

**From:** Cllr SAinsley <CllrSAinsley@castlepoint.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 12 December 2022 22:57  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** Boundary review Castle Point Borough Council

**Categories:**

To whom it may concern

I am a Cllr in St Mary's Ward, which is one of the Wards, which will see major changes to its boundaries.

I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed changes to the Borough boundaries.

*Legislation states that our recommendations should not be based only on how many electors there are now, but also on how many there are likely to be in the five years after the publication of our final recommendations. We must also try to recommend strong, clearly identifiable boundaries for our wards*

*43 For the rest of Benfleet, we have amended the existing ward boundaries so that they better reflect where communities appear to lie, have more identifiable boundaries and have good electoral equality. **We propose to extend St Mary's ward to include those streets on the eastern side of High Road and to the east of Benfleet station.** We have amended the boundary of Appleton ward to shift slightly to the south which ensures, where possible, that it follows main roads. Furthermore, **we have amended ward boundaries near the western edge of the borough, to allow for the potential residential development east of the A130.***

Castle Point is currently in the process of preparing the Castle Point Plan. This new plan supersedes the 2019 plan, on which the Commission has based some of the changes, specifically the creation of a new Ward, to the West of Benfleet, called Tarpots.

This decision is presumptive and premature, given that the 2019 plan was rejected unanimously.

The area to the East of The A130, ( Land West of Benfleet) is Greenbelt. The Government has recently strengthened protection of Greenbelt Policy in the NPPF. Therefore, to base your boundary changes on presumed development on Greenbelt is the wrong approach.

*When carrying out an electoral review the Commission has three main considerations:*

1. *Improving electoral equality by equalising the number of electors that each councillor represents.*

I note that you intend to reduce the number of Councillors in Castle Point from 41 to 39. Both these seats will be lost in areas with the most need, (Canvey has some of the most deprived areas in the Borough)

It is not simply a case of looking at the ratio of Councillor to electorate, one must also look at the likely workload from that Ward.

Canvey Councillors are more involved and have more issues to deal with daily, than some of the mainland Cllrs. By increasing the number of electors, those same electors, will be underrepresented.

2. *Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity.*

Returning to my own Ward, I.e St Mary's. I note that your proposals , due to the creation of a new Ward , called Tarpots, shifts the boundary southwards and extends it , into what is now Boyce Ward.

Have you considered the socio-economic shift in the demographic?

The area currently covered by St Mary's Ward, is predominately working class.

The area currently known as Boyce Ward, which you propose to amalgamate with St Mary's is predominantly Middle to Upper class and includes some £m mansions.

This area has been a Conservative stronghold for decades.

The power and influence associated with this area, will undoubtedly disadvantage the proletariat.

Furthermore, the proposed naming for the other Wards in the Borough, completely misidentifies the area and has little bearing on local history or indeed local geography.

I would recommend the way forward, would be to consult with local historians on the naming of Wards.

For St Mary's Ward, I propose that the Boundary, should be aligned with the High Road and lie solely to the West and extend to London Road A13.

Appleton Ward, would be best aligned to the East of the B1006 High Road, extending as far as Kent's Hill Road and London Road , A13 to the North. This approach uses major roads to mark out the Ward boundaries.

### *3. Providing arrangements that support effective and convenient local government*

We all want to see effective local Government but it's not just a case of working out the numbers, local knowledge is key.

Kind regards

Cllr Sharon Ainsley St Mary's Ward

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