



Haywards Heath Town Council

Community Governance Review

Draft Recommendations



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Introduction

A community governance review is taking place for the area of Haywards Heath Town Council.

In this review, the Council will be guided by the relevant legislation in Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 and the relevant national guidance document. Furthermore, it is guided by the decisions made by the Scrutiny Committee for People and Communities on both the Terms of Reference adopted on the 28 May 2025, and draft recommendations approved on the 3 September 2025.

This community governance review is being undertaken to take account of electoral boundary changes being applied because of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's review of Mid Sussex District Council in 2021. The outcome of the LGBCE review can be found on their website [here](#).

The Review

Initial Scope of the Review

The initial scope of the review, as approved in our Terms of Reference at the Scrutiny Committee for People and Communities on the 28 May 2025, set out to consider the following:

- Haywards Heath Town Council – Whether to move the south-western boundary to include the existing parish wards of Rocky Lane North and Rocky Lane South. The proposal is that these parish wards would move from Ansty & Staplefield Parish Council to Haywards Heath Town Council.
- Lindfield Parish Council – Whether to move the existing town council ward of Haywards Heath North East to Lindfield Parish Council. This proposal is that this town council ward would move from Haywards Heath Town Council to Lindfield Parish Council.
- Other related matters which may arise during the review in response to representations received, will be considered as appropriate.

Please refer to the maps in Appendix 1 and 2, which show our initial proposals with the existing and proposed new boundaries. Dynamic maps can also be found online by visiting [Electoral Boundary Map - Mid Sussex District Council](#).

Aim of the Review

The aim of this review is to bring about:

- improved and stronger community engagement
- more cohesive communities
- better local democracy
- efficient, more effective and convenient delivery of local services ensuring residents across the respective areas are treated equally and fairly

In addition, we aim is to complete this review and give effect to any new boundaries at the next ordinary local government elections in May 2027

Initial Consultation

Background

On the 9 June 2025, an 8-week consultation commenced, requesting the views of interested parties in relation to the initial scope of the review. The consultation closed at midnight, on 8 August 2025. The review was widely publicised through the Council's website, social media and leafletting to properties throughout Haywards Heath, Lindfield and Ansty & Staplefield.

We welcomed responses from registered local government electors, and any other person or body, including a local authority, who appears to have an interest in the community governance review.

Responses to the Initial Consultation

The Council convened a panel to carefully review and consider all responses to the consultation between the 9 June and 8 August 2025 (the first of two public consultations planned for the community governance review). 102 responses were received during the consultation period from a wide range of stakeholders, a breakdown by type of respondent can be seen below:

Type of Respondent	Total No of Responses (per Type)
Local Resident	94
Local Organisation	1
Local Authority	4
Political Party	0
Councillor	2
MP	1
Total No of Responses	102

A full summary of responses received can be viewed on our website [here](#). In addition, a full analysis of responses was presented to the Scrutiny Committee for People and Communities on the 3 September 2025, the report and appendices can be found [here](#).

Draft Recommendations

Following the initial consultation on the scope of this review, the proposals were revised and subsequently approved by the Scrutiny Committee for People and Communities on 3 September 2025. The following matters are now under consideration, and are subject to public consultation:

Draft Recommendation 1: Haywards Heath North East remains within Haywards Heath Town Council.

Having carefully considered all the representations made to the Council, we recommend that the town ward of Haywards Heath North East remains within the Haywards Heath Town Council area for the following reasons:

- Concerns from residents regarding the increase in Council Tax and their belief that they identified closer to Haywards Heath provided compelling arguments to not change existing and solid parish representation.
- It is considered that aligning District and Parish wards would no longer prove as beneficial to local residents as District wards would no longer exist following local government reorganisation.
- We have noted representations from residents that feel they more closely align to Lindfield. However, this is not a view shared by many other local residents within the ward.

We have also noted representations that suggest amending the existing parish ward boundary so that fewer roads are moved to Lindfield Parish Council. In light of the small number of representations suggesting amended parish boundaries, this does not form part of our draft recommendations.

Draft Recommendation 2: Rocky Lane North and Rocky Lane South remains within Ansty & Staplefield Parish Council.

Having carefully considered all the representations made to the Council, we recommend that the parish wards of Rocky Lane North and Rocky Lane South remain within the Ansty & Staplefield Parish Council area for the following reasons:

- Concerns from Ansty & Staplefield Parish Council, West Sussex County Council, Mims Davies MP and local residents regarding the loss of precept if Rocky Lane was to move to Haywards Heath Town Council.
- That residents feel that they are suitably represented by Ansty & Staplefield and feel there is no benefit to changing authority. Additionally, they feel they would encounter reduced representation if they were to make such a move.
- While the use of the facilities and services provided within Haywards Heath have been noted by residents, on balance the financial implications and current examples of good governance within Ansty & Staplefield outweigh any benefit from change.

Following our revised recommendations, which build upon the original Terms of Reference outlined above, and having carefully considered all representations submitted to the Council, we are also seeking views on the following additional proposals:

Draft Recommendation 3: That Haywards Heath Town Council is served by 17 Councillors, representing 5 wards. This includes an increase of representation on the Haywards Heath Franklands ward, increasing the Councillor numbers from 3 to 4.

- We believe that the above electoral structure will provide suitable representation to each town ward and provide town councillors manageable workloads.
- The increase in representation in Haywards Heath Franklands is recommended due to an expected increase in housing, which are due to begin construction in 2026.

A map which presents the existing and proposed new warding can be found in Appendix 3.

In addition, full details of the proposed new warding compared to existing arrangements can be found in Appendix 4.

Final Consultation

Responding to the Review

Mid Sussex District Council welcomes representations from any person or body who may wish to comment or make proposals on any aspect of the matters under review. If you wish to respond to the community governance review, please refer to our Guidance for Respondents found on our website here. You can submit representations to the review via a number of methods, these include:



Online Form: [Response Form Link](#)



Email: communitygovernancereviews@midsussex.gov.uk



Post:
HHTC Community Governance Review
Electoral Services
Mid Sussex District Council
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 1SS

All representations to our first stage of consultation must be received by the 14th November 2025. Please note that no decisions will be made until all representations have been carefully considered.

Further Information & Contact Details

If you require any further information, please don't hesitate to contact the Electoral Services Team via the details below:

- **E-mail:** communitygovernancereviews@midsussex.gov.uk
- **Telephone:** 01444 477003



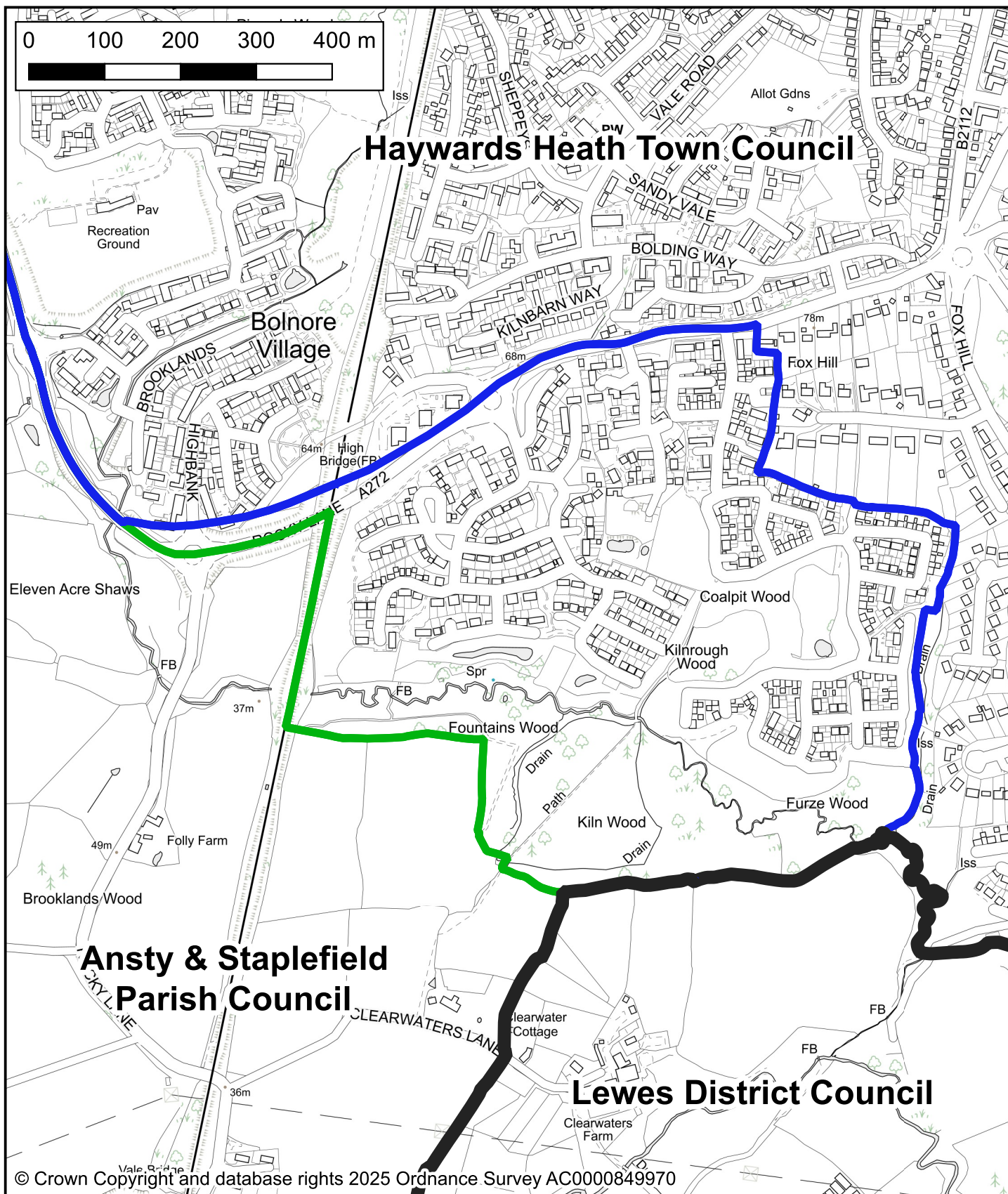
District Boundary



Proposed Parish/Town Boundary

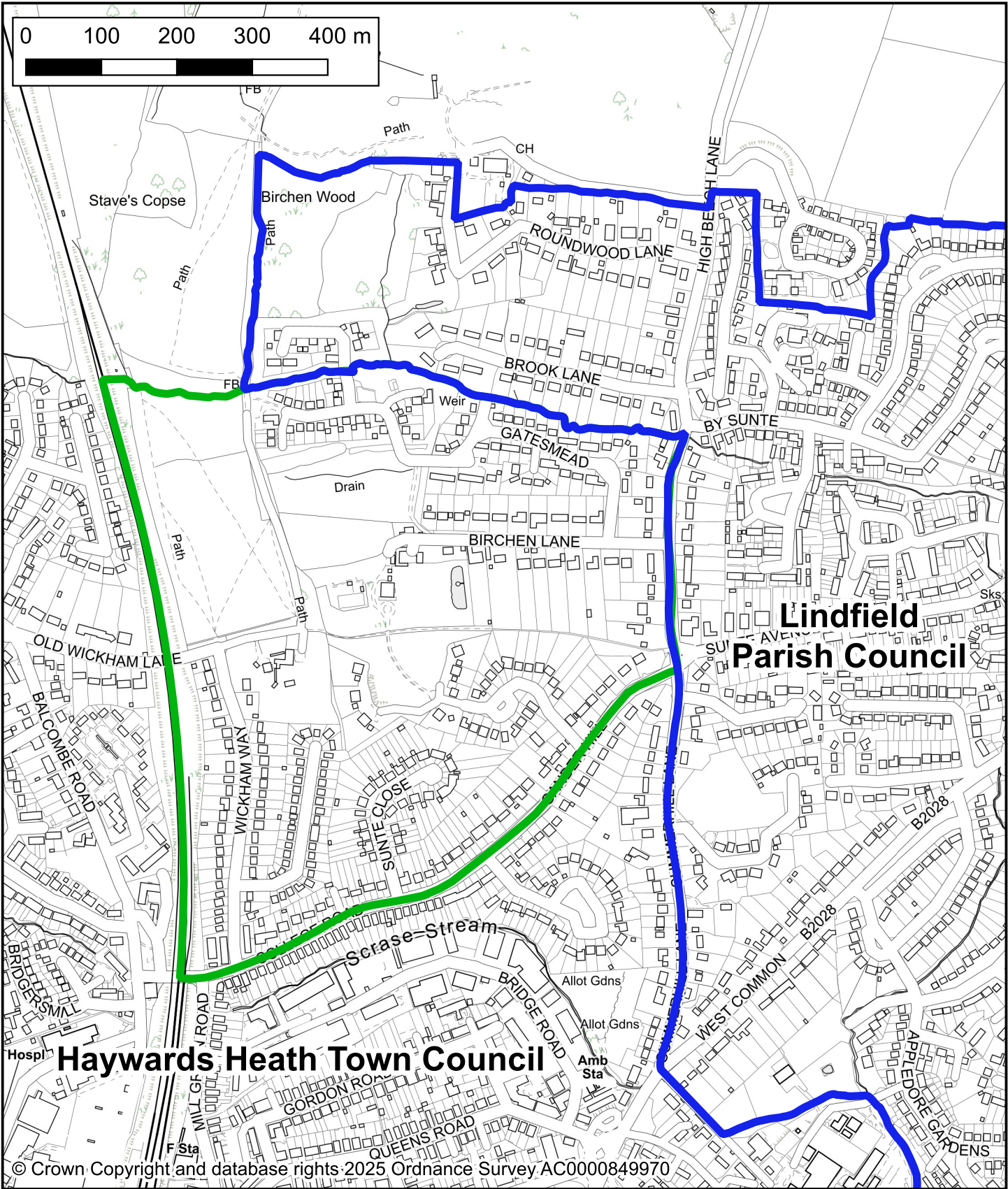


Existing Parish/Town Boundary



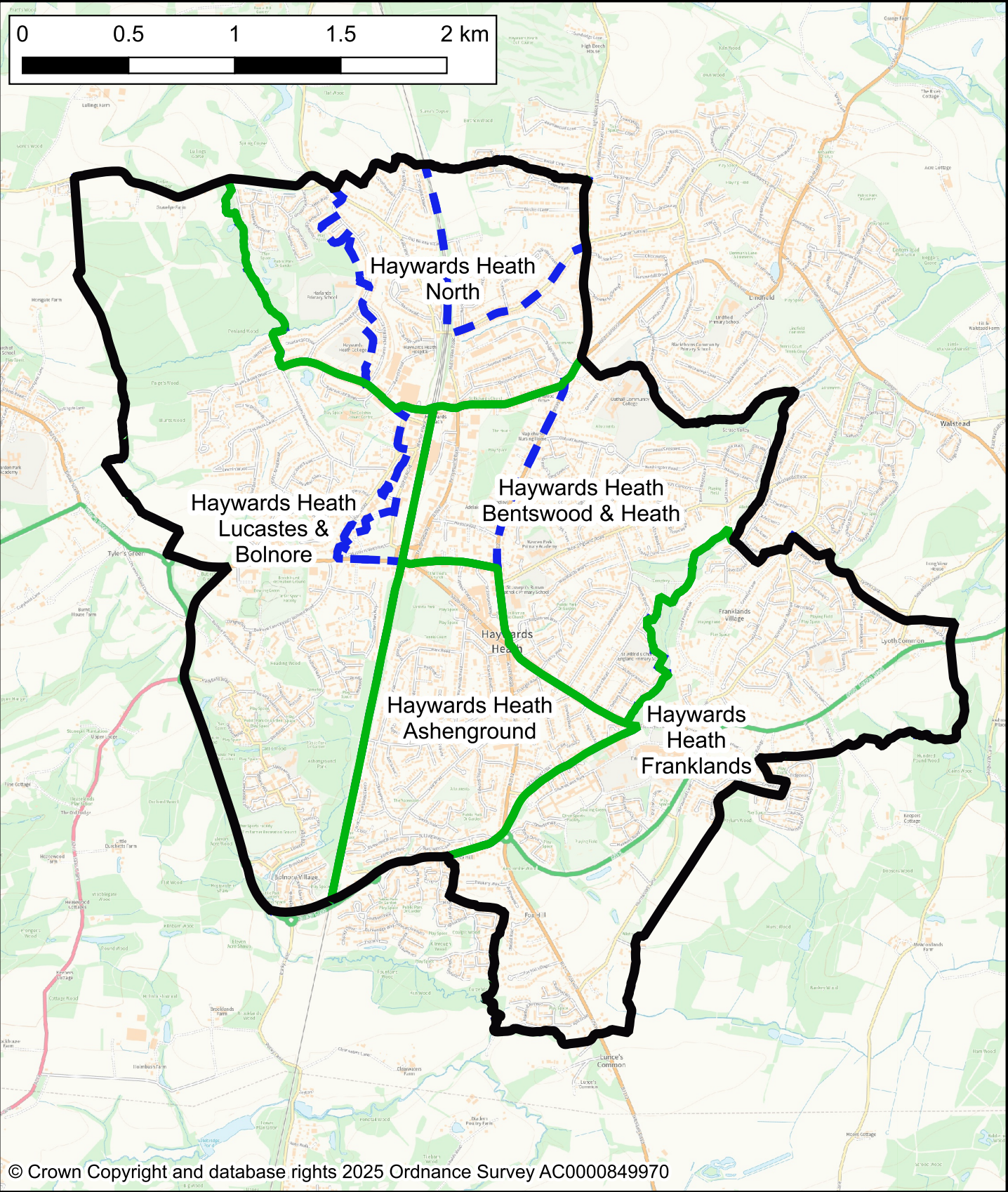


 Existing Parish/Town Boundary  Proposed Parish/Town Boundary





-  Town Boundary
-  Existing Town Ward Boundary
-  Proposed Town Ward Boundary



Appendix 4 – Proposed Haywards Heath Warding Arrangements

Haywards Heath Town Council	Cllrs	Electors	Cllr Ratio	Total Electorate	Proposed Cllrs	Proposed Cllr Ratio
Haywards Heath Ashenground						
Haywards Heath Ashenground	2	4,507	2254*	4,507	2	2254*
Haywards Heath Bentswood & Heath						
Haywards Heath Benstwood & Heath East	3	4,562	1521*	5,862	4	1466*
Haywards Heath Benstwood & Heath West	1	1300	1300			
Haywards Heath Franklands						
Haywards Heath Franklands	3	4,397	1466*	4,397	4	1099**
Haywards Heath Lucastes & Bolnore						
Haywards Heath Lucastes & Bolnore	3	5025	1675	5,371	4	1343*
Haywards Heath Lucastes Boltro	1	346	346			
Haywards Heath North						
Haywards Heath North Central	1	2298	2298	3,562	3	1187**
Haywards Heath North West	1	618	618			
Haywards Heath North East	1	646	646			
Totals	16	23,699	1481**		17	1394**

Key	
BLUE TEXT / BLUE BOX	Proposed changes
RED TEXT	Current arrangements
*	Rounded up
**	Rounded down

Electorate calculated using the August 2025 Register of Electors.