

CRONDALL PARISH COUNCIL

11th April 2011

The Review Officer Hart
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76 – 86 Turnmill Street
London
EC1M 5LG
Your ref:

Dear Sirs

Ref: Hart (Hampshire) Electoral and Boundary Review

1. Crondall Parish council welcomes the opportunity to comment on this and makes the following observations.
2. The Parish Council is some what frustrated that there are no clear proposals to comments against, but recognises that these should evolve later in this process. In lieu of detailed information, we have noted the existing comments and views published on your website as a basis for comment.
3. It is our view that one Councillor is able to provide a more personal service than increasing the size of the area and sharing the duties between two or more Councillors. We believe that this situation would be confusing, increase the workload and requirement for in depth knowledge for local issues, and could lead to the more dominant Parishes gaining priority over smaller and more rural Parishes. Recent historical experience of a helpful, but non-local Councillor filling in on planning issues exemplified this point to the Parish.
4. A plan to hold elections every year for a 3-District Councillor Ward with the 4th year devoted to County Councillor elections seems to us to be an unwarranted increase in the cost of democracy. The current system works well and we have not seen any evidence to support annual elections. Each election costs in the order of £600 per Polling Station be it for 1 or more councillors seats. For a rural ward (like Crondall) up to 4 Polling Stations are used (as in 2010), each staffed. Additionally, there is a risk of “election fatigue” with much of the population not bothering to vote, increase electoral frequency will only exacerbate this, resulting in only those with more strongly held views making the effort to vote.
5. We support the principle of clearly separating “urban” and “rural” wards as the issues faced by each tend to be different.

Yours sincerely

Clerk, Crondall Parish Council