

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Rusthall Parish Council

Comment text:

I am a resident of Rusthall and I am very concerned about the possibility under the proposed changes to the existing ward boundary for the village being absorbed into other wards thereby diluting the role that the borough and particularly the parish council play, Rusthall is a unique and thriving community with its own special identity. The village has a thriving, vibrant High Street unlike many of the surrounding local communities together with a multitude of community groups. It has a number of active church groups together with a successful primary school. One of the key advantages of being a self-contained ward is that our elected councillors are often Rusthall residents who understand the issues which affect our community. Rusthall has a unique geographical identity which is enhanced by green space between Tunbridge Wells, Langton and Speldhurst and the parish council work extremely hard to promote the village and ensure that the public money it collects from council tax is spent for the benefit of its residents. Recent actions have included the introduction of a 20 mph speed restriction through the village, the formation of an environment committee who are promoting ideas to reduce carbon emissions - installation of electric charging points, measures to increase the use of the local bus service, initiatives to reduce litter and ways of making homes more energy efficient - and the construction of barriers and ditches to prevent incursions onto the local cricket pitch by travellers who made the most appalling mess last April. With a government who appear to want to promote the notion of community and the welfare of communities I feel most strongly that proposed changes to the ward boundary would have a detrimental effect on Rusthall since the people who have the greatest investment in Rusthall as a community are the people who live and work there. The danger of being absorbed into other wards is that the needs for our community become marginalised at the expense of possibly more affluent and influential communities. Demographically Rusthall which has a comparatively large proportion of social housing is significantly different to the more affluent adjoining parish of Langton and Speldhurst which has none - as different as chalk and cheese! I do hope these issues will be carefully considered before tinkering around with ward boundaries.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded