

## Robyn Wilson

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**From:** Christine Nuttall  
**Sent:** 03 July 2015 16:55  
**To:** 'mark.cooper@lgbce.org.uk'  
**Cc:** Cllr Firth, Anna; Doug Williamson; Christian Everett; Pav Ramewal  
**Subject:** FW: KCC Division Boundaries Review  
**Attachments:** 06 Alternative 3 Map (A4).pdf; Figures to support Alternative 3.pdf  
  
**Importance:** High

T0:  
Mark Cooper  
Review Officer  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
76-86 Turnmill Street  
London  
EC1M 5LG

Dear Mark Cooper,

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England has given the Chief Executive for Sevenoaks District Council an extension to the 22<sup>nd</sup> July to submit our final consultation response to the proposed changes to the Kent County Council electoral division arrangements. This extension to the 22<sup>nd</sup> July was given on the basis that a draft of what will be considered by Council will be sent to yourself by the 6<sup>th</sup> July and that you are notified on 22<sup>nd</sup> July of any changes agreed at Council.

The Legal and Democratic Advisory Committee met last night and considered the recommended option made by the Boundary Commission along with three alternative options. The Committee agreed, which was carried by way of a vote, to choose the third alternative option.

I enclose a copy of the third alternative option together with the figures supporting the alternative proposal. As you will see the alternative option that was favoured is within the permitted variances from average and so would work.

The Committee also looked at the proposed division name changes and came up with some changes to these which were also voted upon at the meeting. The changes are as follows:

<b>Proposed Division by B.C.</b>	<b>Changes Proposed by the Legal and Democratic Advisory Committee</b>
Darent Valley	Sevenoaks Darent Valley
Sevenoaks Central (would not exist in the B.C.'s Proposals)	Sevenoaks Town
Sevenoaks East	For Option 3 this would not exist
Sevenoaks West	Sevenoaks West
Sevenoaks North East	Sevenoaks Rural North East
Sevenoaks Rural	Sevenoaks Rural South
Swanley	Swanley

The proposed changes are shown on the map for alternative option 3 attached.

Reasons given by Members who attended the Committee yesterday, in relation to option 3 and the proposed name changes are as follows:

- The central concern was that Sevenoaks Town should remain as one County Council division and that Westerham should remain within Sevenoaks West division. Option 3 represented the best arrangement to keep these communities together and to achieve electoral equality. It is unfortunate that Seal joins Sevenoaks Rural South but ultimately the Committee felt Seal had more in common with the South of the District than Westerham. Whilst creating a large geographic South division this configuration avoids the difficulty of one County Council member having to service 2 town councils, namely, Edenbridge and Westerham.

Regarding the name changes the guiding principle was to retain Sevenoaks as a generic name for all divisions bar Swanley and to distinguish between the divisions close to the Town and those which are purely rural. Sevenoaks West remains the same as it abuts the Town and being located all along the A25 up to and including Westerham town is not strictly rural.

- I support Option 3

My reason for retaining Westerham and Crockham Hill in Sevenoaks West is to preserve the community identity. There is no synergy between this town and Edenbridge and the road links are very poor.

Westerham looks naturally to the villages to the east along the A25.

Retaining Knockholt and Badgers Mount makes sense because they are not in the valley of the Darent and sit more naturally in Sevenoaks West.

It is vitally important to keep the Town of Sevenoaks as a single Division thus keeping the community identity - one of the aims of the review.

Seal and Weald are more rural in nature and would fit with the Division of Sevenoaks Rural South.

- Further to the meeting yesterday, my main reasons for our preferred option are :-
  - it will not split any parish in to different wards
  - it will get to within the tolerance % of the desired number.

If any further reasons come in from Members of the Committee concerned by the 6<sup>th</sup> July 2015 I will forward these on to you. I will also forward any other comments I receive from Members who never attended the Committee. However, I anticipate these will be few in number, if at all. This matter will next be looked at by our Governance Committee on the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2015 and then by Council on the 21<sup>st</sup> July 2015. I will keep you fully informed of any changes that transpire.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Christine Nuttall

Chief Officer Legal & Governance

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