

## Mole Valley District Council

### Personal Details:

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### Comment text:

I am writing as County Council for Dorking Rural which is a Division in the County of Surrey which lies within Mole Valley District Council Boundary and as District Councillor for Okewood Ward within Mole Valley District Council boundary. Consultation I am disappointed in the outcome of this review and proposals as having listened to my residents and parish councils across my division and ward, I do not feel that adequate official consultation has been carried out. Many residents are unaware of the proposals. The wards in my county division are entirely rural, have distinct community characters and require careful representation and this has not been considered. The current liberal democrat administration has refused to consult on or consider any proposal which does not result in elections in one thirds. This will mean going forward that every community or village will have elections every year. Our parish councils elect on a four year term, our county council and Police and Crime Commissioner hold elections on a four term and our parliamentary elections are on a four year term. Elections for district councils every year will be expensive and confusing. Election exhaustion will lead to poor turn out as it does already. It would be better to have district elections on an all out basis, once every four years, to give a chance for people to evaluate performance. However, this has been dismissed by the current administration and no consultation on this has taken place at all. Council representation Our villages have always sent a local person to Council but these new boundaries will mean there could be discrepancies with all three councillors taking up a cause against one of the other village. We have seen this in the council's new local plan where a decision to build five hundred new homes in a village was moved to reflect election opportunities for the current administration. It will be even more difficult for local residents to be represented at council if they do not have a local councillor. Another example will be on the planning committee of the council, where a village might have no representation at all because none of the three ward councillors live in or near their patch. Time and travel involved The duties of a ward councillor will become onerous with geographical representation becoming overlarge, expensive travel by new councillors to visit their ward communities, multiple parish council meetings to attend, surgeries to be arranged will make life difficult for a councillor. District councillor roles are meant to be part time, evening roles and receive only a small remuneration towards their expenses. Travel expenses are limited and councillors will be out of pocket in these new arrangements. Time spent travelling from one side of the ward to the other will be at least 20 minutes each way and could be up to 8 miles. The villages have limited public transport and it is not interlinking. Cycling is possible but there are huge hills to traverse like Leith Hill and Box Hill. Access to councillors The proposal to have three councillors will inevitably lead to multiple political party representation, it is unlikely that there will be much if any cooperation between councillors of opposing parties. Unlikely that they will divide the responsibilities amongst themselves or offer support of joint surgeries or travel arrangements. The current make up of the council is antagonistic and unlikely to improve. Mole Valley District Council currently has a large majority of urban councillors from the Liberal Democrat Party, as an opposition and minority party, we have not had a chance to vote on any of these proposals nor have they taken into consideration any thing we have said. In spite of a whining response to the commission they have not changed any of the proposals made. In my opinion as County Councillor for the southern villages of Mole Valley of over 21 years, these proposals will deplete the democratic representation of Mole Valley District Council. I can only be grateful and thank goodness for the parish councils representing these communities, for their hard work and diligence in maintaining their communities in spite of poor care by the district council in this matter. yours County Councillor Mrs Helyn Clack

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded