonality between the villages of Hadlow, Plaxtol and Shipbourne. All three are different in character; for example, Hadlow, with 38% social housing has far more as a percentage than Plaxtol or Shipbourne.

I should like to suggest an alternative arrangement. That a new electoral ward includes Hadlow, East Peckham, West Peckham and Mereworth.

This creates a ward of four parishes with adjoining boundaries.

In putting this forward, I am also aware that residents of West Peckham and Mereworth 'look' to Hadlow for the pharmacist, local shopping, the library, GP and dental practices.

The Rochester Diocese includes West Peckham and Mereworth in one benefice, and has for many years. Only very recently, Watlingbury has been added, but the arrangements are complicated because of the distance the Minister has to travel between the villages. This proves there is no relationship between the villages of Mereworth and Watlingbury.

I have served Hadlow with Golden Green; Hadlow, Golden Green, Mereworth and West Peckham; then most recently Hadlow, Golden Green and East Peckham. All three combinations have worked extremely well.

Regards,

Cllr Jill Anderson,
Borough Councillor for Hadlow and East Peckham
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council