

## **The Final Recommendations of Ashford Borough Council**

### **Part One**

#### **Existing Parishes**

**1. Aldington & Bonnington**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**2. Appledore**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**3. Bethersden**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. However, the Parish boundary would be affected by the recommendation set out at paragraph 26.2.

**4. Biddenden**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**5. Bilsington**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**6. Boughton Aluph & Eastwell**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**7. Brabourne**

7.1 The Parish Council has proposed the inclusion of Brabourne House within the Parish, it is currently within the Parish of Hastingleigh. This amendment is shown on Plan 1 in the Plans pack. One property and 2 electors would be affected. However, the current boundary runs along the road and this is a recognised boundary feature and to amend the boundary so that it goes around one property would be against the guidance. The Borough Council is not recommending amending this boundary at this time.

7.2 The Parish Council has proposed moving the boundary with Monks Horton Parish so that it runs along Fiddling Lane. This is the Borough boundary as well as the parish, and as a result we are not able to amend it as part of this review. We could request that a principal area review is carried out but the Boundary Commission is unlikely to do this except in extreme circumstances.

7.3 The Brabourne and Smeeth Community Led Plan Delivery Team have made a submission suggesting that the two Parish Councils are merged to form a new Parish Council.

This proposal has come forward as a result of the adoption of a joint Community Led Plan for both Parish areas. As part of the Community Led Plan consultation process, the Parishes sent out a questionnaire to all of the households in the Parish areas. This included a question on whether the two Parish Councils could be combined to form a single parish council. A total of 1,074 questionnaires were distributed and 248 returned. Of those 248, 222 answered this specific question and of those 150 opted to combine the Parish Councils and 72 chose the existing set up. That is 67% of the households that responded were in favour, which is 13% of the total number of households surveyed.

The villages of Brabourne and Smeeth are conjoined and the current parish boundaries are shown on Plan 2 in the plans pack. Brabourne consists of 1,104 electors and Smeeth 714.

The Borough Council is supportive of the ambition to form one Parish Council, particularly in light of the location of the two villages. However, the Borough Council is recommending that the two parishes are grouped rather than merged. A Grouping Order under section 11 of the Local Government Act 1972 can be applied for by the Parish Councils at any time and does not have to form part of a Community Governance Review.

As a result, the Borough Council is recommending that it works with the Parish Councils to pursue a grouping order if desired in due course and outside of this Review.

**8. Brook**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**9. Challock**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**10. Charing**

10.1 The Parish Council has proposed an increase in the number of parish councillors for the Charing Parish Ward from 10 to 12. The reason that the Parish Council gives for this request is that new developments in the area, and an added workload mean that the community would be better served with more councillors. At the elections in May 2015, 8 councillors were elected and two vacancies remain, however during the previous term there were no vacancies.

The current electorate of the Charing Ward is 2,061. The guideline number of councillors for an electorate of this size is 9-10. 12 councillors is the recommended number for an electorate of 4,400, which even allowing for development in the Parish, is still significantly more than the current electorate.

As a result, the Borough Council does not feel that there is sufficient evidence to justify increasing the number of councillors at this time.

10.2 The Parish boundary with Egerton would be affected by the recommendation set out in paragraph 13.

10.3 The Parish boundary with Little Chart Parish would be affected by the recommendation set out at paragraph 21.

**11. Chilham**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**12. Crundale**

Crundale does not have a parish council as it has an electorate of 148, which is below the minimum number required by statute. The Borough Council has not received any submissions requesting the creation of a parish council and so is recommending no change.

**13. Egerton**

The Parish Council has proposed the inclusion of the properties Woodside, High Banks and Horseshoe Cottage within the Parish. These properties are currently in Charing Parish. This amendment is shown on Plan 3 in the plans pack. Three properties and 6 electors would be affected. The recommendation would affect the Borough ward boundaries of Weald North and Weald Central.

The Borough Council is recommending the amendment to the boundary as shown on Plan 3.

**14. Godmersham**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**15. Great Chart with Singleton**

15.1 A previous Member has suggested that the south-east boundary of the Parish with Beaver Ward be amended to include 16 & 17 Lodge Close and 1-10 The Burrows within the Parish. These properties are currently within the un-parished urban area. This amendment is shown on Plan 4 in the plans pack. Twelve properties would be affected but as these properties have only recently been built there are no electors registered at them. The recommendation would affect the Borough ward boundaries of Beaver and Singleton South.

The Borough Council is recommending the amendment to the Parish boundary as shown on Plan 4.

15.2 It has been suggested that the boundary of the Parish Ward of Singleton South with the Parish Ward of Great Chart with Singleton

North be amended as shown on Plan 5. 205 properties and 417 electors would be affected. This is a Parish Ward boundary amendment so the electors will remain in the Parish of Great Chart and Singleton. The Borough Ward boundary between the wards of Great Chart and Singleton North and Singleton South would be affected. The proposal would position the boundary on a major road, which is a clear boundary feature between the two areas.

The Borough Council is recommending the amendment to the Parish Ward boundary as shown on Plan 5.

- 15.3 The Parish Council has submitted a proposal to create a new parish to reflect the development at Chilmington Green. The boundaries of the Parish Council's proposed new parish area is shown on Plan 6 of the plans pack.

Whilst the Borough Council recognises the need to acknowledge and reflect the Chilmington Green development in this Review, it is not possible to create a new parish area for Chilmington Green at this time. To do so would create a parish of 77 electors, which is below the statutory minimum number of electors required to have a Parish Council. In addition, there is the possibility that such a move would disenfranchise these 77 electors as they would no longer be represented by an elected body at parish level, currently they are represented by the Parish Council.

The Borough Council does think that it would be appropriate at this stage to create a Chilmington Green Parish Ward to sit within Great Chart and Singleton Parish. This could go on to form a new parish area of Chilmington Green in a future Community Governance Review once the development had been commenced and the number of electors resident in the new ward had increased beyond 150.

In order to reflect the development proposals, including the proposed Community Management Organisation, it is recommended that the boundary of the new Parish Ward is the same as the development boundary for planning purposes. This means that the Parish boundaries with Kingsnorth Parish and Shadoxhurst Parish will be amended as shown on Plan 7.

This would create the following wards for the Parish:

<b>Parish Ward</b>	<b>Current Electorate</b>	<b>No. Parish Councillors</b>	<b>Proposed electorate</b>	<b>Proposed No. Parish Councillors</b>
Chilmington Green	N/A	N/A	77 to rise to 1,000 in next 5 years (based on projected 400 new dwellings)	1
Great Chart with Singleton North	2,710	5	2,216	5
Singleton South	2,405	6	2,822	7

The Borough Council is recommending:

- (a) That the boundaries of Great Chart and Singleton Parish with Kingsnorth Parish and Shadoxhurst Parish are moved as shown on Plan 7;
- (b) The creation of a new Chilmington Green Parish Ward as shown on Plan 8;
- (c) A parish councillor for the new Chilmington Green Parish Ward and an additional parish councillor for the Singleton South Parish Ward.

**16. Hastingleigh**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**17. High Halden**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**18. Hothfield**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**19. Kenardington**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**20. Kingsnorth**

20.1 The Parish Council has suggested reviewing its boundaries once the Local Plan has been completed and any new development sites identified. In the interim period, the Parish Council has requested an

increase in the number of parish councillors from 10 to 12 to reflect the recent growth in the Parish.

The Borough Council recognises that it will be appropriate to review the boundaries of the Parish and agrees with the Parish Council that it would be sensible to carry out a further review once the Local Plan has been published.

In the interim period, the Borough Council must have consideration of electoral equality for the electorate of the Parish and it would be appropriate to increase the number of Parish Councillors at this time.

Kingsnorth Parish has 7 existing wards and consists of 10 councillors. The guidelines suggest that 15-16 councillors would be appropriate for the current size of the Parish. The electorate is set to increase further as the remainder of the Bridgefield development commences in due course. At the elections in May 2015, 6 councillors were elected unopposed and the Parish Council has subsequently co-opted 3 councillors and has 1 vacancy. During the previous term there were no vacancies.

The proposals in the table below take into consideration the recommendations made elsewhere in these draft recommendations.

<b>Parish Ward</b>	<b>Current Electorate</b>	<b>No. Parish Councillors</b>	<b>Proposed electorate</b>	<b>Proposed No. Parish Councillors</b>
Bridgefield	540	None	540	1
Kingsnorth Village	1,312	1	735	1
Park Farm North	1,603	2	1,603	2
Park Farm South	2,115	2	2,115	3
Stubbs Cross	232	1	232	1
Washford Farm	1,162	2	1,162	2
Brisley Farm	1,016	1	1,016	1
Westhawk	941	1	941	1

The Borough Council is therefore recommending:

- (a) The creation of a new Bridgefield Parish Ward as shown on Plan 9;
- (b) A parish councillor for the new Bridgefield ward;
- (c) An increase in the number of councillors for the Park Farm South Ward of 2 to 3.

- 20.2 A boundary change is recommended to the boundary of the Parish with the boundary of the South Willesborough Ward, as shown on Plan 10

of the plans pack. No properties are affected, but it moves the boundary to the road, which is a sensible recognised boundary feature.

The Borough Council is recommending the amendment to the Parish boundary as shown on Plan 10.

- 20.3 A boundary change is recommended to the boundary of the Kingsnorth Village Ward and the Stubbs Cross Ward. No properties are affected and no electors.

The Borough Council is recommending the amendment to the Parish ward boundary as shown on Plan 11.

- 20.4 The Parish boundary would be affected by the recommendation set out at paragraph 15.3.

- 20.5 The Parish boundary would be affected by the recommendation set out at paragraph 22.

## **21. Little Chart**

The Parish Council requested through a Member that the boundary of the Parish with Charing Parish to be moved so that the properties “Memories” and Bridgend Farmhouse on Hurstford Lane are included within Little Chart rather than Charing Parish. This amendment is shown on Plan 12 in the plans pack, two properties and 3 electors would be affected.

The Borough Council is recommending the amendment to the Parish boundary as shown on Plan 12.

## **22. Mersham & Sevington**

Both the Parish Council and Ward Member have requested that the boundary should be amended so that the Finberry development is wholly included within the Parish. The new development of Finberry at Cheesemans Green, is located on the boundary of the Parish with Kingsnorth Parish. The amendment is shown on Plan 13 in the plans pack. 57 properties and currently 37 electors would be affected, although it is anticipated that a lot more electors will be registered soon as properties are completed.

Due to the increase in population, it is necessary to consider the number of councillors that will be required to maintain the electoral equality in the Parish and the recommendation is set out below.

<b>Parish Ward</b>	<b>Current Electorate</b>	<b>No. Parish Councillors</b>	<b>2019 Forecast Electorate</b>	<b>Proposed No. Councillors</b>
Mersham	880	7	<880	6
Sevington North	240	2	<240	2
Sevington South	39	1	<120	2

The Borough Council is therefore recommending:

- (a) The amendment to the boundary of the Parish as shown on Plan 13;
- (b) A reduction to the number of councillors for the Mersham ward of 1, to 6;
- (c) An increase in the number of councillors for the Sevington South ward of 1 to 2.

**23. Molash**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**24. Newenden**

24.1 A submission was received from the Parish Council to amend the boundary of the Parish with Sandhurst Parish, which is in Tunbridge Wells. This is the Borough boundary as well as the parish, and as a result we are not able to amend it as part of this review. We could request that a principal area review is carried out but the Boundary Commission is unlikely to do this except in extreme circumstances.

24.2 A submission was received from the Parish Council to amend the boundary of the Parish and Northiam Parish, which is in Rother, East Sussex. This is the Borough boundary as well as the parish, and as a result we are not able to amend it as part of this review. We could request that a principal area review is carried out but the Boundary Commission is unlikely to do this except in extreme circumstances.

**25. Orlestone**

Whilst no submission has been made by the Parish Council, the Borough Council is aware that the current boundary with Warehorne has caused confusion at recent elections when electors have visited the wrong polling station because they believe they are part of the Hamstreet community which falls within Orlestone parish.

An amendment to the boundary is shown on Plan 14 of the plans pack, and suggests a new boundary. 25 properties and 45 electors would move from Warehorne Parish to Orlestone Parish. 5 properties and 6 electors would move from Orlestone Parish to Warehorne Parish.

**26. Pluckley**

26.1 The Parish Council has requested a reduction in the number of parish councillors from 9 to 7. The Parish has an electorate of 898 and having 7 councillors is within the guidelines for an electorate of this size.

The Borough Council is recommending a reduction in the number of Parish councillors for Pluckley Parish to 7.

26.2 A submission has been received from the Parish Council to amend the boundary of the Parish with Bethersden as shown on Plan 15 in the



plans pack. No properties and no electors are affected the Borough Ward would also not be affected.

The Borough Council is recommending the amendment to the Parish boundary as shown on Plan 15.

**27. Rolvenden**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**28. Ruckinge**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**29. Shadoxhurst**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. However, the Parish boundary would be affected by the recommendation set out at paragraph 15.3.

**30. Smarden**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**31. Smeeth**

The Parish Council made a joint submission with Brabourne Parish Council which is detailed at paragraph 1.3 above.

**32 Stanhope**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**33. Stone-Cum-Ebony**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**34. Tenterden Town Council**

The Town Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the town council boundary.

**35. Warehorne**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. However, the Parish boundary would be affected by the recommendation set out at paragraph 25.

**36. Westwell**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make, but asked that if any changes were proposed that they had at least 2 months in which to consult the residents of the current Westwell Parish. The timetable for the Community Governance Review allows 3 months for the next consultation period.

A submission was received from the Sandyhurst Lane Residents Association, requesting that the Westwell Parish Boundary be moved to include the

residents of Sandyhurst Lane, as shown on Plan 16 in the plans pack. The residents association carried out a survey and asked the question of its 285 residents "Do you want to become part of Westwell Parish?" 145 responses were received of which 115 said yes to joining Westwell.

Currently the boundary runs down the centre of Sandyhurst Lane and residents on opposite sides of the road are in different parishes and borough wards. Central Ashford Community Forum also recommended transferring residents of Hoads Wood Gardens and Potters Close to Westwell Parish along with those of Sandyhurst Lane.

145 properties and 319 electors would be affected.

Following consideration of the consultation responses, the Borough Council is recommending the amendment to the Parish boundary as shown on Plan 16.

**37. Wittersham**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**38. Woodchurch**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**39. Wye with Hinxhill**

The Parish Council had no proposals to make. The Borough Council is recommending no change to the Parish boundary.

**Part Two**

**The currently unparished areas**

For ease of reference we have used the current Urban Forum titles to describe each area.

**40. Central Ashford**

The Central Ashford Forum made a submission requesting that the Borough Council recommend creating a community council for its area. The Forum submitted details of a leafleting campaign that it has carried out where 570 people (approximately 5.4% of the electorate) said they were in favour of a community council.

However, as a result of the consultation responses received, the Borough Council is not recommending the creation of a community council for the Central Ashford area.

**41. Kennington**

The Kennington Forum submitted a petition signed by 1,090 electors and made a submission in support of the creation of a community council for its area.

In accordance with the guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Borough Council is recommending the creation of a Kennington Community Council. The recommended boundaries for this community council are shown on Plan 18 and include the Polling Districts of KE1, KE2, LBF1, LBF 2, BAE3, BY1, BO1, part of BO2 and part of NW1. An electorate of 8,291 will be affected.

The boundary of the proposed area with NW1 has been drawn to reflect the amendment to the County Division boundary currently proposed by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England as part of their review of Kent County Council's boundaries. It is likely that, if this amendment is accepted as part of the County review, the Commission will make a similar amendment when reviewing the Borough boundaries in 2016.

In accordance with section 87 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Borough Council is recommending:

- 41.1 That a new parish area is created as shown on Plan 18 and called the Kennington parish area;
- 41.2 That the new parish area should have a parish council;
- 41.3 That the new parish council should have an alternative style and be known as Kennington Community Council;

Further in accordance with section 89 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and consequential to the recommendation set out at 41.2 above the Borough Council is recommending:

- 41.4 That the elections to the Kennington Community Council take place in 2019;
- 41.5 That the number of councillors to be elected to the Kennington Community Council is 16;
- 41.6 That the Community Council be warded as follows to reflect the Borough Council ward boundaries:

<b>Borough Ward Name</b>	<b>Community Ward Name</b>	<b>Electorate</b>	<b>No. Councillors</b>
Part of Bockhanger	Grosvenor Hall	1,645	3
Kennington	Kennington	1,896	4
Little Burton Farm	Little Burton Farm	2,262	4
Bybrook	Bybrook	1,975	4
Part of Boughton Aluph & Eastwell	Kennington North	513	1
Part of North Willesborough	Becomes part of Kennington Community Ward	0	-

**42. North Willesborough**

The North Willesborough Forum, a part of the Willesborough Urban Forum, submitted a petition signed by 751 electors and made a submission in support of the creation of a community council for its area.

However, as a result of the consultation responses received, the Borough Council is not recommending the creation of a community council for the Central Ashford area.

**43. South Willesborough & Newtown**

The South Willesborough & Newtown Group, a part of the Willesborough Urban Forum, submitted a petition signed by 502 electors (15.6%) and made a submission in support of the creation of a community council for its area.

In accordance with the guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government, the Borough Council is recommending the creation of a South Willesborough & Newtown Community Council. The recommended boundaries for this community council are shown on Plan 20 and include the Polling Districts of AG1, part of SW1 and part of HI2. An electorate of 3,095 will be affected.

In accordance with section 87 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the Borough Council is recommending:

- 43.1 That a new parish area is created as shown on Plan 20 and called the South Willesborough and Newtown parish area;
- 43.2 That the new parish area should have a parish council;
- 43.3 That the new parish council should have an alternative style and be known as South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council;

Further in accordance with section 89 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, and consequential to the recommendation set out at 43.2 above the Borough Council is recommending:

- 43.4 That the elections to the South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council take place in 2019;
- 43.5 That the number of councillors to be elected to the South Willesborough and Newtown Community Council is 11;
- 43.6 That the Community Council be warded as follows to reflect the Borough Council ward boundaries:

<b>Borough Ward Name</b>	<b>Community Ward Name</b>	<b>Electorate</b>	<b>No. Councillors</b>
Part of South Willesborough	South Willesborough	2,476	8
Part of Aylesford Green	Newtown	619	3
Part of Highfield	Becomes part of South Willesborough ward	2	-

**44. South Ashford**

The South Ashford Forum made a submission requesting that the Borough Council recommend creating a community council for its area.

However, as a result of the consultation responses received, the Borough Council is not recommending the creation of a community council for the Central Ashford area.

These final recommendations are published on [ ].