

Governance Committee

4. **Boundary Commission: Revised proposals for new constituency boundaries in the south east - RESPONSE LETTER SENT** (Pages 1 - 2)

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The Secretary to the England Boundary
Commission
35, Great Smith Street
LONDON
SW1 3BQ

Direct Line: 01732 227161
Ask for: Lee Banks
Email: lee.banks@sevenoaks.gov.uk
Date: 07/12/2017

Dear Sirs,

RE: Response to the Revised Proposals for new constituency boundaries in the South East

I write as Chairman of the Council's Governance Committee and am authorised by Full Council to make this representation on its behalf.

We note with satisfaction that most of the proposals that we made in response to the first consultation have been adopted.

However, the placing of the Hartley and Hodsoll Street ward in the proposed Gravesham constituency is a cause of concern. This ward is itself unsatisfactory and represents a triumph for numerical equality over common sense and local identity. Hodsoll Street is part of the Ash-cum-Ridley Parish, a unit with which local people can and do identify. There is no practical engagement between the communities of the isolated hamlet of Hodsoll Street and the village of Hartley (or with Gravesend).

It is submitted that the whole of the current Hartley and Hodsoll Street district ward can be included within the proposed Sevenoaks parliamentary constituency, whilst maintaining electorate numbers within the specified limit for both the proposed Sevenoaks and Gravesham constituencies.

In the interest of maintaining a clear identity for the electorate with each of the tiers of central and local government, we ask that the Hartley and Hodsoll Street ward be included within the proposed Sevenoaks parliamentary constituency.

Yours faithfully

Cllr Alan Pett

Chairman
Governance Committee,
Sevenoaks District Council

Member for Ash & New Ash Green

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