

**480/17-18. LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND (LGBCE) – DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DARTFORD.**

Members considered the draft recommendations for Dartford and discussed the best way for the Town Council to collate a response before the 9 April 2018 deadline.

Members agreed that the previous Working Group should formulate a draft response for consideration by full Council at a Special Town Council meeting to be held at 7pm, and prior to the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting, on 22 March 2018. The Working Group membership is: Councillor Mrs S P Butterfill, Councillor P M Harman, Councillor B E Read and Councillor S J Ryan.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Working Group, as detailed above, formulate a draft response for consideration by full Council at a Special Meeting to be held at 7pm on 22 March 2017.

**481/17-18. DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL – COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW.**

Members discussed the letter received from the Electoral Services Manager (DBC), dated 15 January 2018.

After consideration it was agreed the Working Group also tasked with producing a draft response to the LGBCE Draft Recommendations for Dartford (minute 480/17-18), be tasked with formulating a draft submission to Stage 1 of the process for consideration by full Council at a Special Town Council meeting to be held at 7pm, and prior to the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting, on 22 March 2018. The Working Group membership is: Councillor Mrs S P Butterfill, Councillor P M Harman, Councillor B E Read and Councillor S J Ryan.

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**T/C DRAFT**

Special T/C 22/3/18

**DRAFT to Local Government Boundary Commission England (LGBCE)**

Dear LGBCE

Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council (The Town Council), thank you for your draft recommendations on the proposed Borough ward boundaries for Ebbsfleet, Greenhithe, Knockhall and Swanscombe.

The Town Council believe that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has achieved a forward thinking solid evaluation of reviewing all of the evidence supplied, together with the key factors of good electoral equality, historic elements to the area and existing/emerging communities.

**Draft Proposals for Borough Wards.**

We credit and accept your proposed ward boundaries are correct and accurate and that we would not seek to see any further changes. The Town Council therefore supports the Borough ward boundary recommendations for Ebbsfleet, Greenhithe, Knockhall and Swanscombe.

We agree three members for Ebbsfleet, three for Greenhithe & Knockhall and two for Swanscombe is the correct balance.

Your recommendations will enable stronger links for residents and will give strength to continue formally with greater support to the local community and truly reflect the needs of the growing population of the area.

**Draft Proposals for Parish Wards.**

It is noted in the report for draft proposals for Parish wards that 'under the 2009 Act you only have the power to make changes to Parish electoral arrangements where these are as a direct consequence of your recommendations for principal authority warding arrangements. However, Dartford Borough Council has powers under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 to conduct community governance reviews to effect changes to parish electoral arrangements'.

We note and understand the criteria and your proposed ward boundaries with regard to LGBCE having the statutory criteria set out in Schedule 2 to the 2009 Act. We welcome that you have provided the revised Parish electoral arrangements for Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council.

**DRAFT**

We are certain your proposals for the Parish boundaries are correct and accurate, as such we would not seek to see any further changes. The Town Council therefore supports the Parish ward boundary recommendations for Ebbsfleet, Greenhithe & Knockhall and Swanscombe.

Also, we agree to the Parish member numbers of seven for Ebbsfleet, seven for Greenhithe & Knockhall and six for Swanscombe.

Your recommendations will enable us to continue to build and develop the existing relationships between the new Ebbsfleet community, the almost unchanged Swanscombe community with the evolving Greenhithe & Knockhall communities. Your approach enables us to continue to build ties between the old and the new to reflect the changing needs of our whole community.

### **Further Observations.**

We would draw your attention to the value of the combined villages into a single Town Council to the East of Dartford. Given that our area is at the heart of Dartford Borough's population growth over the next ten years, it is essential that we have a strong Town Council that can speak for all parts of the community.

That it has the scale to meet diverse needs and the resources to provide so many of the new community facilities that will be a legacy of the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC) and its development.

As of February 2018, the tailored review of the EDC by the Department of Communities, Local Government and also Housing recommended (26), the EDC needs **"to develop a community focus and formalised programme of engagement with an appropriate skilled resources."** We believe that there is no more effective or low cost option to achieve this than working through the Town Council.

In conclusion, we are convinced, given the rapid and demanding change our community faces, the Council's parish boundary should remain intact and take in the wards you have identified as Ebbsfleet, Greenhithe & Knockhall and Swanscombe to maintain continuity.

Thank you for giving the Town Council the opportunity to put forward our views and in return, we are always available for further discussion.

Yours faithfully,

Councillor Ms L M Cross  
Town Mayor 2017- 2018

LGBCE Recommendation Response vo.2

*DRAFT*

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**DRAFT to Dartford Borough Council**

Dear Ms Pegler

**Re: Community Governance Review**

Thank you for your letter dated 15 January 2018, informing Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council (S&GTC) that Dartford Borough Council (DBC) is separately undertaking a Community Governance Review (CGR).

I am aware that you notified the Town Clerk that a meeting for members to discuss the 'preliminary stage' had been arranged for 27 February 2018. Additionally, an informal drop in session on 2 March 2018 was also organised, but unfortunately members were unable to attend both sessions as arranged because they were both cancelled due to inclement weather.

However, the Town Council note the revised deadlines stated in your subsequent email, dated 8 March 2018, and as such, have detailed the Town Councils comments on the LGBCE recommendations, which encompasses both the Borough and Parish wards of Swanscombe & Greenhithe.

The response from the Town Council to LGBCE is detailed in attachment 1 (in italics) and is also to DBC in response to the CGR.

Thank you for giving the Town Council the opportunity to put forward our views relating to the CGR (Stage 1) and in return, we are always available for further discussion.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Ms L M Cross  
**Town Mayor 2017- 2018**

**DRAFT**

## *Attachment 1*

*Dear LGBCE*

*Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council (The Town Council), thank you for your draft recommendations on the proposed Borough ward boundaries for Ebbsfleet, Greenhithe, Knockhall and Swanscombe.*

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*Yours faithfully,*

**Councillor Ms L M Cross  
Town Mayor 2017- 2018**

LGBCE Recommendation Response vo.3

**DRAFT**

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# DBC REVISED TIMETABLE

**Graham Blew**

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**From:** Community Review <Community.Review@dartford.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 08 March 2018 14:12  
**Subject:** CGR Meeting

Dear Parish Clerks,

Further to the recent issues with the weather, we are now in the position to reschedule the local briefings for the preliminary stage of the Community Governance Review. The terms of reference will be amended to reflect that we were unable to hold the preliminary stage and the new timescales that have been amended are attached at the bottom of this email.

A briefing on the Community Governance Review will be held at **18.00hrs on 28 March** at the Civic Centre, Home Gardens and I would be most grateful if you could advise who will be attending from your Parish so the necessary arrangements can be made.

Prior to the briefing from 16.00hrs, there will be an opportunity to review the current maps and have an informal discussion with officers.

Jeanette Pegler  
Electoral Services Manager  
Dartford Borough Council

Preliminary Stage	Local Briefings and meetings	19 February – 29 March 2018
Stage 1	Initial submissions are invited	3 April – 27 April 2018
Stage 2	Consideration of submissions received – Draft recommendations are prepared	30 April – 31 May 2018

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