

Dear Sirs,

Boundary Commission Consultation

At its meeting on the 19th October 2016 the Council formally agreed to provide this letter as a representation to the current consultation on the draft proposals for the Brentwood area.

The Council notes the draft plans, which include various changes to the existing parliamentary seat of the Brentwood & Ongar constituency.

The proposals would move the electoral wards of Warley and Herongate, Ingrave and West Horndon from the Brentwood & Ongar Constituency into an enlarged South Basildon & East Thurrock seat, dividing the Borough of Brentwood into two Parliamentary Constituencies. This would also see the key local landmark of Brentwood Station be split between the two constituencies of Brentwood and Ongar and SBET.

Whilst the Council understands there are proposals for boundary changes to reduce the number of constituencies in the UK from 650 to 600, we are concerned that the current proposals potentially threaten the borough's boundaries, causing issues of identity that have been raised by the residents of Warley, Herongate, Ingrave and West Horndon. Although this boundary review focuses on the parliamentary seat, we wish to take the opportunity to formally place on record the importance of keeping the borough boundaries as they are; under the remit of Brentwood Borough Council.

The Council therefore calls upon the Boundary Commission to confirm that any changes will consider issues of identity and will not affect the borough boundaries of Brentwood Council