

LUCAS CLOSE, SHEERNESS TOWN COUNCIL AREA – INITIAL CONSULTATION RESPONSES AND COMMENTS

Residents Response (where Q = Questionnaire)

DATE R/C	MEDIA	RESPONDER	IN FAVOUR OF A BOUNDARY REVIEW?	COMMENTS
23/05/2022	Q	0024	YES	Can't understand why we are not within Queenborough boundary
DATE R/C	MEDIA	RESPONDER	IN FAVOUR OF A BOUNDARY REVIEW?	COMMENTS
20/06/2022	Q	0012	NO	It makes no difference to me
20/06/2022	Q	0013	NO	
27/06/2022	Q	0030	NO	
27/06/2022	Q	0031	NO	

Parish Councils Response

DATE R/C	MEDIA	RESPONDER	IN FAVOUR OF A BOUNDARY REVIEW?	COMMENTS
13/06/2022	EMAIL	Lisa Grandsen on behalf of Queenborough Town Council	YES	I can report that Town Councillors' support the review of boundaries being redrawn and Lucas Close becoming part of the Queenborough & Rushenden Community and Queenborough Town Council serving the residents of the Close.
20/06/2022	EMAIL	Linda Brinklow on behalf of Sheerness Town Council	YES	As a resident on the island and a person conversant with the area in question, I agree fully with the residents of Lucas Close that they should be part of the town of Queenborough. Being part of Sheerness makes no practical sense
24/06/2006	EMAIL	Becci Duffus (Finance Assistant) on behalf of Sheerness Town Council	YES	Sheerness Town Council agreed to support the proposal to amend the boundary lines on Monday 20th June 2022 Minute number 2022/473

KCC Response

DATE R/C	MEDIA	RESPONDER	IN FAVOUR OF A BOUNDARY REVIEW?	COMMENTS
16/06/2022	Email	Lizzy Adam - KCC Operations & Client Relationship Manager / Governance, Law & Democracy	See comments	As an update, we've shared the CGR documentation with the relevant KCC Members and invited them to respond directly to you on whether the parish boundaries should be reviewed with ERBC Committee copied in for information. Although KCC has been consulted on the reviews, the Committee is not planning on submitting comments at this stage until the views of the residents are known via the CGR consultation.

Borough Ward Members Response

DATE R/C	MEDIA	RESPONDER	IN FAVOUR OF A BOUNDARY REVIEW?	COMMENTS
18/05/2022	Email	Cllr McCall - Sheerness ward member	YES	I fully support the governance review and wholeheartedly believe that Lucas close belongs as part of the Queenborough and Halfway Ward, and part of Queenborough Town Council parish. It makes no sense for residents to travel 3 miles to vote in any election so therefore I support the changes.
13/06/2022	Email	Cllr Eakin - Sheerness ward member	YES	I fully support the new proposal as it makes a lot of sense. I can't see how anyone would find much of an argument against this.
28/06/2022	Email	Cllr Beart - Queenborough & Halfway ward member	YES	As the SBC Ward Member for Queenborough and Halfway, as well as the QTC Ward Member for Queenborough, Deputy Mayor of Queenborough and KCC Divisional Member for Sheppey, I fully support the boundary move to incorporate Lucas Close into the parish boundary of Queenborough. It is an anomaly with the way the original boundary was drawn that should be rectified. Lucas Close is only accessible from Sterling Road and Moat Way which are in Queenborough, and the new homes have been registered with the post office under the ME11 postcode so form part of the town. It makes no logical sense to keep this road within the boundary of Sheerness with the residents contributing council tax to Sheerness Town Council for services they aren't receiving. For these residents to be able to vote in elections, their polling station is currently in Sheerness, an 8-mile round trip. With this change, their polling station will be less than half a mile away, a short 5–10-minute walk. This makes it common sense to me. As indicated informally prior to the consultation, I believe the borough council should now move the boundary to a more natural positioning and propose this would most sensibly be the A249 Brielle Way. Simply redrawing the line around Lucas Close will still leave a large area of land within this area in the wrong parish and if there were ever future development, this would require this process to be run again so should be future proofed now.
02/07/2022	Email	Cllr Harrison - Sheerness ward member	YES	This seems to be a common sense change to me. When the lines were originally drawn, there were many grassy areas, which have since been built on, so I would expect that this will not be the last proposed change you bring forward.

Local Government Boundary Commission Response

DATE R/C	MEDIA	RESPONDER	COMMENTS
31/05/2022	Email	Richard Buck – Review Manager – Local Government Boundary Commission	<p>After completion of your CGR, you can request related alterations to borough ward boundaries so that they are coterminous with new parish boundaries. I have attached a copy of our joint guidance with the department here. The parts relating to the Commission are Chapters 5 and 6 https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/lgbce/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/10387/community-governance-review-guidance.pdf</p> <p>None of the parish arrangements in your borough are protected so you can proceed with the parish changes without needing to seek the Commission’s consent. However, only the Commission that has the power to make related alterations to borough ward/division boundaries via our related alteration process. As you will see, we will need some information from you before we could consider changing the ward boundaries. The process can take some months to complete as we will need to instruct our lawyers in Cabinet Office to draft an electoral changes order if the Commission agrees to ward boundary changes. The Commission might reject such a request if, for example, the electoral variances that result are considered too high. In terms of timings, this does look a little tight to be sure we could make such changes in time for the May 2023 elections. If we receive such a request after October, we cannot guarantee completion in time for elections in 2023.</p> <p>Happy to discuss further if you would find that useful.</p>