

Mole Valley District Council

Personal Details:

Name:

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name

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Comment text:

Westcott already obtains a good level of voter equality as determined by elector numbers. i have lived here for 52 years and it has always been a cohesive community, with few links to the proposed villages that would be joined with us. In addition, transport links to those other areas are difficult if not non-existent. Westcott is geographically-contained, surrounded as it is by high hills to the North,South and West and they are particularly difficult to travel over, because the roads are narrow, bendy and quite dangerous. Winter is particularly hazardous. We are a separate entity and do not identify with Dorking or the surrounding villages and never have. The village school shared pupils with Abinger first school for a while but that didn't work out as parents did not want their young children travelling so far out of Westcott. The area which you are proposing to make up one ward is huge, making up one third of the entire Constituency. Three councillors for such an area would render them too remote with no chance of them representing all of such an area efficiently, if at all. My view is that some outlying villages will never see a Councillor at all unless he/she happens to live there, in which case he/she will find it too time-consuming to ever visit electors in the opposite end of the Ward. Remember that these Councillors are not employed as full-time employees but rather have to work in the evenings after finishing their full time day jobs. Wishing to attract younger candidates means they are likely to have children as well. Expecting them to travel so far when somewhere like Dorking has such a small footprint is not Equality of representation. We also have our own Parish Church with our own Vicar, and we are not part of a Benefice. I have been a member of the Westcott Gardeners' Committee since 1977, a member of Westcott Wives including Chairman for nearly as long, and a member of The Parish Church for just as as long. I have been Chairman of Westcoot Conservatives for 12 yeas and am now President, but this is not about which Party elects our Councillor, as this has swung back and forth for many years, it is about Local Representation. There are now many young Westcott residents on the two Committees that run the Reading Room and are taking it forward, but they are all from Westcott. We are too big to require others from other little villages. My suggestion is that the new proposed area be subdivided, with one area to the North of Westcott having one dedicated Councillor, the other to the South and to contain Okewood Hill and Ockley as per your map, and Westcott in the middle to have the third. This surely is the only rational way because of the reasons I have cited above and for many more that others will mention I'm sure.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded