

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**ELECTORAL REVIEW WORKING GROUP****28 June 2021****Report of the Chief Executive****Part 2 - Private****Non-Delegated****1 BOUNDARY COMMISSION REVIEW – WARDING PATTERNS SUBMISSION**

Following on from the Electoral Review Working Group on 10 June 2021, this report takes the feedback that was provided by Members in order to produce a submission to the consultation currently being undertaken Local Government Boundary Commission for England on future warding patterns in the borough.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Having concluded that they were “minded to recommend that 43 councillors should serve Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council” following the completion of Part 1 of the Boundary review process, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) commenced their consultation on future warding patterns on 11 May 2021. The LGBCE are looking to gather opinion, comments and information from the public on where new ward boundaries should be in the borough.

1.1.2 As part of this process, a report went to ERWG on 10 June 2021, setting out a range of possible options, in order to obtain the thoughts of Members on what future warding patterns could look like. These options helped to draw out some ‘key principles’ that have helped to give a steer as to how these final options have been pulled together.

1.1.3 Submissions on warding patterns need to be submitted to the LGBCE by 19 July 2021, and details on where to send comments are provided on the LGBCE website. Once all submissions have been received and considered by the LGBCE, they will then undertake a further consultation on their draft recommendations, which is scheduled to take place between 05 October and 13 December 2021. Publication of the final recommendations is scheduled to happen on 01 March 2022.

1.2 Feedback from ERWG on 10 June:

1.2.1 As stated in the previous report, there are 3 key considerations when pulling together future warding patterns – ‘Electoral Equality’, ‘Community Identity’ and ‘Convenient and Effective Local Government’.

1.2.2 The feedback from ERWG has helped to vastly strengthen the considerations regarding 'Community Identity' and 'Convenient and Effective Local Government' and created a number of 'key principles' that have been largely adhered to in order to ensure that a balance is struck between the 3 key considerations set out by the LGBCE. These 'key local criteria' are:

1. Parish boundaries should be respected where at all possible
2. The unparished area of Tonbridge along with Snodland, Larkfield and Kings Hill should all be **self-contained** as they each represent coherent community identities.
3. A number of parished areas have a **sybiotic relationship** with each other and, where at all possible, should be kept together in any future warding arrangements – these are:
 - Borough Green and Platt
 - Birling and Ryarsh
 - Addington and Trottiscliffe
 - Hadlow and East & West Peckham
 - Burham and Wouldham

1.2.3 A number of other comments were highlighted which have influenced the proposals as they now stand and these include:

- That 'Ightham, Wrotham and Stansted' has a coherent identity that looks more towards Addington and Trottiscliffe than it does towards Borough Green, Platt or Plaxtol.
- That East Malling being paired up with either Kings Hill or Ditton does not form a coherent identity.
- Watringbury being linked to Kings Hill does not make sense from a community identity perspective.
- That the area along the border between Ditton and South Aylesford forms less of a community divide and could therefore be flexed to accommodate a future warding pattern.
- That Ryarsh and Birling have stronger links to Leybourne than they do with Snodland.

1.2.4 The only issue that has proved slightly problematical is the area around Hadlow, East Peckham, West Peckham, Mereworth and Watringbury. The feedback from representatives of both Watringbury and 'Hadlow and East & West Peckham' felt

Mereworth should be linked to their areas. Each option threw up an issue, particularly if the integrity of parish boundaries is to be maintained:

Wateringbury – linking with Mereworth is feasible, but it then has a knock-on effect meaning that Hadlow and East & West Peckham would need to join with Plaxtol in order to achieve electoral equality, which not only isn't strong on the community identity but also has a knock-on effect for Hildenborough and Shipbourne, which falls below the 10% variance.

Hadlow and East & West Peckham – again, linking with Mereworth is feasible, but the area around Kings Hill needs to be arranged so that Wateringbury links with East Malling and West Malling, and Offham would need to join up with Borough Green and Platt. This may be deemed coherent, but they are not options that have been previously discussed.

1.3 Starting to translate the Key Principles into a future warding pattern:

1.3.1 Taking the above feedback from ERWG, the first stage is to look at what the Key Principles mean for the formation of particular wards. In doing so there are some clear building blocks:

- Tonbridge – self-contained (**12 Councillors**)
- Snodland – self-contained (**4 Councillors**)
- Kings Hill – self-contained (**3 Councillors**)
- Larkfield – self-contained (**3 Councillors**)
- Borough Green & Platt – symbiotic relationship (**2 Councillors**)
- Leybourne, Ryarsh and Birling – symbiotic relationship (**2 Councillors**)
- Ightham, Wrotham, Stansted, Addington and Trottiscliffe – symbiotic relationship (**2 Councillors**)
- Burham and Wouldham – symbiotic relationship, but would need to be joined with another area to meet electoral equality thresholds for **2 Councillors**. As the LGBCE don't like detached wards, the viable options would be joining with Eccles (2 Councillors), or joining with Blue Bell Hill and Walderslade (which would create 3 Councillors)
- Hadlow and East & West Peckham – symbiotic relationship, but would need to be joined with another area to meet electoral equality thresholds for **3 Councillors**. As the LGBCE don't like detached wards, the only three viable options are Plaxtol, Mereworth or Wateringbury. However, linking with Plaxtol would have a knock-on effect in creating a ward including Hildenborough and Shipbourne.

In total, these building blocks account for areas of the borough that could ultimately make up wards for **33-34 Councillors**.

- 1.3.2 In adhering to these building blocks, there are then clear impacts on the potential future warding patterns for the remainder of the Borough. Hildenborough would link with Shipbourne and Plaxtol not only out of geographical necessity but in order to reach electoral equality (**2 Councillors**). There are then a number of options for future warding patterns for much of the east of the Borough.

1.4 Potential Future Warding Pattern Options:

- 1.4.1 Given the above, and other physical constraints, there are relatively limited options as to how the remainder of the Borough could be allocated into future wards. A summary of each option is set out in more detail in Appendix 1.
- 1.4.2 **Option 1** has a wide number of strengths to it, specifically that it meets electoral equality standards (no wards beyond 10% variance), it meets most of the key principles. With East Malling not fitting coherently with Ditton or Kings Hill, and with Larkfield and Leybourne already warded, geographically the only option for East Malling is to link with Wateringbury, west Malling or both. In this option it links with both, and the knock-on effect is that Offham is linked with Borough Green and Platt.
- 1.4.3 Ditton is too small to form a ward in its own right and the only option is to link with part of Aylesford to create a 2 Councillor ward. The area of Aylesford to the south of the A20 is therefore linked to Ditton. A map showing this option is provided in Appendix 2.
- 1.4.4 **Option 1 Variant** is the same as Option 1, bar one change to the warding pattern to the Burham, Wouldham and Aylesford area. In essence, instead of Burham and Wouldham being linked to Eccles to create a 2 Councillor ward, this variant option shows Burham and Wouldham linked with Blue Bell Hill and Walderslade to create a 3 Councillor ward; and Eccles and Aylesford north of the A20 forming a 2 Councillor ward. A map showing this option is provided in Appendix 3.
- 1.4.5 **Option 2** also has a wide number of strengths to it. This option sees Wateringbury linked in with Hadlow and the Peckhams to create a 3 Councillor ward and East Malling linked to West Malling, Offham and Mereworth to also create a 3 Councillor ward. This also ensures Borough Green and Platt retains a coherent identity. A map showing this option is provided in Appendix 4.
- 1.4.6 **Option 2 Variant** takes the same approach to the Burham, Wouldham and Aylesford area as Option 1 Variant. A map showing this option is provided in Appendix 5.

1.5 Snodland and Tonbridge:

- 1.5.1 The LGBCE has made it very clear that they do not accept wards of more than 3 Councillors, as such further work is needed on the building blocks in order to break

down these particular building blocks into wards that the LGBCE would be willing to accept.

- 1.5.2 **Snodland:** there are effectively 2 options for Snodland – either to be split into 2x2 Councillor wards or to have one 3 Councillor ward and one 1 Councillor ward. As Snodland as a whole only just fits within the 10% variance for 4 Councillors (variance of 9%), it is important that the split is undertaken carefully so that it doesn't lead to one ward going beyond 10%.
- 1.5.3 On the basis that 2x2 Councillor wards creates a better balance, one possible way of achieving this is to use the existing wards as a starting point. However, as things stand, there would be insufficient electorate numbers in what is currently Snodland East and Ham Hill and as such some amendments to the boundaries would be required.
- 1.5.4 One way of potentially achieving this would be to move the following streets into the current Snodland East and Ham Hill ward from the current Snodland West and Holborough Lakes ward:
- Orchard Way and Meadow Walk
 - 66-92 and 102-216 Malling Road
 - Pout Road
 - 131-193 Snodland Road
 - 1-23 and 26-56 St Katherines Lane (including St Katherine's School)
 - Wyvern Close
- 1.5.5 If additional electors are required then the area of Bull Fields, Portland Place and Chapel Road could also be moved.
- 1.5.6 **Tonbridge:** whilst there appeared to be general agreement at the last Electoral Review Working Group regarding the view that Tonbridge should be self-contained, there are a number of ways in which the 12 Councillors covering the town could be apportioned. There could be 4x3 Councillor wards, 6x2 Councillors wards, a combination of 2 and 3 Councillor wards or even the creation of 1-member wards. Having provided a pattern of a 4x3 Councillor ward split in the previous paper (which created wards from Cage Green and Higham (Tonbridge North); Trench and Castle (Tonbridge West); Medway and Vauxhall North (Tonbridge East); and Judd and Vauxhall South (Tonbridge South)) a request was made to look at how a split comprising 6x2 Councillor wards could possibly work.
- 1.5.7 This exercise proved extremely challenging due to the need to ensure that the new wards being created were meaningful from a community identity perspective, and yet still acknowledge some of the natural barriers within the town which are

considered to be the main road and rail network and the River Medway (although it is recognised that there are points along each of this where movement is not inhibited). The most logical starting point for this work was to look at existing wards as an indication of where meaningful communities exist. However, to move from 7 wards to 6 wards in Tonbridge does create issues. Most notably, that none of the existing wards are large enough to meet the current threshold for being a 2-Councillor ward in their own right, and would be too large to be a 2-Councillor ward if they were joined with a neighbouring ward.

- 1.5.8 Much of the current ward layout does acknowledge barriers within the town, although there are areas where boundary lines appear more arbitrary. It is in these areas where there could be some flexibility with existing ward boundaries, but overall these minor adjustments are insufficient in size to create a quantum of electorate that would make up a new 2-Councillor ward.
- 1.5.9 As such, consideration is needed as to whether the Council would be content to submit a 4x3-Councillor ward layout as provided in the previous report and as set out in the appendices of this report.

1.6 Proposed Ward Names:

- 1.6.1 The LGBCE state that most often the names of ward are those proposed by Councils and communities that know their area well. Where wards remain unchanged, the existing name should normally be retained. Where a change is required, then the names need to be as distinct and short as possible. Compass point names can be used but only when they are relative to another compass point name (for example, Tonbridge North and Tonbridge South, or Snodland East and Snodland West).
- 1.6.2 Possible names for each ward have been provided in the Appendix 1 of this report. Any suggested amendments to this list or alternative names would be welcomed from the group.

1.7 Legal Implications

- 1.7.1 The LGBCE has functions under Part 3 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. Under S56(1) of the 2009 Act, the LGBCE must, from time to time, conduct a review of the area of each principal council, and recommend whether a change should be made to the electoral arrangements. In this regard, "electoral arrangements" means:

- The total number of members of the Council;
- The number and boundaries of electoral areas for purposes of the election of Councillors;
- The number of Councillors to be returned by any electoral area in that area;

- The name of any electoral area
- 1.7.2 The 2009 Act does not set out how many councillors each authority (or type of authority) will have. It is the LGBCE's responsibility to determine the appropriate number of councillors for each authority.
- 1.7.3 In making its recommendations, Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act requires the LGBCE to have regard to:
- (a) The need to secure that the ratio of the number of local government electors to the number of councillors is, as nearly as possible, the same in every electoral area of the council;
 - (b) The need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities and, in particular
 - (i) the desirability of fixing boundaries which are and will remain easily identifiable; and
 - (ii) the desirability of fixing boundaries so as not to break any localities
 - (c) The need to secure effective and convenient local government.

1.8 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.8.1 None at this stage.

1.9 Risk Assessment

1.9.1 Not Applicable

1.10 Equality Impact Assessment

1.8.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.11 Recommendations

1.11.1 That the report **BE NOTED**.

1.11.2 That the key principles, as set out in 1.2.2 **BE AGREED** for recommendation to General Purposes Committee.

1.11.3 That the Building Blocks, as set out in 1.3.1 **BE AGREED** for recommendation to General Purposes Committee, as a foundation for the Council submission to the LGBCE.

1.11.4 That the preferred option set out in this report **BE AGREED** for recommendation to General Purposes Committee.

1.11.5 That the approach to a future warding pattern in Snodland, as set out in this report **BE AGREED** for recommendation to General Purposes Committee.

1.11.6 That the approach to future warding patterns in Tonbridge **BE AGREED** for recommendation to General Purposes Committee.

Background papers:

None

contact: Jeremy Whittaker

Strategic
Manager

Economic

Regeneration

Julie Beilby, Chief Executive

RESTRICTED

APPENDIX 1 – ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS 1 & 2 (and Variants)

Option 1

Proposed Ward	Possible Alternative Name (suggestions welcomed)	Polling Districts	Electoral Equality					Community Identity
			Number of Electors 2027	Proposed Ward Councillor Numbers	Electors per Councillor	Average Electors per Councillor - 43	Variance	
Ightham, Wrotham, Stansted, Addington and Trottscliffe	Pilgrims Way Ward	TRA TRC TRB TDF TDA	4861	2	2430.5	2484.4	97.8%	Has a strong rural identity that is linked by the Pilgrims Way and has good connectivity between the villages within this ward. Wrotham and Ightham are the main settlements in the ward, and offer a range of facilities to the surrounding area. Wrotham School has a catchment area that covers the whole area and as such acts as a hub for secondary education in the area.
Borough Green, Platt and Offham	Borough Green and Offham	TAA TAB TDD	5444	2	2722	2484.4	109.6%	Borough Green has a vibrant High Street that acts as a draw for a relatively wide hinterland. Borough Green and Platt have a very strong connection with their two primary schools taking pupils from both areas. Borough Green Medical Practice has a catchment area that covers both Platt and Offham.
Leybourne, Ryarsh and Birling	Leybourne	TDB TDE TQB TQA	4886	2	2443	2484.4	98.3%	The rural settlements of Ryarsh and Birling have strong linkages with each other, being joined by the Birling/Ryarsh Road, and they have a much strong community connection to Leybourne than they do to Snodland, which is not only more urban in nature but has a much weaker road network connection.

Larkfield	Larkfield	CEA CFA	7430	3	2476.67	2484.4	99.7%	Larkfield acts as a single community linked by New Hythe and New Hythe Lanes. There is also a single Anglican church being Holy Trinity in New Hythe Lane called Larkfield Church. The schools serving Larkfield are situated off Swallow Road and many parents in both current wards send their children there. Larkfield Playing Fields are off New Hythe lane with a good network of paths linking them into all parts of Larkfield including over the footbridge mentioned. The same applies to the Larkfield allotments off Kingfisher Road and the halls either side of the road bridge in New Hythe Lane at Larkfield Village Hall and Church Farm are extensively used by organisations based on Larkfield as a whole, such as Larkfield Active Retirement Association (LARA); Larkfield Ladies Club; and Larkfield Community Group as examples.
Snodland (to be either 2x2 Councillor wards or a 3 and a 1 Councillor ward)	Snodland East and West	CHA CGA CGB	9046	4	2261.5	2484.4	91.0%	Snodland is a separate community in its own right, having an adopted Town Council in its name. Snodland is a single Anglican Church parish and has its own self-contained local facilities such as community centre; playing fields, parish run cemetery; town museum; central shopping centre; working men's club; and many Snodland based local organisations.
Tonbridge	Tonbridge North, East South and West	TBA TBB TMA TCA TCB TJA TJB TJC TNA	29309	12	2442.42	2484.4	98.3%	Has an extremely strong town identity built on years of history and as such should be self-contained in terms of warding patterns rather than create wards that bleed out into the surrounding rural area.

		<p>TNB TLB TLA TGA</p>						<p>Split into 4 wards:</p> <p>Tonbridge North – comprises the area of suburban Tonbridge that sits between the A26 and the A227, along with the surrounding rural fringe. It has facilities at Martin Hardie Way that sit centrally, including shops and a local church, and there are also two primary schools - Woodlands Infant and Junior School and Cage Green Primary school – and Hugh Christie Technology College which serve the local area.</p> <p>Tonbridge West – comprises the current Trench and Castle wards, which extends south to the River Medway and pushes up to the main road network to the East (A227, A26, High Street). Although the Hilden Brook forms part of the existing boundary between the current Trench and Castle wards, Darenth Avenue connects the two areas well, and they enjoy shared facilities, such as Long Mead Primary School, Tonbridge Farm Sportsground and Tonbridge Cricket Club which all sit centrally within this area.</p> <p>Tonbridge South – comprises the Judd ward and Vauxhall South. This area is defined by the River Medway to the North, the High Street and Pembury Road (A2014) and goes south to the borough boundary. It comprises a number of strong education institutions and local St Stephens Church. In order to accord more closely with natural barriers, the area to the South of Pembury Road and North of Springwell</p>
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								<p>Road that currently sites in Vauxhall North could be moved into Tonbridge South and still sit comfortably within the 10% variance.</p> <p>Tonbridge East – Consists of the existing Medway ward, which extends south beyond the railway line, and Vauxhall North. This area covers much of the commercial activity in the town along with much of the historic core, it is made up of a number of distinct communities in the town which feed off the A26. Again, in order to accord more closely with natural barriers, the area to the South of Pembury Road and North of Springwell Road that currently sites in Vauxhall North could be moved in to Tonbridge South and Tonbridge East would still sit comfortably within the 10% variance.</p>
Kings Hill	Kings Hill	TKA TKB	7662	3	2554	2484.4	102.8%	<p>Kings Hill is a separate community in its own right. It has its own Parish Council, community and education facilities and a strong centre with a variety of shops, restaurants, public house, and pharmacy. It is a relatively new and growing community.</p>
Hildenborough, Shipbourne and Plaxtol	Hildenborough and Stumble Hill	THB THA TAD TAC	5333	2	2666.5	2484.4	107.3%	<p>Although south east Hildenborough is suburban in nature, the majority of this area is rural. The area shares a number of facilities, for example Hildenborough Primary school catchment reaches in to Shipbourne Parish and Shipbourne School catchment goes as far as Hildenborough and Plaxtol, and sports clubs such as Plaxtol and Shipbourne Tennis Club (operating out of Shipbourne Village Hall) cover the area. The</p>

									road network within this area is quite rural in nature but relatively direct.
Hadlow, East Peckham, West Peckham and Mereworth	Hadlow and East Peckham	TKC TDC TDG TFC TFA TFB	7080	3	2360	2484.4	95.0%		Comprises 4 Parish Council areas that have a strong rural identity and are well connected through the A26 (Hadlow Road) and the A228. Both Hadlow and East Peckham have well-performing centres that attract a wide catchment.
West Malling, East Malling and Wateringbury	Malling and Wateringbury	TPA TEA TQC	8099	3	2699.67	2484.4	108.7%		East Malling and Wateringbury are directly linked via the Red Hill/Wateringbury Road and have much better connectivity with each other than they do with Kings Hill. East Malling and West Malling have a common history and are well connected by road and rail. West Malling has a vibrant village centre which acts as a hub for people in the surrounding area.
Burham, Eccles and Wouldham	Three Villages	CCB CCA CAC	5388	2	2694	2484.4	108.4%		Have been incorporated into one single ward in the past - these three villages share a common heritage and many shared facilities. The medical practice (currently based in both Eccles and Burham) extends to the whole area, and the catchment area for the three primary schools (at Peters Village, Burham and Eccles) all cater for children in other areas. The new community facilities in Peters Village (Wouldham Parish) will act as a further draw for residents in Eccles and Burham when they open up later on in 2021.

Ditton and South Aylesford	Ditton and South Aylesford	CDA CDB and part of CBA (south of A20)	4836	2	2418	2484.4	97.3%	Much of the current ward boundary between Ditton and the area of Aylesford south of the A20 is now relatively arbitrary with neighbours on the same street currently split between different wards. Woodlands shopping parade and nearby sports and community facilities (K Sports Cobdown and Ditton Community Centre) act as an attraction for the entire ward.
Aylesford, Blue Bell Hill and Walderslade	Aylesford North and Walderslade	CAD CAB CAA and part of CBA (north of A20)	7454	3	2484.67	2484.4	100.0%	All of these settlements are in Aylesford Parish. Walderslade and Blue Bell Hill have a strong connection predominantly through the strong road connections, but also through the catchment area of Tunbury Primary School which extends into Blue Bell Hill. The Rochester Road provides a direct link between Blue Bell Hill and Aylesford, which has facilities that serve the local area, as well Aylesford Priory (which also hosts a regular Farmers Market and attracts visitors from a wide catchment), local Anglican church and community facilities.
TOTAL			106828	43				

Option 1 Variant: As per Option 1 above but with the following amendments:

1. Removal of Burham, Eccles and Wouldham ward and Aylesford, Blue Bell Hill and Walderslade ward.
2. Replacement with:

Proposed Ward	Possible Alternative Name (suggestions welcomed)	Polling Districts	Electoral Equality				Community Identity	
			Number of Electors 2027	Proposed Ward Councillor Numbers	Electors per Councillor	Average Electors per Councillor - 43		Variance
Burham Wouldham Blue Bell Hill and Walderslade	Burham, Wouldham and North Aylesford	CCB CCA CAB CAD	7391	3	2463.67	2484.4	99.2%	Burham and Wouldham have a very close synergy and are well connected to Blue Bell Hill Village. Blue Bell Hill Village has strong connections to Walderslade through the road network and through the use of community facilities, for example, Tunbury Primary School in Walderslade having a catchment that extends into Blue Bell Hill.
Aylesford and Eccles	Aylesford and Eccles	CAC CAA and CBA north of A20	5451	2	2725.5	2485.4	109.7%	Have a strong relationship between the two areas with Eccles residents using the facilities in Aylesford, especially St Peters CofE Primary School, Aylesford Priory and other local community facilities.

Option 2:

Proposed Ward	Possible Name	Polling Districts	Electoral Equality				Community Identity	
			Number of Electors 2027	Proposed Ward Councillor Numbers	Electors per Councillor	Average Electors per Councillor - 43		Variance
Ightham, Wrotham, Stansted, Addington and Trottiscliffe	Pilgrims Way Ward	TRA TRC TRB TDF TDA	4861	2	2430.5	2484.4	97.8%	As per Option 1
Borough Green and Platt	Borough Green and Platt	TAA TAB	4783	2	2391.5	2484.4	96.3%	Borough Green has a vibrant High Street that acts as a draw for a relatively wide hinterland, including Platt. Borough Green and Platt also have excellent links between them, and share community facilities, for example there is a very strong connection demonstrated by their two primary schools each taking pupils from the other village.
Leybourne, Ryarsh and Birling	Leybourne	TDB TDE TQB TQA	4886	2	2443	2484.4	98.3%	As per Option 1
Larkfield	Larkfield	CEA CFA	7430	3	2476.67	2484.4	99.7%	As per Option 1
Snodland (to be either 2x2 Councillor wards or a 3 and a 1)	Snodland East and West	CHA CGA CGB	9046	4	2261.5	2484.4	91.0%	As per Option 1

Councillor ward)								
Tonbridge	Tonbridge North, East South and West	TBA TBB TMA TCA TCB TJA TJB TJC TNA TNB TLB TLA TGA	29309	12	2442.42	2484.4	98.3%	As per Option 1
Hadlow, East and West Peckham and Wateringbury	Hadlow, Peckham and Wateringbury	TPA TFA TDG TFC TFB	7892	3	2630.67	2484.4	105.9%	Hadlow and East and West Peckham have a long-standing close relationship. Hadlow and East Peckham also have centres that attract people from a relatively wide catchment area. Wateringbury has a direct link to East Peckham via the Maidstone Road and Wateringbury Surgery has a catchment that covers East Peckham.
Kings Hill	Kings Hill	TKA TKB	7662	3	2554	2484.4	102.8%	As per Option 1
Hildenborough, Shipbourne and Plaxtol	Hildenborough and Stumble Hill	THB THA TAD TAC	5333	2	2666.5	2484.4	107.3%	As per Option 1
Mallings, Mereworth and Offham	Malling	TEA TQC TDD TDC TKC	7948	3	2649.33	2484.4	106.6%	Has strong rail links between East and West Malling, and good road links supported by the A228. West Malling acts as a centre for this area, attracting people in from Mereworth, Offham and East Malling. The Malling School (secondary school) in East Malling has a catchment that covers a large part of the ward, and Offham Primary School covers the four main settlements in the ward.

Burham Wouldham and Eccles	Three Villages	CCA CCB CAC	5388	2	2694	2484.4	108.4%	As per Option 1
Aylesford, Blue Bell Hill and Walderslade	Aylesford North and Walderslade	CAD CAB CAA and part of CBA (north of A20)	7454	3	2484.67	2484.4	100.0%	As per Option 1
Ditton and South Aylesford	Ditton and South Aylesford	CDA CDB and part of CBA (south of A20)	4836	2	2418	2484.4	97.3%	As per Option 1
TOTAL			106828	43				

Option 2 Variant: As per Option 2 above but with the following amendments:

1. Removal of Burham, Eccles and Wouldham ward and Aylesford, Blue Bell Hill and Walderslade ward.
2. Replacement with:

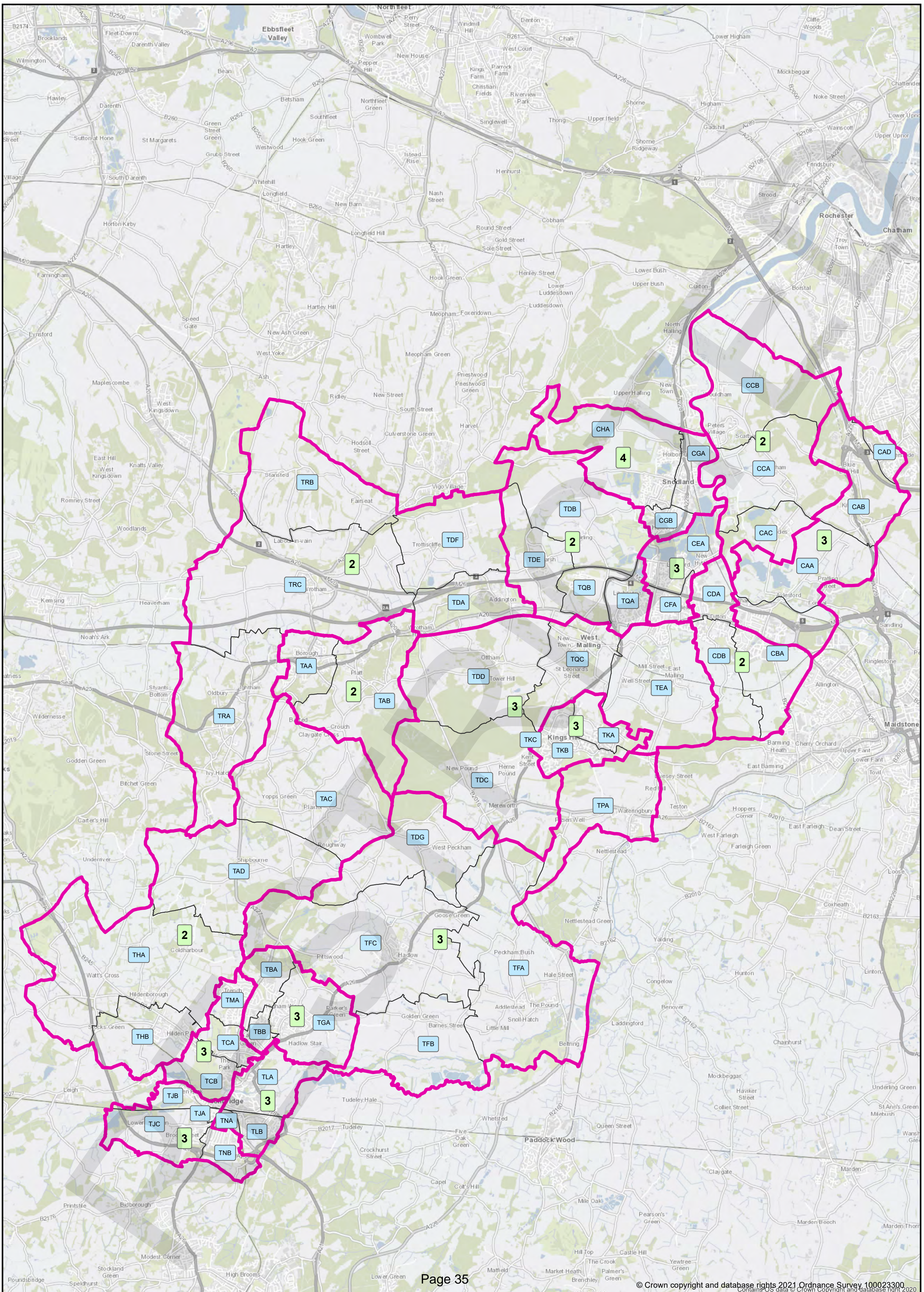
Proposed Ward	Possible Alternative Name (suggestions welcomed)	Polling Districts	Electoral Equality				Community Identity	
			Number of Electors 2027	Proposed Ward Councillor Numbers	Electors per Councillor	Average Electors per Councillor - 43		Variance
Burham Wouldham Blue Bell Hill and Walderslade	Burham, Wouldham and North Aylesford	CCB CCA CAB CAD	7391	3	2463.67	2484.4	99.2%	Burham and Wouldham have a very close synergy and are well connected to Blue Bell Hill Village. Blue Bell Hill Village has strong connections to Walderslade through the road network and through the use of community facilities, for example, Tunbury Primary School in Walderslade having a catchment that extends into Blue Bell Hill.
Aylesford and Eccles	Aylesford and Eccles	CAC CAA and CBA north of A20	5451	2	2725.5	2485.4	109.7%	Have a strong relationship between the two areas with Eccles residents using the facilities in Aylesford, especially St Peters CofE Primary School, Aylesford Priory and other local community facilities.

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OPTION 2



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