

## Halton

### Personal Details:

Name:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

### Comment text:

Halebank and Hale Village would be better served as a discrete unit rather than being lumped in with Ditton which itself would be better served if amalgamated with Banfield. The natural geographical barrier between Halebank and Ditton is the railway, Speke Road and Ditton Brook. There is little in common as between Ditton and Halebank/Hale Village who share common facilities such as Shops, Public Houses, Primary Schools, Churches and public transport. They share common planning and development distinguishing these areas from Ditton and, in many respects. Halebank and Hale Village form a greater community of which Ditton plays no part. The needs of the community in Ditton and their concerns are very different from those in Halebank and Hale Village and it is unreasonable to expect councillors to deal with what may well be significant conflicts of interest between geographically distinct electorates. Ditton, on the other hand has no physical barriers separating it from the other adjoining wards so that you may pass seamlessly from Ditton to either Riverside & Town or Bankfield without realising it. These Wards have more in common with Ditton than either Halebank or Hale Village and share more common problems that might be better address if all of the councillors are seized of them.

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

## Halton

### Personal Details:

**Name:**

[REDACTED]

**E-mail:**

[REDACTED]

**Postcode:**

[REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:**

### Comment text:

We object because these plans will create a 15% electoral variance per Councillor. We wish to preserve Hale Village's distinct history and character.

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

## Halton

### Personal Details:

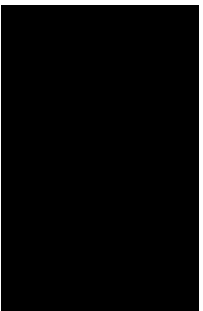
**Name:** [REDACTED]  
**E-mail:** [REDACTED]  
**Postcode:** [REDACTED]  
**Organisation Name:** Private resident

### Comment text:

I have been a resident of Hale Village for over forty years. My personal association with the village however, goes back to my childhood in the 1950's. A great number of those schoolboy friendships exist to this day. Only last week, I spent a week in Kelso with a former school friend from the Township of Hale. Hale Village or, to put it correctly, Hale Township, does not owe its existence to a collection of mock Tudor Thatches, a pub with a strange spelling name and a collection of houses locally known as the 'White Estate'. You will be aware that the history of the Township of Hale stretches back over a thousand years give or take a few years. We have our own Lord Mayor granted by Royal Charter, many many hundreds of years ago, a wonderful Parish Church despite an attempt to burn it down and a collection of stone cottages that include one previously occupied by an extremely large gentleman. This Township has been altered dramatically throughout the intervening period and forged into what it is today. There is no association at all with either Halebank nor Ditton, save for their geographical positions. To further degrade this Township by anonymising it into a mini conurbation with Halebank and Ditton would be the act of a vandal. Apart from that, it is totally unnecessary, save for the convenience of bureaucrats and cartographers. If that were to happen, I can envisage that, before too long the original Township would be swallowed up into a blob at the south end of Liverpool although, it not Liverpool, save for the wholly incorrect postcode. It has never been anything to do with Liverpool nor Halebank. The northern boundary of the Township is the Ramsbrook itself, a part of Lancashire until we were unceremoniously dumped onto Cheshire, something that has caused confusion ever since. I could carry on for the remaining 8100 words but consider that unnecessary. I believe that there will be sufficient pertinent views submitted to The Commission to halt this latest idea that has, in my opinion has no logical basis other than perhaps convenience or neatness.

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded



7 Feb 2019

To Reviews Officer

Me and my brother dont want to see Ditton join up with Hale. We like Ditton as it is.

Hale is miles away and nobody in Ditton ever goes.

Its not a place were people are made to feel welcome and it's a nightmare to get to unless you can wait hours for a bus or walk down dangerous roads with no pavements.

Thanks



Dear Commission,

## **HALTON REVIEW**

As a resident of Hale, I object in the strongest possible terms to your proposal to merge Hale with Ditton.

The community in Hale is well established and coherent, focused around its environment and residents.

Most of the houses are of a similar age and were built to house the families of the agricultural workers in the area.

Although the historical pattern of employment may have changed, there is still a strong bond between the people of Hale and its landscape.

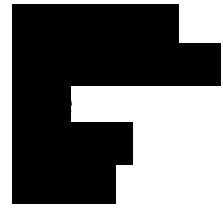
There are varied activities that we enjoy together as a community and this is only possible when a small community is able to retain its independent identity, without any outside influence from a larger ward.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted Signature]

[Redacted Address]

Hale village council  
The Review Officer (Halton)  
LGBCE  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Windsor House,  
50 Victoria Street,  
London,  
SW1H 0TL



10<sup>th</sup> February 2019

RE: Boundary Commission Review of Halton  
Dear Sir / Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the commission's proposed electoral arrangements for wards in the borough of Halton. I wish to raise my objection to the proposed changes to merge Hale village with Ditton & Halebank.

The community of Hale needs to retain its link with an individual councillor who can represent the best interest of our well established community.

The interests and needs of the village are completely different to that of neighbouring industrious areas like Ditton.

A large multi-member ward is not compatible for the proposed area as it is just lumping together communities with divergent issues & needs.

If the plan was to go ahead I feel it would affect the village adversely by losing our voice to the larger community numbers of Ditton. This would have an effect when voting on upcoming issues such as plans to ruin the greenbelt surrounding our beautiful village. Also there is the prospect of missing out on any further opportunities such as grants that may arise to benefit our community.

The village residents work hard to preserve the unique look of the village which has a great impact on the community strength and spirit.

The current boundaries are clear and I can see no beneficial reasons for the residents of Hale in altering them.

The community of Ditton also have their own needs and issues that are different to ours to be represented and would not benefit from being in a shared ward with Hale.

Ditton's previously lackadaisical approach to ward governing is not something I wish for Hale to get involved in.

I strongly hope Hale can remain independent and that the boundary commission will acknowledge my concerns that any changes will have a negative impact on the villages' identity.

Yours faithfully,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.



To the Boundary Commission,

I would like to make a statement in reference to the proposed changes to Hale ward, Halton.

Living in Hale for over 60 years, I have observed a number of proposals that would contribute to Hale losing its identity and I am completely against this proposal to merge Hale with Ditton.

It is impossible to even get a reliable bus to Ditton on most days, and joining them as one community is a plan that will never represent the will of the people.

Hale is unique parish, dating back to the Domesday Book, with a thriving community centering around the village with many clubs and events taking place during the year.

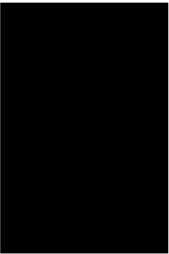
There are no links with Ditton and it is a completely isolated community separated by a clearly defined boundary at Rams Brook.

Our Parish Council is superb and has kept us informed of this proposal, unlike Halton or our ward councillor.

Please take all of the Parish Council comments as my own when refencing this subject.

Faithfully,





7 Feb 2019

To Reviews Officer

Having lived in Widnes a while, I think the proposal to merge us with Hale would be a bad idea.

The people of Widnes know what we want and what are views heard.

Hale's councillor who is also the leader of halton wouldn't be able to cope in Widnes and would end up giving all his attention to Hale. He has been the councillor in Hale for nearly 20 years and knows nothing about the struggles faced in Ditton. Hale will just be given preferential treatment when it comes to funding, and continue to ignore the other areas around it.

Ditton has a lot of social housing and people that need a councillor who can help us. Hale's ward councillor should not represent us.

Thanks,





9<sup>th</sup> February 2019

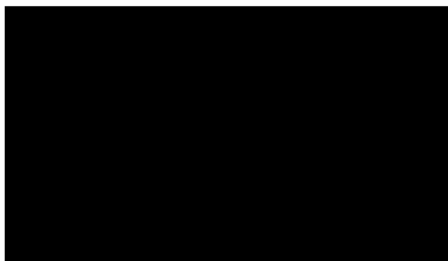
Dear Commissioners,

I am writing as I understand the current Hale ward is to be joined to Dutton in a nonsensical move to achieve three members wards throughout Hailton.

The proposed new boundary needs relooking at - I do not feel it fair to assign Hale to such a large ward as it will prove much more difficult to address the needs of the community.

As such, I propose Hale remains as it is.

Yours,



I [REDACTED] WOULD LIKE TO OBJECT TO THE PROPOSAL  
TO MERGE HALE VILLAGES WITH DITTON AND HITTLEBANK.  
PROPOSED BY HALTON ~~COUNCIL~~ BOROUGH COUNCIL.  
I AM REQUESTING THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION TO  
RETAIN HALE VILLAGE WITH ONE SINGLE WARD COMMISSION  
AND PROTECT THE UNIQUE IDENTITY OF HALE.

WITH THANKS.

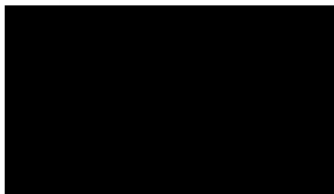
[REDACTED]

TO: whom it may concern,

I cannot see how connecting Ditton to Hale can benefit us?

We are a place that needs a lot of investment and someone who knows how to help us.

This council always do things that have no benefit for us and now they just want to make Hale bigger so that house prices will go up a long with council tax.



## Halton

### Personal Details:

Name:

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name:

### Comment text:

I don't think we need 3 councillors in each ward, 2 is adequate despite the numbers of residents most of them don't vote or show no interest in local politics so what are they doing.

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

I [REDACTED] WOULD LIKE TO OBJECT TO THIS PROPOSAL TO MERGE HALE VILLAGE WITH DITTON & HALEBURY PROPOSED BY HALTON BOROUGH COUNCIL.

I AM REQUESTING THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION TO RETAIN HALE VILLAGE WITH ONE SINGLE WARD COUNCILLOR AND PROTECT THE UNIQUE IDENTITY OF HALE VILLAGE.

THANKING YOU

[REDACTED]

## Halton

### Personal Details:

Name:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

### Comment text:

What is the reason for the change of boundary? Without future information on why this is being proposed then I strongly oppose Regards [REDACTED]

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

**Owen, David**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 February 2019 18:33  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** Review Officer (Halton)

To The Review Officer (Halton)

Dear sir or madam

We wish to add our objections to the changes to ward boundaries proposed by Halton Borough Council. We have read Hale Parish Councils objection and agree wholeheartedly with all of their comments.

In addition to this we would point out that only Hale from the wards involved lies directly beneath the flight path to Liverpool John Lennon Airport. As such this brings with it a number of specific problems that do not impact directly, if at all, on Ditton or HaleBank. Maintaining Hale as a single ward would afford the residents of Hale a specific voice should they need to raise concerns over current and/or future changes to operations at the airport, something that may not happen should the proposal be approved.

Amalgamating the 3 wards is unlikely to be in the best interest of Hale or its residents for the reasons given above, and having lived in Hale Village for over 40 years we believe that the existence of a single ward with one ward councillor, who lives locally, has helped maintain the area and its unique charm.

Regards

[REDACTED]

## Halton

### Personal Details:

Name:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

### Comment text:

Hale is an exceptionally distinct community and one which has often been described as one of the few remaining neighbourhoods with a strong and tangible community spirit. Close liaison with electors has resulted in the progression of a well-developed Neighbourhood Plan, the first of its kind in the Borough. Residents also have an exceptionally good relationship with Police Officers and PCSOs who serve the Ward well. Electors in Hale are passionate about their community, whose identity, they fear, would be destroyed if the single-member ward was abolished. Residents I have spoken to are deeply unhappy with the current proposals and I would urge the Commission to revise the proposed merger. Hale is vastly different in character and economy. When councillors are seeking funding for projects to address inequality in Ditton, it is really important that the stark contrast in key statistics are not muddled by a large ward which could hide the challenges faced by some residents. The youth of Hale play an important role in the area which has its own Youth Council set up by our active Parish Council. The current Chair of the Parish Council has served the community since he turned eighteen when he was co-opted onto the Council. Last year whilst running as an independent candidate in the local elections, he was able to secure 44% of the votes, against both the Labour and Conservative parties. It would be a shame if he was unable to run in the elections in the future due to the Commission placing the outweighed Labour-stronghold of Ditton over Hale's future representation. I would encourage the Commission to make contact with the Parish Council to hear their views on the proposals as they are best placed in this community to represent the people of the village.

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

I have concerns about Hale being joined to Ditton.

If I wanted to live in Ditton, I would have moved there in the first place.

Could you explain why it's been proposed to force a thriving community in Hale to join an area with high crime rates, high unemployment, low levels of health and countless social issues?

This proposal is unfair and unwanted by the people who live here.

I would ask that this proposal be taken off the table and Hale be allowed to remain as it is and always has been, a rural community with its own identity.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

**Owen, David**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 07 February 2019 17:12  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** Proposed boundary change

To the Review Officer,

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to raise my concerns regarding the proposal to merge the boroughs of Hale Village , Halebank and Ditton into one new Ward.

These three areas have little in common and the uniqueness of Hale Village with its historical heritage is in danger of being swallowed up in urban sprawl.

Hale has its own identity and community groups. Its natural boundaries of Ram's Brook , the duck decoys and surrounding greenbelt serve to preserve its distinctive character, which would be compromised by such an unequal partnership.

A merger would, no doubt, see electors in Halebank and Ditton voting to elect Hale Representatives and as such having a voice in Hale's affairs which I strongly feel is unacceptable, undemocratic and not in the best interests of Hale residents. I am sure that Halton Council would object to a Manchester Borough exerting influence on issues concerning Halton residents.

I do not think that a larger Ward would serve any positive purpose to Hale residents and is not in the community's best interests.

I see no reason as to why Hale cannot retain its own identity under a Ward Councillor who is familiar with Hale's heritage and has the villagers best interest at heart.

As Halton Council is supposed to act for the Community and not in its own interests I hope that my objections to this merger will be taken seriously.

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 February 2019 15:46  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** Boundary Commission Review of Halton

Dear Sir/ Madam,

### **Boundary Commission Review of Halton**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Commission's proposed electoral arrangements for wards in the Borough of Halton.

The community of Hale is regarded as a close one, with the Parish Council acting as a uniting factor in this area.

Disappointment must be expressed that the Boundary Commission have not seized this opportunity to retain a strong single-member ward for Hale. It is widely recognised that a single point of accountability provides a strong link between a Councillor and the residents they serve. This is of course why multi-member Parliamentary seats were abolished in the nineteenth century.

Hale is a distinct community on the periphery of Halton and it seems incongruous to attach the village to such an industrious area as Ditton solely for the sake of creating a multi-member ward.

Hale has always been a single-member ward and residents have continuously elected a parishioner who resides within the village, serving as an example of how important representation at a very local level is considered central to the effective and convenient governance of Hale by the electors who reside within the current boundary, with understanding of the importance of Hale.

The Commission may not have understood the impact this change will have on Hale and its loss of identity. Both Hale and Ditton are two divergent communities, with different issues and priorities regarding transportation, community spaces, crime, health, employment and education.

A large multi-member ward would be incompatible with such a small, semi-rural, and isolated village and the Parish Council believes an opportunity to give greater clarity to local democracy in this area has been lost under the current proposals, the village is small it would not have a voice.

Whilst it is recognised the challenges the LGBCE have faced in this part of the Borough, I must stand firm and object to this proposal as my issues would go unheard with issues of the majority of people which Would not be the village.

A village with many historic connections and rural issues would be placed within a ward with vast housing, in more of a town setting.

Being the most Western point of Halton, Hale lies adjacent to the boundary of the Borough. The physical landscape and Rams Brook strongly reinforce the parish boundary to the north and east. The

River Mersey offers a natural boundary to the south. The western edge of the Ward being bordered by the neighbouring local authority, Liverpool City Council.

Hale is a distinct community with an extremely active Parish Council that has represented the area for one-hundred-and-twenty-five years, overseeing various changes to the Local Authority, Ward Councillors, and MPs since the late 1800s.

As such, many generations of electors in the Parish have always identified as residing in Hale, not Ditton or any other part of Widnes. With an L24 postcode that I do not to change, yet due to this postcode that ward in question you wish to place me in, the doctors will not take on patience. Ditton has numerous bus services yet we have one bus 500 and not one Halton bus comes through except school bus. My dentist, any hospital appointment are based in Liverpool as it is nearer and with the only near option of a doctor being based in Speke.

Given the historical significance of the Ward, the Parish Council believes changing its name would be short-sighted and detrimental to both the current economy and future tourism trade.

The current footprint of the Ward offers excellent synergy with a vibrant community that boasts countless community groups and committees, all whom work hard to ensure the best interests of Hale are served.

With a population density of only 3 people per hectare, Hale shares a rural identity and has issues which align with other rural parishes such as the protection of Green Belt. It is felt that the needs of Hale would not be well suited to sharing a ward with Ditton that is far greater in number than Hale with a population density in some areas of 48 people per hectare. Furthermore, it is felt that Hale's distinctiveness from other areas it is proposed to share a ward with, would be detrimental to the representation of both Hale and indeed Ditton itself.

Residents in Hale have much in common in this largely rural area and less so than with the urban areas of Ditton. It has been a separate ward for many years as it has consistently met the criteria for uniqueness for a long period of time – only strengthening the sense of community.

There are clear geographical restrictions in this area, making no logical sense of any shared community interest. There is no historic or intertwined nature which has ever connected Ditton with Hale, with an extreme contrast in housing stock, shopping facilities, bus services, road links and general sense of community – all making a compelling case to retain Hale as a single-member ward.

Ditton is such an impenetrable ward that there is no easy way for it to be split and it appears that it has been divided primarily to form electoral equality, with a total lack of consideration as to whether or not it wishes to be a part of Hale, or visa versa.

With a strong sense of community in such as small closely-knit Ward, there is understandable concern that any merger would see differing interests dilute the identity of Hale.

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this decision.

Kind regards,

**F**

**Owen, David**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 February 2019 19:24  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** Merger with Ditton and Halebank

I am contacting you to raise my concerns over the above proposed merger. As a Hale resident I fear that the village ward size will increase tremendously thus losing its identity, independence and cultural character. The concerns and issues mentioned above will be lost as we will be swallowed up into a larger community without a dedicated ward councillor to look after the concerns of village residents. The village would become a small fish in a big pond. As we are a small electorate our votes would always be small compared to other wards and therefore would never again have a dedicated Hale voice at council meetings. Hale is a small tight community that looks after its residents. Hale is a valued tourist attraction and receives many visitors each year bringing a well needed income into the village. I fear this may diminish if we are to be part of a bigger ward. The green belt is also a major issue as a village we need to preserve this and as a part of a larger community our votes may be overturned. This merger will see the demise of Hale as a village as it will be absorbed into the two other wards.

I am strongly against any such merger and recommend the boundary of the village be left as it currently is to preserve our village.

[REDACTED]  
Hale resident

**Owen, David**

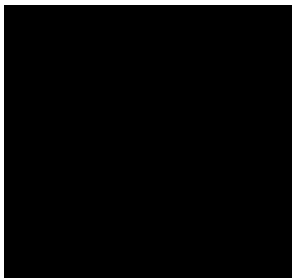
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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 09 February 2019 12:10  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** The Review Office Halton.

I wish to formally object to the merging proposal for Hale Ditton and Hale bank.

I full support the Hale Village parish council letter and reasons there in.

Kind Regards





The Review Officer (Halton)  
LGBCE  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Windsor House,  
50 Victoria Street,  
London,  
SW1H 0TL

4 February 2019

Dear Sir / Madam,

### **Boundary Commission Review of Halton**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Commission's proposed electoral arrangements for wards in the Borough of Halton.

The community of Hale is regarded as a close one, with the Parish Council acting as a uniting factor in this area.

Disappointment must be expressed that the Boundary Commission have not seized this opportunity to retain a strong single-member ward for Hale. It is widely recognised that a single point of accountability provides a strong link between a Councillor and the residents they serve. This is of course why multi-member Parliamentary seats were abolished in the nineteenth century.

Hale is a distinct community on the periphery of Halton and it seems incongruous to attach the village to such an industrious area as Ditton solely for the sake of creating a multi-member ward.

Hale has always been a single-member ward and residents have continuously elected a parishioner who resides within the village, serving as an example of how important representation at a very local level is considered central to the effective and convenient governance of Hale by the electors who reside within the current boundary.

The Commission may not have understood the impact this change will have on Hale and its loss of identity. Both Hale and Ditton are two divergent communities, with different issues and priorities regarding transportation, community spaces, crime, health, employment and education.

A large multi-member ward would be incompatible with such a small, semi-rural, and isolated village and the Parish Council believes an opportunity to give greater clarity to local democracy in this area has been lost under the current proposals.



Whilst it is recognised the challenges the LGBCE have faced in this part of the Borough, given the strong feelings expressed in the community, the Parish Council must object to the current proposal, which we anticipate will be reinforced with further representations from residents.

It is understood that an electoral inequality would be produced if Hale remained a single-member ward, resulting in the sole Councillor having approximately 15% less electors to represent than other Councillors in Halton. Whilst this maybe uncommon, the Commission have made similar exceptions for other areas of Cheshire such as Blacon in Chester West who also have a 15% electoral variance and the Parish Council ask the Commission to treat Hale with a similar regard.

Mentioned in the Domesday Book, Hale is one of Halton's oldest settlements and a historic market town with a population of approximately fifteen-hundred electors. The Parish lies in the County of Cheshire, located to the south west of Hale Bank, separated by a rural buffer zone with approximately two miles of open countryside.

Once a holiday destination of Winston Churchill and since described by the Queen as 'a rural oasis', Hale is a small village in a bucolic setting enveloped by ancient woodlands, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, a UNESCO Ramsar Convention site, Scheduled Historic Monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, and Green Belt - intersected by the Trans Pennine trail and bordered to the south by the popular Mersey Way coastal walk; offering valued views across the River Mersey and surrounding Grade 1 agricultural land (the only ward with land of this grading in Halton, and one of only two wards in the entirety of Cheshire).

With a vibrant tourism economy, Hale remains much as it was in the mid-twentieth century; lined with thatched whitewashed cottages and 'Grade I' and 'Grade II' listed buildings.

Known for its famous 'Child of Hale' - a gentle giant who grew to nine-foot-three-inches and wrestled for King James I - it is not hard to see why this village is coined by the Borough Council as "the jewel in Halton's crown".

Much credit is owed to the Blackburne family of Hale for their historic part in the early discovery and mining of rock salt below Hale Cliff, on the banks of Dungeon marsh. A site recognised by merchants as the catalyst that contributed to the early rise of the nearby Liverpool docklands. The Blackburne, and subsequent Ireland-Blackburne and Hesketh, families provided many of the foundations that have helped Hale to flourish, not least in establishing the buoyant agricultural economy that has ensured the village could continue to thrive as a rural enclave ever since.

Being the most Western point of Halton, Hale lies adjacent to the boundary of the Borough. The physical landscape and Rams Brook strongly reinforces the parish boundary to the north and east. The River Mersey offers a natural boundary to the south. The western edge of the Ward being bordered by the neighbouring local authority, Liverpool City Council.

The current Parish boundary offers a local sense of 'neighbourhood' and provides a sensitive compatibility between nature and those who live, work and carry out business in the area. It is also in line with the catchment area for walking to services and local tourist attractions

such as Hale Head Lighthouse, Hale Cliff, the country walks of Hale Park, and Hale duck decoy (the only Scheduled Ancient Monument of its type in the north west and one of only three in the country).

The current ward is a boundary that electors are familiar with and feedback from residents suggests this is the area they identify with as being a part of Hale's neighbourhood and its character. The present border makes sense to the community of Hale and is logical in spatial terms, allowing the heart of the village and surrounding areas to be planned for and represented together; ensuring best use of the electors understanding of the landscape that has existed symbiotically with inhabitants for centuries.

There are many roads that act as physical barriers and clearly divide Hale between Ditton, with a weight limit in the village which restricts the heavy goods vehicles of Ditton's industrial estates using the village.

Hale is a distinct community with an extremely active Parish Council that has represented the area for one-hundred-and-twenty-five years, overseeing various changes to the Local Authority, Ward Councillors, and MPs since the late 1800s.

As such, many generations of electors in the Parish have always identified as residing in Hale, not Ditton or any other part of Widnes.

Given the historical significance of the Ward, the Parish Council believes changing its name would be short-sighted and detrimental to both the current economy and future tourism trade.

The current footprint of the Ward offers excellent synergy with a vibrant community that boasts countless community groups and committees, all whom work hard to ensure the best interests of Hale are served.

The Parish Council was recently successful in securing over £600,000 in external funding to rebuild Hale's Community Centre - a building that binds the community together.

The past decade has also seen Hale receive close to £500,000 in grants to preserve and enhance the many open spaces that the Ward has to offer.

Residents of Hale have campaigned hard in recent years to prevent the commercialisation of the Ward, by fighting against planning applications for fast food restaurants, co-op supermarkets and cash machines - all components present in Ditton.

With a population density of only 3 people per hectare, Hale shares a rural identity and has issues which align with other rural parishes such as the protection of Green Belt. It is felt that the needs of Hale would not be well suited to sharing a ward with Ditton - a community that is far greater in number than Hale with a population density in some areas of 48 people per hectare. Furthermore, it is felt that Hale's distinctiveness from other areas it is proposed to share a ward with, would be detrimental to the representation of both Hale and indeed Ditton itself.

Residents in Hale have much in common in this largely rural area and less so than with the urban areas of Ditton. It has been a separate ward for many years as it has consistently met the criteria for uniqueness for a long period of time – only strengthening the sense of community.

There are clear geographical restrictions in this area, making no logical sense of any shared community interest. There is no historic or intertwined nature which has ever connected Ditton with Hale, with an extreme contrast in housing stock, shopping facilities, bus services, road links and general sense of community – all making a compelling case to retain Hale as a single-member ward.

Ditton is such an impenetrable ward that there is no easy way for it to be split and it appears that it has been divided primarily to form electoral equality, with a lack of consideration as to whether or not it wishes to be a part of Hale, or visa versa.

In recognition of the long established community of Ditton, and some of its unique social and economic challenges, it would be extremely difficult for three councillors to serve this proposed larger ward.

Having to deal with a community with much more diverse interests and requirements, with no crossover of issues within the newly proposed Ward, means that councillors would be clearly split between having to find solutions to two completely separate communities. This will be more time consuming for the councillors, confusing for the residents and would generally not “help the Council to carry out its responsibility” to provide “effective and convenient local government”.

The Commission should also note the interests of a small community such as Hale could be entirely dwarfed in such an arrangement by a larger community. Merging Hale with Ditton will give too much prominence to Ditton as a much larger community. Hale could become over-shadowed and as a smaller village will become vulnerable to potential exclusion and oversight from key funding opportunities and support.

The current proposal does not appear to chime with all the objectives of the Commission and the Parish Council would urge the Commission to reconsider Hale as a smaller unit, retaining its existing ward boundary, where a community can continue to be represented by people who understand the specific local issues. Under the current proposals we believe that democracy and accountability has taken a step backwards, not forwards, for these communities and this superb opportunity to give local Councillors a footing to be more engaged with the areas they represent could well have been wasted.

At the most recent local elections in May 2018, Hale achieved a turnout of 56.46% - the highest turnout of all wards in Halton (which had an average turnout of just over 26%) - offering an insight into how active electors are in Hale when partaking in local democracy. Conversely, a turnout of only 27.12% was realised in Ditton, with just 16.1% using their vote during a further by-election in October 2018. These figures, show a substantially low interest in local democracy across Halton, with approximately only one in every four electors using their vote, with Hale clearly bucking the trend with more than one in every two electors using their vote. Merging Hale with Ditton would increase the population by more than three times its current figure (from approximately 1,500 electors to over 5000), leaving

residents of Hale unable to ever have full control of electing a representative of their choice, who they know can provide them with an effective voice and secure the future prosperity of such a unique ward. This dilution would affect Hale's historic high election turnout, and lead to a reduced sense of local democracy for residents of the Ward.

Residents have also expressed concern that grant funding will be effected greatly by merging Hale with Ditton. Currently, funding is distributed across each ward in Halton by way of an area forum. When Councillors are seeking funding for projects to improve wards, it is really important that each ward is considered on its own merits. In merging Hale with Ditton, residents worry that most of the funding will be concentrated to the Ditton area of a new super Ward as oppose to continuing to help a prosperous ward maintain its future growth.

Halton is a Borough in Cheshire. It should be noted that the Commission have stated that a 'mix of one-, two- and three-councillor wards...would have good levels of electoral equality and in some places used clearly identifiable boundaries' (paragraph 28, Cheshire West and Chester Draft Recommendations). By creating a completely different electoral pattern in Halton, changes the overall electoral pattern across the County of Cheshire, making the smaller low density Cheshire villages extremely vulnerable to being overpowered by the large higher density communities such as Ditton. Whilst a single-member ward in Hale may appear out of sort with the majority of Halton, it is well-suited to its identity as a historic Cheshire market town.

Hale has a number of well used community facilities including a village hall, primary school, youth centre, sports field, playground, church, bowling greens, cycle paths, and bridleways. Socially, this creates a distinct identity, focussed around communal activities and integration.

Surgeries of Councillors representing Hale have always been conducted in Hale, and there is concern amongst residents that new representatives may expect Hale residents to travel into Ditton, using a bus service that is poor and unreliable.

To conclude, Hale is so rigidly cohesive that the Parish Council believe any sensible adjustment cannot be made without the overwhelmingly strong sense of community identity being negatively impacted.

If the Commission aims to ensure that the pattern of wards reflect the interests and identities of local communities as well as promoting effective local government, it is essential that Hale remains independent where these aims can be effectively met.

We are grateful for the opportunity to contribute to and comment upon the Commission's draft recommendations. It is hoped the feedback is seen as a positive response to meet the aims of the review.

Hale Parish Council hope the Boundary Commission will acknowledge the Parish Council's in-depth knowledge of the local area, its electors, and landscape.

With a strong sense of community in such as small closely-knit ward, there is understandable concern that any merger would see differing interests reduce the identity of Hale.

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this submission.

Kind regards,

Craig Wyna  
Clerk  
Hale Parish Council

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 February 2019 15:49  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** Boundary Commission Review of Halton

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Boundary Commission Review of Halton**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Commission's proposed electoral arrangements for wards in the Borough of Halton.

The community of Hale is regarded as a close one, with the Parish Council acting as a uniting factor in this area.

Disappointment must be expressed that the Boundary Commission have not seized this opportunity to retain a strong single-member ward for Hale. It is widely recognised that a single point of accountability provides a strong link between a Councillor and the residents they serve. This is of course why multi-member Parliamentary seats were abolished in the nineteenth century.

Hale is a distinct community on the periphery of Halton and it seems incongruous to attach the village to such an industrious area as Ditton solely for the sake of creating a multi-member ward.

Hale has always been a single-member ward and residents have continuously elected a parishioner who resides within the village, serving as an example of how important representation at a very local level is considered central to the effective and convenient governance of Hale by the electors who reside within the current boundary, with understanding of the importance of Hale.

The Commission may not have understood the impact this change will have on Hale and its loss of identity. Both Hale and Ditton are two divergent communities, with different issues and priorities regarding transportation, community spaces, crime, health, employment and education.

A large multi-member ward would be incompatible with such a small, semi-rural, and isolated village and the Parish Council believes an opportunity to give greater clarity to local democracy in this area has been lost under the current proposals, the village is small it would not have a voice.

Whilst it is recognised the challenges the LGBCE have faced in this part of the Borough, I must stand firm and object to this proposal as my issues would go unheard with issues of the majority of people which Would not be the village.

A village with many historic connections and rural issues would be placed within a ward with vast housing, in more of a town setting.

Being the most Western point of Halton, Hale lies adjacent to the boundary of the Borough. The physical landscape and Rams Brook strongly reinforce the parish boundary to the north and east. The River Mersey offers a natural boundary to the south. The western edge of the Ward being bordered by the neighbouring local authority, Liverpool City Council.

Hale is a distinct community with an extremely active Parish Council that has represented the area for one-hundred-and-twenty-five years, overseeing various changes to the Local Authority, Ward Councillors, and MPs since the late 1800s.

As such, many generations of electors in the Parish have always identified as residing in Hale, not Ditton or any other part of Widnes. With an L24 postcode that I not to change, yet due to this postcode that ward you wish to place me the doctors will not take on patience.

Given the historical significance of the Ward, the Parish Council believes changing its name would be short-sighted and detrimental to both the current economy and future tourism trade.

The current footprint of the Ward offers excellent synergy with a vibrant community that boasts countless community groups and committees, all whom work hard to ensure the best interests of Hale are served.

With a population density of only 3 people per hectare, Hale shares a rural identity and has issues which align with other rural parishes such as the protection of Green Belt. It is felt that the needs of Hale would not be well suited to sharing a ward with Ditton that is far greater in number than Hale with a population density in some areas of 48 people per hectare. Furthermore, it is felt that Hale's distinctiveness from other areas it is proposed to share a ward with, would be detrimental to the representation of both Hale and indeed Ditton itself.

Residents in Hale have much in common in this largely rural area and less so than with the urban areas of Ditton. It has been a separate ward for many years as it has consistently met the criteria for uniqueness for a long period of time – only strengthening the sense of community.

There are clear geographical restrictions in this area, making no logical sense of any shared community interest. There is no historic or intertwined nature which has ever connected Ditton with Hale, with an extreme contrast in housing stock, shopping facilities, bus services, road links and general sense of community – all making a compelling case to retain Hale as a single-member ward.

Ditton is such an impenetrable ward that there is no easy way for it to be split and it appears that it has been divided primarily to form electoral equality, with a total lack of consideration as to whether or not it wishes to be a part of Hale, or visa versa.

With a strong sense of community in such as small closely-knit Ward, there is understandable concern that any merger would see differing interests dilute the identity of Hale.

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this decision.

Kind regards,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.



## Halton

### Personal Details:

Name:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

### Comment text:

[REDACTED] To whom it may concern, I would like to object to the proposal to merge Hale with Halebank and Ditton. Hale has clear and identifiable natural boundaries, that separate it from the rest of Halton. The community spirit, wildlife and open nature of Hale ensures it maintains an unrestricted landscape of agricultural open space that should remain independent of such an industrial Ward as Ditton. I hope you will consider this objection when making your final decisions. Hale should be left untouched, as it always has done, for centuries to come. Yours faithfully, [REDACTED]

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

## Halton

### Personal Details:

Name:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

### Comment text:

I understand the Commission's desire for strong examples of community support to confirm their view in respect of the draft recommendations and note the representations already made by a number of members of the public, community groups and parish councils. Rams Brook is a dominant geographical feature that borders Hale and is well-known in the area to give a clear identity to the ward, with residents having to cross one of three bridges to enter Hale. Hale needs to retain its identity and character to reflect its local infrastructure and current priorities that include open spaces, Green Belt and the protection of its Grade 1 agricultural land - sentiments that are at the heart of this community and its fabric. Many people are drawn to Hale from across the country to see the home of the infamous giant, the Child of Hale. Ditton has no such tourism economy and it can be clearly seen from the attached photographs that there is a stark contrast between the two wards, with little common interest or overlap. I do hope the plans to merge Hale with Ditton are reconsidered to enable Hale to retain its established identity that it has taken many centuries to develop. A sense of neighbourhood is better reflected in one sole point of accountability for small rural communities such as Hale. A successful formula that the Commission has recommended for a number of other similarly-sized villages across Cheshire.

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded



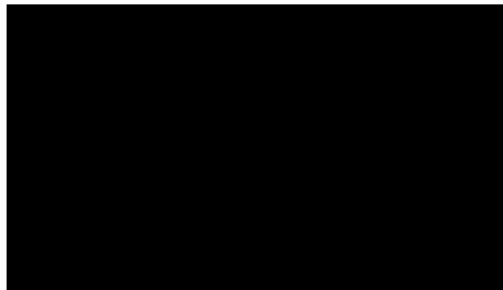
Dear Reviewer,

***HALE / DITTON***

I would like to express my concern and disappointment regarding the proposed new boundary lines.

I feel by moving the boundary lines, the community support and values will become diluted.

I would urge you to not make detrimental changes to what is currently a thriving and supportive community and I look forward to hearing from you in due course.



## Halton

### Personal Details:

Name:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

### Comment text:

[REDACTED] I am a former resident of Hale Village and was for 10 years the District Councillor representing the Hale Ward on Halton Borough Council. I have read the draft recommendations for Widnes West and fully understand the reasons for these in terms of variance and uniformity of representation across the Borough. The report does, however, acknowledge that a uniform pattern of three-member wards does not have to be adhered to where there is compelling evidence to the contrary. From my time as a Hale resident, Councillor and community activist in Hale Bank I believe that there is a compelling case for either a two-member ward encompassing Hale and Hale Bank or two wards with individual member representation. The case is based on the fundamental need to ensure effective democratic representation for two communities with very distinctive identities and interests. Over three decades as a resident, Councillor and activist, the relationships between these two historically linked communities and Halton Council has been continually strained and more often than not conflictual. This has been due to Halton's frequent attempts to foster large-scale developments on to these communities that are entirely contrary to the wishes of local residents and the capacity of these areas to accommodate major residential, industrial and infrastructure proposals that are fundamentally unsustainable. The draft proposals would place both communities within a large geographically disparate ward where the majority of votes would be contained in the urban area of Ditton from, and where, I believe, local Councillors would inevitably draw their mandate and place their priority. During my time as a Councillor for Hale I often found myself fulfilling the role of de facto Councillors for Hale Banks as well due to the perceived isolation of the community from Ditton and Widnes and its relative proximity to Hale. Hale Bank was perceived as distant and peripheral, and as a consequence its interests were often disregarded. Sadly, this situation has persisted over the years with the community in Hale Bank feeling disenfranchised and ignored by Councillors who have consistently taken a pro-Halton view on a series of issues that have been opposed by local residents. These have included plans for the massive expansion of the 3MG Rail Freight proposal on to green-belt land at Hale Bank, the proposed 1 million sq ft Amazon distribution centre, the loss of community greenspace at Lovel Fields and the siting of two major waste disposal facilities in close proximity to local housing, lack of concern about the impact of pollution and poor air quality. During this time, I have campaigned and represented residents at two planning enquiries and assisted with two successful Judicial Review applications overturning decisions by Halton relating to the Amazon proposal, and the proposed loss of Hale Bank Village Green. Throughout this entire period Ditton Councillors have often taken a pro-Halton Council view and have not provided effective representation for the residents of Hale Bank. The ongoing lack of effective and accountable representation led directly to the creation of a Parish Council in Hale Bank to give the Council a dedicated, albeit vicarious input into Halton decision-making. The ongoing divergence of interest between these two outlying communities and the urban core of Halton is once again brought into focus within the Halton DALP, and the Council's ambitious plans to deliver massive and disruptive residential developments within the greenbelt areas of Hale and Hale Bank. The scale of the proposed development would effectively double the combined population of these settlements and is completely unsupported by demographic evidence or demand studies. It is, however, intrinsic to Halton Council's financial sustainability strategy that depends upon demographic restructuring and the creation of large numbers of higher Council Tax banded residential properties in greenfield locations. This strategy is opposed by the overwhelming majority of residents within both communities. As the DALP process moves forward, the interests of these areas would be compromised by the absence of effective democratic representation as envisaged by the draft proposals for West Widnes. The proposal for Hale / Hale Bank ward does reflect an historic community of interest. The villages are within a single ecclesiastical parish and areas of both were formerly within the same ward under the former Whiston Rural District Council. The villages are united by common concerns and interests and are qualitatively different in the fabric and structure of their communities to the highly urbanized and integrated settlement of Widnes. It is also material that, notwithstanding local opposition to the growth proposals advanced by Halton, both communities accept the argument for an appropriate and sustainable scale of residential

development which would result in increased population in the short to medium term thereby reducing the variance levels. Indeed, the current proposals for West Widnes are likely to contribute to variance by failing to anticipate the likely outcome of the DALP. I believe that there is scope for adjustments to ward boundaries in other areas of West Widnes that could achieve satisfactory levels of variance whilst respecting communities of interest and not jeopardizing the fundamental principles of democratic representation. This is a soluble challenge but requires an independent and objective perspective, that respects community identity and is not driven by the self-serving interests of a single party dominated local authority.

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded

**Owen, David**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 February 2019 20:26  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** Merger with Ditton and Halebank

I am writing to object and raise my concerns over the above merger. I feel that Hale village will lose its identity, independence and character as the ward will increase tremendously. Our concerns and issues will be overlooked as we are a small number compared to the other boroughs. At the moment we have a counsellor who is dedicated to improving the lives of the people of Hale. Hale's sole counsellor would have about 15% less electors and this is an inequality in itself. We would be small fish in a big sea. There will be more electorate voting for other ward's counsellors so we would never have anyone looking out for us. Hale is a tight community who look after the residents. Hale is a tourist attraction in it's own right and receives many many visitors bringing a good income to the village. We have natural boundaries, history and culture which all add the the beauty of Hale. There are many groups and organisations which support all ages within the village which adds quality to village life. People look out for each other as it is a small and caring community. The green belt also adds beauty to the village. This merger will wipe out Hale's existence as a village as it will absorbed by the other two wards. I strongly object to this merger.

[REDACTED] Hale resident

Sent from my iPad

**Owen, David**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 08 February 2019 13:37  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** Boundary Commission Review of Halton - Proposed Merger Involving Hale Village

To : The Review Officer (Halton), LGBCE, Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0TL

From : [REDACTED]

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are only very recently aware of a current proposal to merge our electoral ward of Hale, with nearby wards of Halebank and Ditton, and as residents of Hale for the past 18 years, wish to express our very strenuous objection to the proposal.

We were planning to compose our own individual letter outlining the reasons for our objection, but having today caught sight of the very detailed letter dated 4th February, and sent to your office by the Clerk to Hale Parish Council, we feel that this lengthy letter contains everything that we would wish to say, but far more eloquently than anything we could compose ourselves. Accordingly we simply wish to place our names alongside those of the members of Hale Parish Council, and urge you to please give all issues raised in the letter, very serious and detailed consideration. They fully represent our views of this complex situation, and we hope that in due course you will reject the proposed merger, and allow Hale to retain it's independent identity.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]



Dear Commission,

**HALTON REVIEW**

I'm writing to keep Hale as it is.

Please don't change the boundaries for our peaceful and tranquil village.

I work and live in this community and it means the world to me.

It's such a vibrant and great place to live.

Changing its boundary will effect the identity of Hale and the community spirit that has been built up for many years.

Im proud to be apart of this community and want to keep it.

Im hoping this process is fair and Hale can stay as it is.

Your faithfully,





**Owen, David**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 February 2019 12:24  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** Halton Council proposed Hale and Ditton ward merger objection Feb 2019

Dear Review Officer

As a longstanding resident of Hale Village I object to the proposed merger of Hale Ward with Ditton Ward. I am in full agreement with all the objections made by [REDACTED] Clerk of Hale Parish Council.

Hale Village has an incredibly strong sense of community which this proposal will without doubt impact negatively upon. The strength of numbers turning out to local elections in Hale at over 50% compared to Ditton's 16% clearly reflects Hale's individual high community involvement.

I do not believe that 2 such diverse communities could possibly be served appropriately by 1 ward, the interests and requirements differing so significantly. The merge threatens irrevocably to damage the uniqueness of Hale Village as recognised by the queen, the SSSI, UNESCO, RAMSAR, the number of historic monuments and buildings and conservation areas.

The importance of maintaining this separate community identity is recognised by Hale Village residents, visitors, tourists alike. The latter establishing an ever popular tourist economy using The Mersey Way and TransPennine Trail through the Village.

Please acknowledge my objection. My address is :

[REDACTED]

**Owen, David**

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**From:** Luke Trevaskis [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 February 2019 23:48  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** Halton Boundary Review

[REDACTED]

Monday 11 February 2019

Dear Commission,

I am writing as the Chair of Hale Parish Council with the hope of giving you an insight into the charm and unique nature of this untouched part of the world.

Hale is a small yet cohesive community that prides itself on its appearance and community values.

Those who move into the area tend to stay for many years and there is a unique and inexplicable connection that sees residents drawn into a symbiotic relationship with the landscape that envelops them.

There is sometimes much beauty to be found in the most untouched areas of the world, and Hale most certainly is one such destination.

Having worked hard on developing a Neighbourhood Plan for Hale, it is clear to me how important the identity of Hale is to residents and as such I feel compelled to object to any proposal that would see this independence lost.

The new proposed ward pattern would serve as a direct conflict to the effective representation of Hale, proving unmanageable, disordered and incoherent for Councillors and residents alike.

Driving past two miles of unrestricted farmland and marshes, over Rams Brook and into the village, provides a clear sense of arrival into Hale's community and it is difficult to understand how Hale can adjoin Ditton and successfully realise community solidarity with such a distance present.

I personally have a number of ambitions to see Hale continue to prosper and thrive as a vibrant ward and I would ask the Commission to consider how important Hale's identity is to its current economy and the predisposition of its parishioners.

Residents are dedicated to their community and it is difficult nowadays to see such unity and linkage in many parts of the Borough, and indeed the Country.

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with representatives of the Commission to show the reviewers around Hale and introduce them to the community groups that form our extraordinary sense of community harmony and balance.

The Parish Council's new website ([www.haleparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.haleparishcouncil.gov.uk)) should go some way in helping the Commission see evidence of the events held each month that help to keep such a rural and distinct community alive.

In a world that appears to be ever-focused on continuous development and expansion, I would ask the Commission to consider the sentiment of upholding a community that is a time capsule of historic local significance.

Symbolising a longlasting ideal of celebrated British identity, Hale represents a village built on aligned values and a strong sense of self that should be safeguarded to serve as an example for generations to come.

It is this very protection of small communities such as Hale that I ask the Commission to consider preserving when reviewing the boundaries in Halton.

I believe it is of national importance to defend such areas, to ensure they can continue as a last refuge of effective local governance that has stood the test of time.

Hale is a true example of democracy at its finest and sometimes no change, is the most appropriate change.

With very warm regards,

Cllr Luke Trevaskis  
Chair  
Hale Parish Council



Dear Commission,

**HALTON REVIEW**


We identify with Hale more than with Ditton, especially as there is actually over 2 miles of green space between the 2 areas.

Hale has always felt like a separate village to me and I feel that together with one councillor we have a single united voice with the local authority.

Your proposal would destroy this neighbourhood and we would become a part of a community we don't identify with.

Moreover, our interests would no longer be represented properly or effectively.

Your faithfully,



[REDACTED]

7.2.19

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to protest about the proposed merging of Hale with Ditton.

The present councillor knows his ward and its people and is able to concentrate on supporting them. We also have a parish council that is extremely effective in campaigning to protect the heritage of the ward.

With thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

After reading the boundary commissions proposal for the Hale area of Halton, I would like to reject the idea of a large three-member ward and would prefer to see Hale remain as a single member ward as I feel that the areas of Hale and Ditton represent different types of community both politically and economically. Lumping them all together could be to the detriment of one or the other, or both.

With thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

5.2.19

Dear Halton Officer,

I have lived in Hale since the 1940s.

I could not imagine Hale becoming a part of Speke or Ditton and I would like to see Hale remain as it is.

Hale has developed in a much differing way to Ditton historically which remains very different to the present time.

Hale is a quiet residential village that is secluded from commercialisation. Ditton is a busy town with a large amount of social housing and recycling plants.

Hale is a village that sits within one of Halton's very few Conservation Areas and is surrounded by the marshland that leads to the River Mersey.

Please reconsider this proposal.

With kindest regards,

[REDACTED]

**Owen, David**

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 10 February 2019 16:40  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** Hale Village

Dear Sir / Madam,

**Boundary Commission Review of Halton**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Commission's proposed electoral arrangements for wards in the Borough of Halton.

The community of Hale is regarded as a close one, with the Parish Council acting as a uniting factor in this area.

Disappointment must be expressed that the Boundary Commission have not seized this opportunity to retain a strong single-member ward for Hale. It is widely recognised that a single point of accountability provides a strong link between a Councillor and the residents they serve. This is of course why multi-member Parliamentary seats were abolished in the nineteenth century.

Hale is a distinct community on the periphery of Halton and it seems incongruous to attach the village to such an industrious area as Ditton solely for the sake of creating a multi-member ward.

Hale has always been a single-member ward and residents have continuously elected a parishioner who resides within the village, serving as an example of how important representation at a very local level is considered central to the effective and convenient governance of Hale by the electors who reside within the current boundary, with understanding of the importance of Hale.

The Commission may not have understood the impact this change will have on Hale and its loss of identity. Both Hale and Ditton are two divergent communities, with different issues and priorities regarding transportation, community spaces, crime, health, employment and education.

A large multi-member ward would be incompatible with such a small, semi-rural, and isolated village and the Parish Council believes an opportunity to give greater clarity to local democracy in this area has been lost under the current proposals, the village is small it would not have a voice.

Whilst it is recognised the challenges the LGBCE have faced in this part of the Borough, I must stand firm and object to this proposal as my issues would go unheard with issues of the majority of people which Would not be the village.

A village with many historic connections and rural issues would be placed within a ward with vast housing, in more of a town setting.

Being the most Western point of Halton, Hale lies adjacent to the boundary of the Borough. The physical landscape and Rams Brook strongly reinforce the parish boundary to the north and east. The River Mersey offers a natural

boundary to the south. The western edge of the Ward being bordered by the neighbouring local authority, Liverpool City Council.

Hale is a distinct community with an extremely active Parish Council that has represented the area for one-hundred-and-twenty-five years, overseeing various changes to the Local Authority, Ward Councillors, and MPs since the late 1800s.

As such, many generations of electors in the Parish have always identified as residing in Hale, not Ditton or any other part of Widnes. With an L24 postcode that I wish not to change, yet due to this postcode that ward you wish to place me the doctors will not take on patients from Hale.

Given the historical significance of the Ward, the Parish Council believes changing its name would be short-sighted and detrimental to both the current economy and future tourism trade as well as Hale Village residence.

The current footprint of the Ward offers excellent synergy with a vibrant community that boasts countless community groups and committees, all whom work hard to ensure the best interests of Hale are served.

With a population density of only 3 people per hectare, Hale shares a rural identity and has issues which align with other rural parishes such as the protection of Green Belt. It is felt that the needs of Hale would not be well suited to sharing a ward with Ditton that is far greater in number than Hale with a population density in some areas of 48 people per hectare. Furthermore, it is felt that Hale's distinctiveness from other areas it is proposed to share a ward with, would be detrimental to the representation of both Hale and indeed Ditton itself.

Residents in Hale have much in common in this largely rural area and less so than with the urban areas of Ditton. It has been a separate ward for many years as it has consistently met the criteria for uniqueness for a long period of time – only strengthening the sense of community.

There are clear geographical restrictions in this area, making no logical sense of any shared community interest. There is no historic or intertwined nature which has ever connected Ditton with Hale, with an extreme contrast in housing stock, shopping facilities, bus services, road links and general sense of community – all making a compelling case to retain Hale as a single-member ward.

Ditton is such an impenetrable ward that there is no easy way for it to be split and it appears that it has been divided primarily to form electoral equality, with a total lack of consideration as to whether or not it wishes to be a part of Hale, or visa versa.

With a strong sense of community in such a small closely-knit Ward, there is understandable concern that any merger would see differing interests dilute the identity of Hale as the Queen said, "its a jewel in an industrial crown."

I can only come to the assumption that this again a political move, and if Blacon can be an exception why can Hale not be?

I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this decision.



Kind regards,


[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone



Dear Reviewer,

***HALTON – HALE / DITTON***

 was immediately struck by the very strong local sense of identity and understanding of 'Hale' as an area and therefore I must stand with residents when objecting to this proposal to merge Hale with Ditton.


 I hope the Commission reconsider this draft.

I cannot see how there would be any other sensible reconfiguration of this ward that would be meaningful to local residents.

The Commission should aim to reflect the communities it considers, as oppose to opting for administrative convenience to achieve electoral balance.

Hale thrives as it is.


With best,



Thank you for posting on our behalf!

I do not think that Hale and Ditton should be considered as one area with 3 councillors. The two areas are very diverse in social neighbourhoods and the landscape suggest Hale and Ditton should remain separate. I believe the people of Hale would be better served if we have a single named person for us as suggest by the parish council. That way we will know who to talk to and they will hopefully want to be re-elected by their constituents and therefore work hard for us. How do you ensure three ward councillors work hard? How to guarantee they will pull their weight effectively? How do we know which one represents us and our own unique interests in Hale, and not the interests of Ditton?

Thanks,



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir,

[REDACTED]

I have lived in Hale all of my life and know it to be a thriving, inclusive and welcoming community.

By submerging it into Ditton, the deprivation at ward level of Ditton will be masked. It is important for both wards that they are represented politically and it is important that this be done in much smaller areas.

It's my experience that both Hale and Ditton need considerably different support when dealing with Halton.

The present wards are more democratic since you are more likely to get a spread of party member councillors whereas the proposed scheme would be less democratic in that it would result in a huge majority for one party.

Hale is clearly a separate community surrounded by the River Mersey and Rams Brook, nothing can be done to change this.

I have not spoken to one resident this weekend who is in favour of this plan.

Warm regards,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



To the Boundary Commission,

I would like to comment on the proposed changes to the Hale ward in Halton.

As a long term resident of Hale, I am completely against the proposal to merge Hale with Ditton. Hale is an ancient parish, dating back to the Domesday Book, with a thriving community centering around the village with many clubs and events taking place during the year.

There are no links with Ditton and it is a completely isolated community that has become accustomed to protecting its own interests.

Our Parish Council is run by an effective Chair who has represented us for 12 years as a young man dedicated to protecting our environment. He has eloquently submitted a number of arguments against such a merger and we wholeheartedly support his comments.

Please take all of the Parish Council comments as my own when refencing this subject.

Faithfully,



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 11 February 2019 23:30  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** F.AO The Review Officer (Halton) LGBCE

**Proposal by Halton Borough Council to merge the wards of Hale with Ditton and Halebank.**

Dear Sir / Madam,

I write to object to the proposal by Halton Borough Council to merge the wards of Hale with Ditton and Halebank.

Currently each ward is represented by its own ward councillor. These councillors know their individual wards and the problems that each faces.

The three wards are geographically separate, very different in character and demographics.

Hale is geographically separate from the other wards, being located on a peninsula bounded on three sides by the River Mersey and by the Rams Brook, a tributary of the Mersey on the other side, this separates it from the wards of Halebank and Ditton not just by the watercourses but by Hale Marshes, an area of tidal wetland.

Hale has a historic centre with a number of listed buildings. The unique character of Hale is reflected in its local economy, part of which is reliant on tourists visiting the village and attracting trade to local businesses including bed and breakfast accommodation, local cafes, pubs and restaurants.

As a Parish Councillor in Hale, until my retirement from the role last year, I had considerable experience in dealing with the local concerns of Hale residents including those relating to Halton Borough Council.

Each ward, Hale, Ditton and Halebank has a unique set of problems that do not affect the others. To give examples, Hale is located immediately adjacent to Liverpool Airport. Problems specific to Hale residents have included property damage from wind vortex from low flying aircraft, aircraft noise and potential traffic problems caused by planned airport expansion. None of these are of concern to the inhabitants or to the councillors of the other wards, due to them being geographically remote from Hale.

Finally there is no social cohesion between the three wards, each has its own voluntary groups. Hale has an active branch of the British Legion, traditional charity fund raising organisations including the Freemen of Hale and the Hale Guildswomen, who raise funds and support charities that meet the needs of their local residents. There is no interaction between these organisations and those of the other two wards. Public transport between the wards is poor with only one bus an hour though Hale connecting the rest of the borough. People in Hale tend to travel towards Liverpool rather than travel to Ditton. Likewise the residents of Ditton will rarely travel towards Hale preferring to gravitate towards Widnes with its supermarkets, shops and social facilities. In fact there is no social or commercial identity between the inhabitants of what are in reality three very distinct and separate wards.

Concern has been expressed to me by some Hale residents that if the ward boundaries are merged they will lose their identity and representative voice on Halton Borough Council. Ditton has the largest population of the three wards and there is a substantial risk that the representative voice of Hale will be diluted if not totally lost.

Democracy is best served by local representatives who have local knowledge and experienced in their own areas. Combining different social, economic and geographical wards is likely to lead to borough councillors spreading their time and efforts too thinly, thus being less representative and less effective.

The current method of representation has worked well. I therefore request that The Boundary Commission consider that by retaining a ward councillor for Hale, the inhabitants of the ward and the residents of the other two wards will be much better served.

I would request that the Commissioners consider rejecting the proposal by Halton Borough Council to merge the wards of Hale with Ditton and Halebank.

Yours faithfully,



Sent from [Outlook](#)

in writing to object to

male joining doctor.

I have lived here all

my life and don't

want to live in male.



Hale village council

The Review Officer (Halton)

LGBCE

1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Windsor House,

[REDACTED]

50 Victoria Street,

London,

SW1H 0TL

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

10<sup>th</sup> February 2019

RE: Boundary Commission Review of Halton

Dear Sir / Madam,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the commission's proposed electoral arrangements for wards in the borough of Halton. I wish to raise my objection to the proposed changes to merge Hale village with Ditton & Halebank.

The community of Hale needs to retain its link with an individual councillor who can represent the best interest of our well established community.

The interests and needs of the village are completely different to that of neighbouring industrious areas like Ditton.

A large multi-member ward is not compatible for the proposed area as it is just lumping together communities with divergent issues & needs.

If the plan was to go ahead I feel it would affect the village adversely by losing our voice to the larger community numbers of Ditton. This would have an effect when voting on upcoming issues such as plans to ruin the greenbelt surrounding our beautiful village. Also there is the prospect of missing out on any further opportunities such as grants that may arise to benefit our community.

The village residents work hard to preserve the unique look of the village which has a great impact on the community strength and spirit.

The current boundaries are clear and I can see no beneficial reasons for the residents of Hale in altering them.

The community of Ditton also have their own needs and issues that are different to ours to be represented and would not benefit from being in a shared ward with Hale.

Dittons previously lackadaisical approach to ward governing is not something I wish for Hale to get involved in.

I strongly hope Hale can remain independent and that the boundary commission will acknowledge my concerns that any changes will have a negative impact on the villages' identity.

Yours faithfully,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

[REDACTED]

To the Boundary Commission,

I am writing as someone who has been physically attacked by a group of youths in Ditton.

A lot of the population in Ditton have no respect for the Police whereas the PCSO in Hale holds weekly drop ins here and is very active in the community. He has helped me enormously in integrating back into day-to-day life following my attack and it gives me great reassurance to see him so active around the village.

Ditton is a large area that is densely populated giving very little Police presence or effective prosecutions.

I have been raised to respect the people who are there to protect us and I think merging us with Ditton will be a step backwards.

Gun and knife crime is on the rise in Halton and Hale is the only ward to enjoy relatively low crime rates. It is one of the reasons people choose to move here and visit here. Changing this would jeopardise the statistics that are published and reduce the attractiveness of the ward to outsiders. Visitors will be discouraged from visiting Hale and this will have a knock on affect for the small number of business in Hale that rely on this trade such as the pubs.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

To whom it may concern,

Please consider retaining Hale as a single-member ward with one councillor continuing to represent us in the future.

One single point of advice has always been most helpful over the years to a small ageing community such as Hale and I know others and myself have been well represented.

Hale is one community that is quite unique and remote from anywhere else in Halton. All the facilities we need are self-contained within the village with all our social activities taking place within the new fabulous village hall that the parish council has built for us.

The current warding arrangement works very well for Hale and there is no strong argument to suggest having three ward councillors has any greater advantages for the people of the village. Why change the present arrangement that works so well and has seen Hale continue to flourish decade after decade?

Hale and Ditton are not one area, they are two and all residents of Hale perceive travelling over one of Rams Brook's three bridges to symbolise their arrival back 'home'.

Regards,

[REDACTED]



5.2.19

Dear Halton Officer,

I am very concerned that residents of Hale have not been properly informed about this new directive from the government.

A lot of people in Hale are getting older, unable to access the internet and don't own a computer.

The Parish Council have been very helpful in assisting many of us with addresses and points to raise, but this should have come from Halton.

There should be a set of plans in the village that are printed in large font so people can fully understand them.

From what I have been told, Hale is merging with Ditton.

There has been no consultation with people of Hale regarding this matter and I would like a review of this issue.

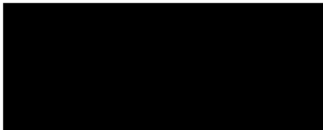
Hale is a discreet community in Halton with its own identity, geography and spirit.

Ditton is town suburb with a highly dense population and poor social economy.

Rams Brook is Hale's boundary and there is no discernible community links either side.

I do not consider myself to live in Widnes and would appreciate a review that is geographically and demographically appropriate to Hale.

With kindest regards,



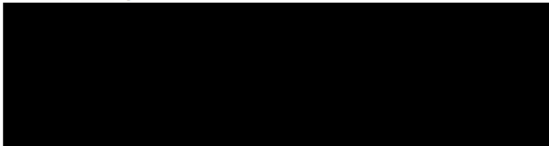
It is inconsistent with the principle of democratic representation to have so many multi-councillor wards in Halton. In your recommended approach, Hale residents will unlikely be able to elect a representative of choice, without being completely out-weighted by an over-populated area such as Ditton.

Last year we had a young independent candidate in the local elections that gained 44% of the votes against the current deputy leader of Halton, our labour ward councillor in Hale. How is an independent able to run in a fair election in future? Even if we wanted an independent at the next election, we only have 1500 voters in Hale whereas Ditton will all use their 3500 to vote in labour irrespective of who the best person is to represent our area.

Ditton should not be allowed to choose who gets elected in Hale. This is not democracy. You may aswell make the whole of Halton one ward and have labour destroy it with factories, chemical plants and recycling facilities.

Widnes already has one of the largest levels of toxicity in the country. In addition to the most contaminated brownfield that they won't clear up as they would rather build on Hale's green belt.

Thanks,



[REDACTED]

To the Boundary Commission,

I'm writing to challenge the recommendation that Hale be merged with Ditton.

I acknowledge that the current ward does not provide enough 'voters' to warrant remaining a single ward but in reality a single ward councillor in Hale would have just as much responsibility as councillors elsewhere in the Borough due to how active parishioners are in reporting issues and participating in finding resolutions to local issues.

I also acknowledge keeping Hale as a single ward may lead to too many 'voters' seemingly burdening the two remaining councillors in Ditton, but as only 16% of voters turned out at Ditton's by-election in October, it's clear to see how many forfeit their opportunity to take part in local democracy.


This general lack of interest and awareness in Ditton only nurtures complacent councillors which is why Ditton have always had such inactive members. This is the reason Ditton councillor Shaun Osborne was sacked last year for not attending six months of meetings.

The residents of Hale are passionate about their community, whose identity, they fear, would be destroyed if the single-member ward was abolished.

This proposal has been made as a plan by the current Labour Council to merge us with a much larger population of Labour supporters after nearly losing their seat in the local election last year to a young independent who is the current Chair of the Parish Council. This doesn't sound like fair representation to me, it's a backdoor approach for the deputy leader of Halton (our ward councillor) to save his seat.

Thanks, [REDACTED]





The Review Officer (Halton)  
LGBCE  
1st Floor, Windsor House,  
50 Victoria Street,  
London  
SW1H 0TL

11 February 2019

Dear Sir / Madam

I would like to add my comments and objections against the proposed boundary changes in the Boundary Commission Review for Halton.

The historic village of Hale, as stated by the Borough of Halton, is the 'Jewel in the Crown' of Halton 'a rural oasis' and anything that affects its unique status should not be considered.


There seems to be no good reason for the proposal to attach Hale Village to Ditton as this is such a big industrial area that it seems some what incongruous and incompatible that such a pretty village with all its unique and historic assets could be fully represented by a multi member ward. With the inevitable 15% electoral inequality would result in a loss of identity and more importantly representation.

The village has its own identifiable and natural borders ie. Ramsbrook Lane which borders the village and the natural coast line of the Mersey, this in itself creates a community spirit and links within the village ( ie. parish council, various organisations and voluntary groups). The unique history of the village itself creates tourism and income to its and Halton's great advantage.


The Village of Hale is one of the oldest settlements and a historic market town with white thatch cottages, it was mentioned in the Domesday Book, it has sites of Special Scientific Interest, a UNESCO Ramsay Convention site, Scheduled Historic Monuments, listed buildings, conservation areas, the Mersey way coastal walk and many other stand out advantages. It needs unique representation.

We have always had representation via a Ward Councillor who actually lives within the community and has the understanding of the needs of this unique village. This voice I feel would be diluted and even lost amongst the needs of the industrial side of the area (although very important in these times of uncertainty) things should be left alone, we do not want to diminish or even lose these areas that are so historically important and cannot be recreated, the Jewel in the Crown deserves to be locally represented, its identity preserved and not lost through electoral inequality we should remain a single member ward.

Yours faithfully







The Review Officer (Halton)  
LGBCE  
1st Floor, Windsor House,  
50 Victoria Street,  
London  
SW1H 0TL

11 February 2019

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Yours faithfully



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

To the boundary commission for England,

Firstly, I would like to point out that for someone who is registered blind, this process has been extremely difficult.

Having horses in both Hale and Halebank, I can see the differences in the community, and the distance between the two.

I respect the review is needed and do not envy the job.

I do however feel compelled to raise an objection to this proposal to abolish Hale's independent identity.

I consider myself living proof of the benefits of residing in this haven of Halton under the existing electoral structure.

Having moved to Hale from Halebank, I have been pleasantly surprised to find such an active and distinct community.

One of your stated objectives is to promote effective local governance and I would argue that single councillor wards make this far more feasible than larger wards.

People in Hale know their ward councillor and it is highly unlikely to enjoy such a personal experience in a large ward.

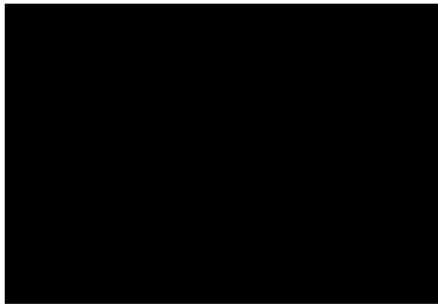
There is a parish council that is there for all the community and Cllr Trevaskis is an ever-present figure in the village and is always fighting for what the people of Hale want.

Should the merger be unavoidable I would like to propose Hale be named first in the new ward title.

Many thanks,



The Reviewing Officer (Halton)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Windsor House,  
50 Victoria Street,  
London  
SW1H 0TL



7<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Re: Boundary Commission Review: HALTON**

To adjoin Hale to Ditton, as proposed, would have a catastrophic effect on local democracy.

Electors have worked tirelessly to grow a ward that helps the community and gives a proper identity to the people of Hale.

The Commission's proposal shows no sensitivity to a small village that has succeeded in staving off development and protecting its Green Belt for many decades.

Both Ditton and Hale could not be more different. Indeed this could also be said for the obstacles faced by each area. With such a differing range of local issues in the newly proposed merged ward, there would be an overwhelming challenge faced by councillors who would find themselves engulfed in a complex and diverse 'super ward' that may negatively overload any possibility for effective and convenient local government.

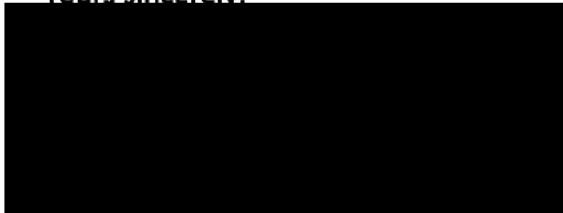
It is disappointing to see the lack of awareness there is in Hale for these proposed plans and Halton Borough Council as a corporate body has done little to promote this democratic process to its electors.

I do not believe an electoral variance of 16% less electors is truly reflective of a smaller caseload for a councillor in Hale and I can assure the Commission that the active voices in the community will always ensure Hale's councillor is one of the most laden councillors in Halton.

Similarly, the Commission should note that Hale Bank is also represented by an active Parish Council that substantially relieves the burden placed on any councillors in Ditton that may also experience a variance from a two-member ward.

I hope that my comments and observations will be useful to the Commission when reconsidering such a vast issue that will undeniably have consequences for the area in which I live.

Yours sincerely,



**[REDACTED]**  
**8 February 2019**

**THE REVIEW OFFICER (HALTON)  
LGBCE**

**Dear SIR or MADAM,**

**It has come to our attention that the current wards of Hale and Ditton are being rethought with the potential of merging.**

**This would challenge our identity and question whether or not our very unique needs would be address by the council in future years. This has caused great concern to our local residents and we would like to campaign against this motion.**

**Hale, is an exceptionally unique area, it is the home to young professionals, families, the elderly and retired. We are inclusive and work together to create a vibrant place to live. Myself and my husband moved to Hale forty years ago and have been made so welcome by the community that we now call our home.**

**The sense of identity in Hale is palpable. There are year round events and there are always projects that our active parish council is working on.**

**The people who live here are passionate about their home and are always working towards preservation and improvement.**

**There have been a number of challenges to Hale's identity over the years all of which we have successfully fought off. Losing this independence would be devastating.**

**The new larger ward is too broad and our unique needs would not be met. Although close to Ditton, Hale's needs are very different.**

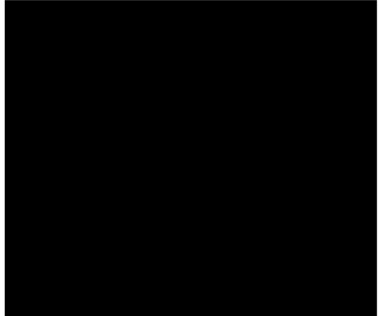
**If the Commission's aim is to ensure "the patterns of wards should reflect the interests and identities of local communities as well as promoting effective local government" then Hale should remain as it is, a single-member ward.**

**Yours sincerely,**

**[REDACTED]**



The Reviewing Officer (Halton)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Windsor House,  
50 Victoria Street,  
London  
SW1H 0TL



7<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Dear Sir or Madam,

**Re: Boundary Commission Review: HALTON**

The proposed three-member ward suggested for Hale and Ditton appears far too large, compared to the rest of the suggested ward sizes across the district, and indeed the wider County of Cheshire.

The problem arises from the inclusion of Hale in this ward.

The community of Hale is a very distinct community and to attempt to coerce these two opposed communities together fails to comply with the Commission's community cohesion criteria.

Residents I have spoken to in Hale are deeply unhappy with the current proposals and the Commission's draft recommendations will create overall disharmony in between these two communities.

There are no shared facilities between Ditton and Hale, nor is there one communal focal point or uniting community force.

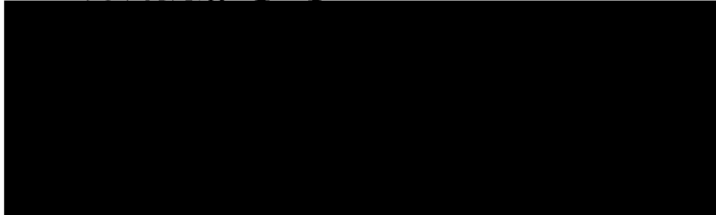
There is a very sharp contrast between Hale and Ditton, not only in appearance, but also in social context. Hale is a clear geographic area separated from Ditton by Rams Brook and only accessible in Halton by travelling over one of three bridges (located on Ramsbrook Lane, Carr Lane or Hale Gate Road).

Our current single-member councillor may find it challenging to adequately engage with such a different population making it difficult to play an effective representative role in the Council.

It is evident in Hale that, as nature intended, the sense of community is reflective of the divisive landscape. With acres of open countryside surrounding the rural community of Hale, it could not be any more contrasting than the densely populated and industrial area of Ditton.

I would urge the Commission to ensure Hale is retained as a single-member ward, in line with the identifiable natural boundary directives of the criteria and identity and interests of the village.

Yours sincerely,





[REDACTED]

To the Boundary Commission,

Growing up in Hale, I have had the privilege of enjoying the wildlife and its unique landscape.

I expect I will continue to live in Hale for many years to come but I am concerned about the proposal for it to join Ditton.

I worry this will only lead to increased crime statistics for the area and Hale has historically benefitted from the lowest crime statistics in the whole of Halton.

To give you an example of challenges faced by Ditton's population, please see the below photo of a haul of weapons found in the bedroom of a teenager in Ditton following an assault in Upton Rocks.



This haul has been widely publicised on BBC, ITV, Manchester Evening News, Cheshire Live and in the Runcorn and Widnes World (aswell as worldwide).

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-merseyside-47119509>

<https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2019-02-05/a-crossbow-hunting-knives-and-star-trek-blade-the-disturbing-haul-of-weapons-found-in-teenagers-bedroom/>

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/star-trek-weapon-seized-police-15776120>

<https://www.cheshire-live.co.uk/news/chester-cheshire-news/haul-weapons-including-star-trek-15779477>

<https://www.runcornandwidnesworld.co.uk/news/17405780.hoard-of-weapons-found-after-youth-left-with-serious-injuries/>

I think merging Hale with Ditton would encourage more antisocial behaviour spilling out into Hale and with teenage stabbings on the increase, I would rather see Hale remain a small population who can better protect and represent itself and its own interests.

I've always used my vote and speaking to some people in Ditton I realise that a lot of the younger population don't even know what local democracy means or have any interest in being a part of it. Pooling our votes with an area that is so different to ours will result in our voice being lost. Nobody in Ditton will understand the needs of Hale. It would lead to much more divisiveness and conflict between the two separate communities. There is already resentment and jealousy shown towards young people who live in Hale. This proposal would only fuel to increase this and potentially endanger residents.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]