

Mole Valley District Council

Personal Details:

Name:

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

Response to the Consultation on the Boundary Commission Review for Mole Valley (MV) Wards – 5 June 2022 I live and work in Mole Valley and have now reviewed the suggested proposals to make changes to the boundaries of all existing wards in Mole Valley: I am particularly interested in the proposals for Southern Mole Valley as this is where I live and work. For background I have also been a District Councillor for the Ward of Capel, Leigh and Newdigate previously for 8 years, so I have some experience of being a local district councillor. I have the following observations and comments. The proposed changes and the requirement for all wards in MV to have three Councillors does create potential problems and impacts individual Councillors. With a geographically extended ward, the addition of another Councillor (such as in Capel, Leigh and Newdigate) will not necessarily decrease the workload of individual Councillors and furthermore does not necessarily help the council to work more effectively. Councillors will have to travel greater distances and spend more time on serving the needs of the residents. In the case of Capel, Leigh and Newdigate the proposal to link with Charlwood would mean that a Councillor would be expected to attend four Parish Council meetings a month - and that is without the normal monthly district council meetings that are also held during the evening on weekdays. More clashes (as clashes already happen) would be inevitable, rendering it more difficult for the local elected representatives to carry out their role effectively. The regular contact between Parish Councillors and District Councillors should not be underestimated and this contact is a vital link within the chain of local democracy and should not be put at risk as this, in turn, would not help the District Council to work effectively. It also should be recognized that each southern village has its own distinct challenges. For example, Charlwood has the challenges which Gatwick Airport brings to the local community. For this reason, Charlwood has been very well served historically by one Councillor. I could see that three Councillors operating under the proposals of such a large area (Capel, Leigh, Newdigate and Charlwood) may lose this representation. I therefore, for all the reasons above, do not support the existing southern wards of Mole Valley becoming geographically larger, as I just cannot see how this could possibly help the District Council more effectively.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded