

## Submissions regarding Parliamentary Boundary Review 2018 – Sevenoaks

### Governance Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2016

Although I am broadly in agreement with the proposals for Sevenoaks Constituency put forward by the Boundary Commission for England I believe the following modifications would avoid breaking key local ties and take better consideration of local geographical considerations while still keeping Sevenoaks constituency within the necessary number of electors as set out in the primary legislation.

#### Counter-proposal

Ward	Boundary Commission's proposed seat	Counter-proposal	Electorate
<i>Ash and New Ash Green</i>	<i>Gravesham</i>	<i>Sevenoaks</i>	<i>4,513</i>
<i>Borough Green and Long Mill</i>	<i>Sevenoaks</i>	<i>Tonbridge and The Weald</i>	<i>5,258</i>
<i>Downs and Mereworth</i>	<i>Sevenoaks</i>	<i>Tonbridge and The Weald</i>	<i>3,305</i>

#### **Ash and New Ash Green**

Ash and New Ash Green is rural in character not urban and keeping the Parliamentary and District Council boundaries the same is always preferable as it aids identity and gives residents far greater clarity as to whom to turn to. There is a real danger, therefore, that if this ward is moved into Gravesham which is a fast-growing, urban area that the issues facing the residents of Ash and New Ash Green will be ignored and/or marginalised. Removing New Ash Green ward enables the entire Gravesham local authority to be contained

within one Parliamentary seat, as is the case at present, rather than two under the Commission's proposals.

### **Borough Green & Long Mill, Downs & Mereworth**

These two wards have no connection with Sevenoaks since the residents naturally look towards West and East Malling, Tonbridge and Kings Hill for shopping and services.

There is also a clear geographical separation between Sevenoaks and Borough Green in the form of the large woodland which runs all the way from Pillar Box lane along the A25 and almost up to Borough Green itself.

Putting these wards back into Tonbridge & Malling constituency would restore local ties between Borough Green and Long Mill and Downs and Mereworth wards and the town of Tonbridge, which are divided by the Commission's proposals.

The upshot of these changes would be that the number of Sevenoaks electors that would remain unchanged by the proposals would rise from 64,775 to 69,288 yet the overall number of electors would remain within the variance allowed at 72,561 as opposed to the 76,611 proposed by the Commission.

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