

# Canterbury

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Mrs Lucy Wilkes

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**Organisation Name:** Chartham Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

## Comment text:

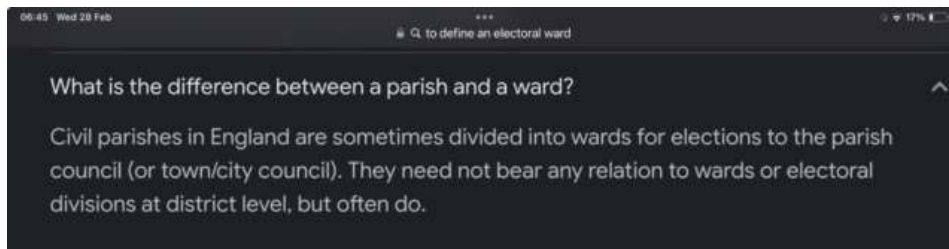
**Related subject:** Chartham, Thanington & Stone Street

Please see attached document which details the views of Chartham Parish Council.

## Attached Documents:

- ward-boundaries-consultation.pdf

# Ward Boundary Consultation



### Contention:

It would make more sense for Thanington to be converted into a city ward, and maybe combined with Wincheap, than for the more rural parishes of Chartham, Upper Hardres, Lower Hardres & Nackington, Petham and Waltham to be joined with Thanington. We ask that we have a one councillor ward covering Chartham and Stone Street.

**Urban / Rural:**

In the Canterbury Landscape Character Assessment, the majority of **Thanington parish** is identified as an **urban** area. The new draft plan identifies further development here.

In contrast, the Chartham Parish Design Statement introduction says:

‘Chartham is an extensive **rural** parish...’ and ‘The character of the parish is that of a thriving community which still retains its **rural** atmosphere and setting.’

**Chartham** has been consulting its parishioners consistently over the past few years due to writing a neighbourhood plan. Here is a word cloud from answers to the question: 'Provide three words that best describe Chartham Parish' in the [Vision & Objectives survey](#):



The vision statement is:

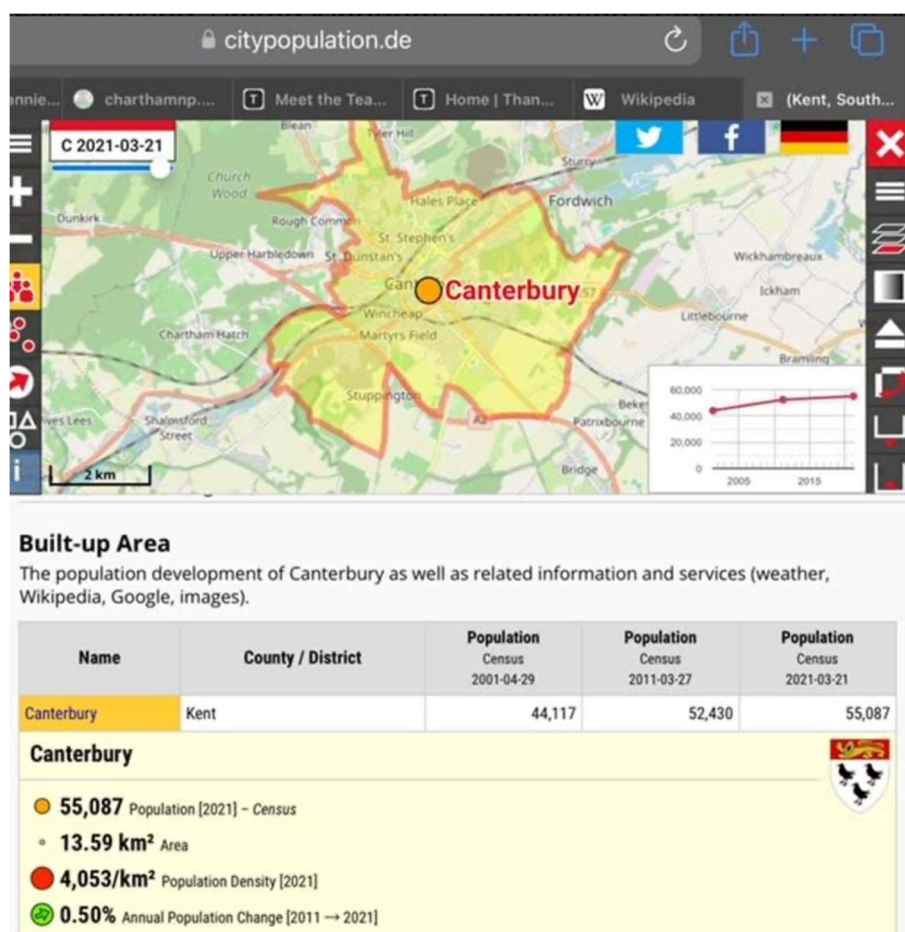
*In 2031 we will be known as a friendly, **rural**, sustainable community spread across our distinct settlements in a beautiful quiet countryside setting. [www.charthamnp.com](http://www.charthamnp.com)*

In the report, Cllr Sole was of the view that Chartham parish had little in common with the more rural parishes to its south. This is clearly not the case.

## Population density:

According to statistics in 2011, there are 4,261 people in [Chartham parish](#). Chartham parish, which has an area of 20.84 km<sup>2</sup>, has a density of 204 per km<sup>2</sup> of whom nearly 1,000 people live in the small urban development of 0.494 km<sup>2</sup> within St. Augustine's, which has a density of over 2,000 per km<sup>2</sup>. [Petham](#) is 708 people within 13.61 kilometres, with a density of 52 per km<sup>2</sup>.

There is some uncertainty about the population density of Canterbury. Whereas [https://www.citypopulation.de/en/uk/admin/kent/E07000106\\_canterbury/](https://www.citypopulation.de/en/uk/admin/kent/E07000106_canterbury/) identifies it as being 4,053 per km<sup>2</sup>, [Wikipedia](#) identifies its density as 510 per km<sup>2</sup>. This is confusing and, as Alan Baldock is identified as lead of the committee system, it needs considerable updating. [Thanington's](#) parish's population density is already 555 per km<sup>2</sup>, is increasingly urban, due to the 1,150 houses passed in the Cockering Road developments and new developments proposed in the recently released CCC draft local plan. This should lead to consideration of either turning Thanington into a city ward or combining it with Wincheap. Sadly, due to the proposed loss of countryside, the community identity will increasingly become urban.

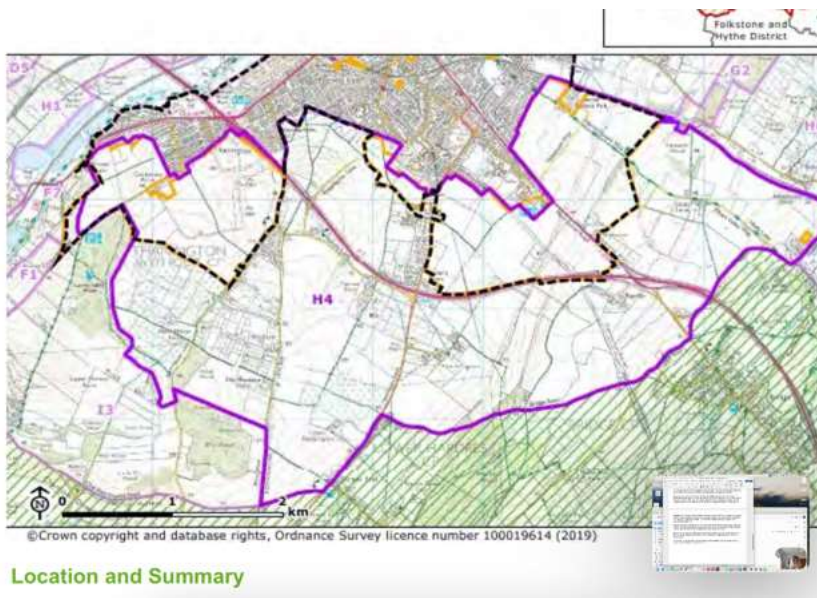


## Topography:

The CCC Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements document states, 'A good pattern of wards should...Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries'. The new ward boundary proposal does not reflect this - no account has been taken of the topography, nor of community identities.

Thanington shares much with Wincheap. The Thanington Neighbourhood Resource Centre website describes this context, stating, 'The Thanington estate is a pre-war council estate in the Wincheap ward of Canterbury'. Together, Wincheap and Thanington do share F7 Stour Valley West with Chartham. It has ecologically important wetland habitat and the popular Stour Valley Way footpath. The importance of maintaining the rural aspects of the landscape, ensuring it continues to play a role in providing a setting to Chartham and an approach to Canterbury city, and restoring the quality of view to Canterbury cathedral are development management guidelines in the CCC 2020 Landscape Character Assessment and Biodiversity Appraisal by LUC.

Thanington has considerable amount of rural land and some of the finest river views towards Canterbury cathedral, and does share landscape character areas H4 with Nackington and Lower Hardres, but there is an urban edge now defined at the boundary between Thanington and Chartham.



Chartham has sections of the AONB and three conservation areas. It has several communities, each with their own identity. This has been evidenced in the Chartham Parish Neighbourhood Plan [Settlement Boundary study](#).

## CCC Consultation Issues:

There has been a failure on the part of CCC to consult adequately with Parish Councils or parishioners in advance of the ward boundary proposals.

In addition to this, the consultation document completely underplays the proposed ward boundary changes and does not adequately define the alterations of the wards boundaries. The maps issued alongside the consultation were not at all clear. The lines on the map on the draft proposal landing page <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/canterbury> were misleading (black lines, usually indicating new boundaries, were used to signify the removal of boundaries).

The changes of ward boundaries were completely trivialised in the poster issued by CCC. Surely, there should have been an accurate list of where the changes were, instead of cherry picking some changes, while not mentioning others.