

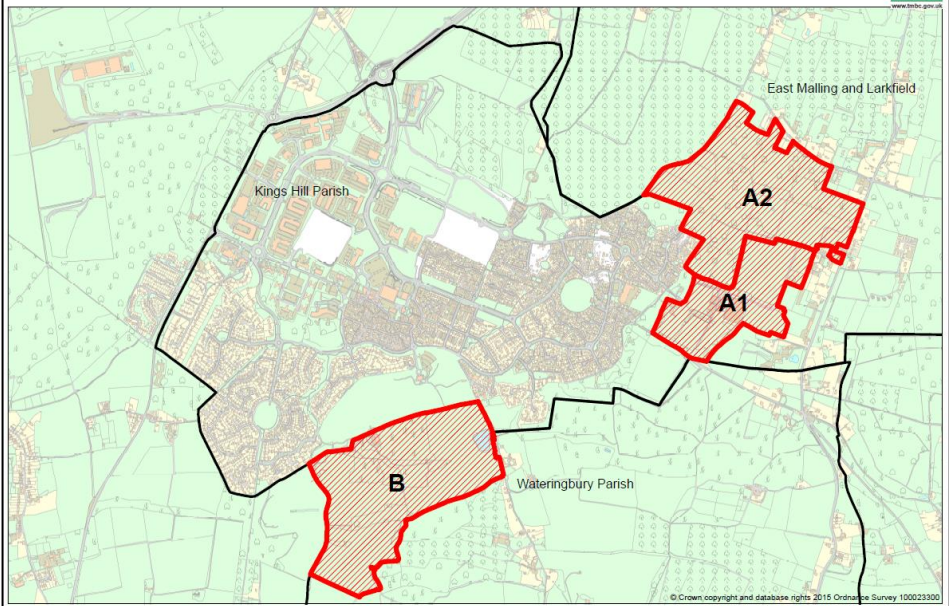
# Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

## Community Governance Review 2016

A review of parish electoral arrangements under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

**You are invited to comment on these proposals, and/or suggest alternative options by 9 May 2016.**

Community Governance Review 2016



**DRAFT PROPOSALS**

**For consultation**



## Summary

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council commenced this Community Governance Review in February 2016. The Borough Council propose to:

1. Amend the parish boundary between the parishes of between Kings Hill and East Malling & Larkfield parishes.

## Consultation

You are invited to comment on these proposals, and/or suggest alternative options by **9 May 2016**. Contact details are at the back of this document.

## The Community Governance Review

In February 2016, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council started a Community Governance Review<sup>1</sup> to consider the parish boundaries between Kings Hill and East Malling & Larkfield, and Kings Hill and Wateringbury parishes.

### *Why undertake a community governance review (CGR)?*

This review is being conducted to ensure that the community governance within the borough continues to be effective and convenient, and that it reflects the identities and interests of the local community.

The parish of Kings Hill was created in 1999 through The Tonbridge and Malling (Parishes) Order 1999. Since then the community has grown considerably and new residential, commercial and recreational facilities have been and continue to be built. The majority of this development has taken place within the

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<sup>1</sup> Pursuant to Part 4, Chapter 3 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

boundary of the parish. However, some recent development has extended beyond the current Kings Hill parish boundary.

KHPC have requested this review of boundaries to ensure the parish boundary reflects the interests and identities of the local communities. The ongoing development of Kings Hill has, until relatively recently, meant that clear boundaries of the extent of local development have not been available. Those boundaries are now clearer, allowing for a more definitive review to take place.

Recommendations made through a CGR ought to bring about improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

### *Scope of the review*

The Borough Council resolved to undertake a CGR to consider whether governance arrangements within the above parishes are (a) reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area; and (b) effective and convenient to the community in that area.

In doing so the review has taken into account (a) the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion; and (b) the size, population and boundaries of the local community or parish. Specifically, the review is considering:

#### PARISH BOUNDARIES

The parish boundaries between Kings Hill and East Malling & Larkfield parishes, and between Kings Hill and Wateringbury parishes.

### *Timetable for the review*

The review formally started on 2 February 2016 with the publication of the Terms of Reference (available from [www.tmbc.gov.uk/voting](http://www.tmbc.gov.uk/voting)). The draft proposals in this document are now open to consultation until **9 May 2016**, after which Final Proposals will be prepared and presented to the General Purposes Committee of the Borough Council in June 2016.

After formal agreement, we will publish a reorganisation Order.

Please note that parish boundaries will not change until after the completion of the review.

### **Statutory criteria**

It is important to note that the two statutory criteria for determining a Community Governance Review are set out in the Local Government & Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, which LGPIH states (part 4, chapter 3, paragraph 93) that

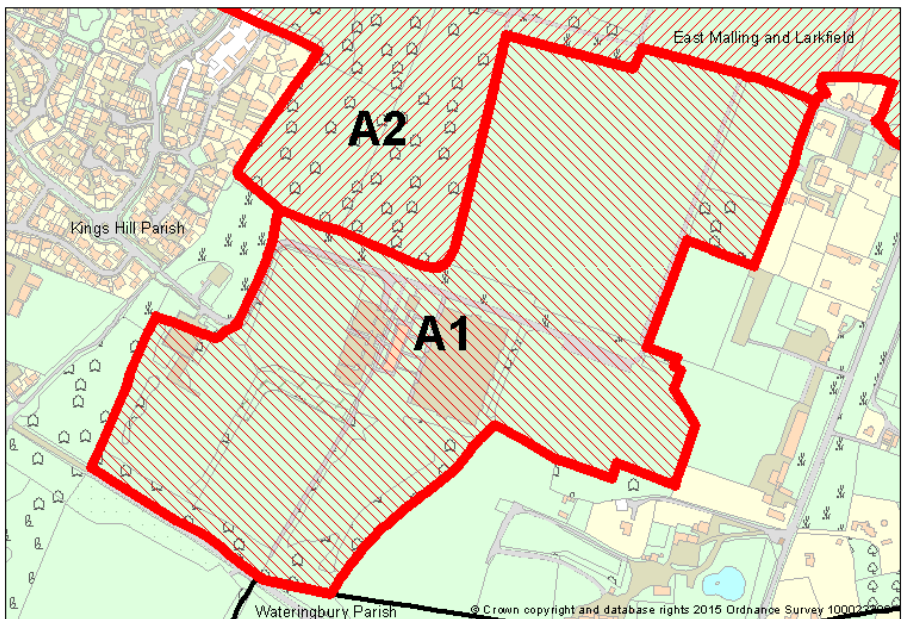
“The principal council must have regard to the need to secure that community governance within the area under review —

(a) reflects the identities and interests of the community in that area, and

(b) is effective and convenient.”

## Parish boundary – Proposal A1

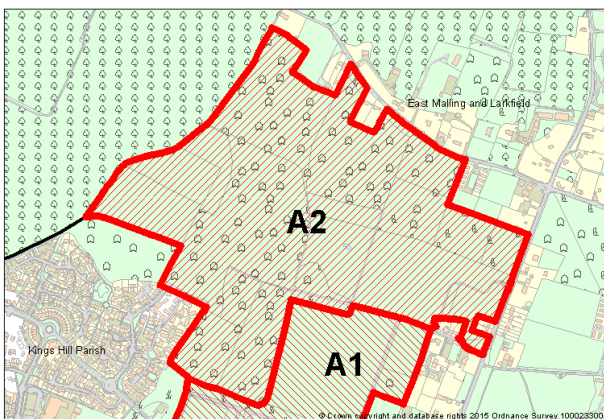
The Borough Council proposes that the parish boundary between Kings Hill and East Malling & Larkfield parishes be amended to include the area marked A1 on the map below within Kings Hill. This land is already, or very soon will be, used by residents of the parish of Kings Hill. It is accessible via Kings Hill parish, and is designed to serve the residents of that community. There are no residential properties in this area, and the only commercial properties are the Sports Park itself. KHPC have expressed a wish to use this as a facility for the Parish Council itself in future. Area A1 does meet the two statutory criteria.



## Parish boundary – Proposal A2

The Borough Council proposes that the parish boundary between Kings Hill and East Malling & Larkfield parishes be amended such that the area marked A2 on the map below remain within East Malling & Larkfield parish. We have been asked to consider, and therefore consult, on the possible inclusion of Area A2 within Kings Hill parish. However, we do not consider that it meets the statutory criteria. This is because it is not used solely by Kings Hill residents and so cannot be considered to “reflect the identities and interests of the [Kings Hill] community.” Ownership of the land does not in itself identify a community use, and therefore cannot be considered to be criteria enough to transfer the land to be included within Kings Hill parish.

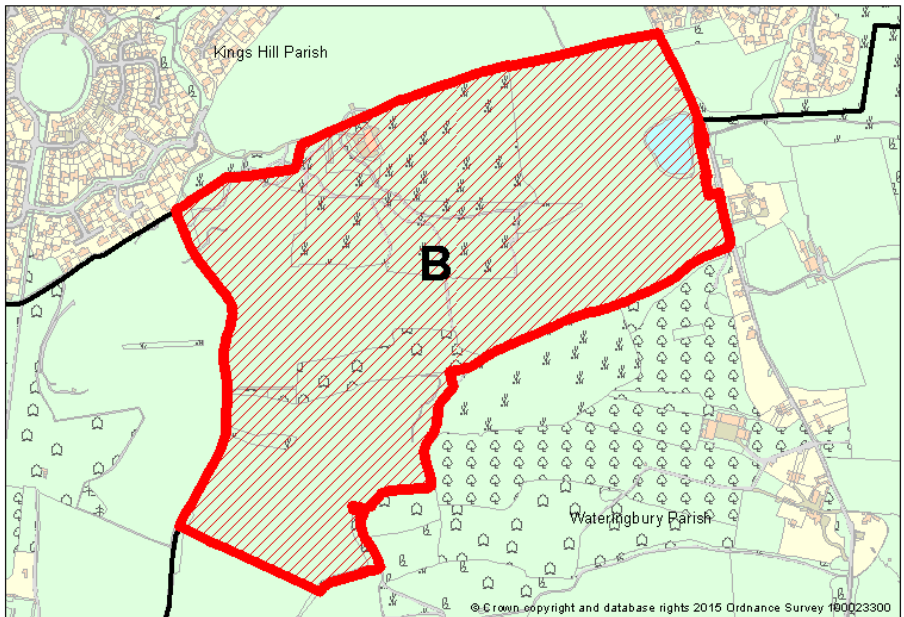
If future in-fill development were to take place, along The Heath or Watringbury Road, the properties would currently be within East Malling. They would be part of the East Malling community, neighboured by other East Malling properties. However, if the land were to move to Kings Hill, future in-fill developments would be part of Kings Hill parish, which would not be reflective of their community identity or interests. The land includes the country park, land identified through the Kings Hill Phase 3 Masterplan as being allocated as ‘Natural Green Space’, and other undeveloped open space and woodland. This land is served by footpaths and bridleways, which open it up for use by both Kings Hill and East Malling residents.



## Parish boundary – Proposal B

The Borough Council proposes that the parish boundary between Kings Hill and Wateringbury parishes marked B on the map below remain within Wateringbury. This land is part of the Kings Hill Golf Club (much of the rest is already in Kings Hill parish). Whilst users of the Golf Club are from a wider area than Kings Hill alone, it is accessible via Kings Hill parish. There are no residential properties in this area, and the only commercial properties are the facilities of the Golf Club itself.

However, if future in-fill development were to take place, along Canon Lane or the eastern edge of Danns Lane, the properties would currently be within Wateringbury. They would be part of the Wateringbury community, neighboured by other Wateringbury properties. However, if the land were to move to Kings Hill as set out, future in-fill developments would be part of Kings Hill parish, which would not be reflective of their community identity or interests.



## Contact Details

If you would like to comment on the proposals in this document, please submit your written comments no later than 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 by email to [voting@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:voting@tmbc.gov.uk). Alternatively your submission may be sent to:

Julie Beilby  
Chief Executive  
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council  
Gibson Building  
Gibson Drive  
Kings Hill  
West Malling  
Kent  
ME19 4LZ

Should you require any further information or need clarification on the review process please contact:

Richard Beesley  
Elections & Special Projects Manager

Telephone      01732 876022  
Email            [voting@tmbc.gov.uk](mailto:voting@tmbc.gov.uk)