

Maidstone Borough Council

Personal Details:

Name: Rachel Robinson
E-mail: rachel.robinson@ulcombeparishcouncil.co.uk
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: Ulcombe Parish Council

Comment text:

As one of the smallest rural parishes in Maidstone Borough, Ulcombe Parish Council believe it is important for Ulcombe to be placed in a ward with a large rural service centre. Ulcombe Parish itself has no shops, doctors, post office or similar infrastructure and our only public transport link, the no.59 bus is currently under consultation with a view to being cancelled by Kent County Council. Therefore, residents of Ulcombe have to travel outside the parish to a larger service centre for almost all day to day necessities. It is therefore important that when Borough Councillors are making decisions about larger rural service centres they take into account the needs of those communities that rely on the larger centres but do not live directly in them. The only way this can be effectively done is if councillors are responsible for both the community of the larger rural service area and the smaller communities that depend on its services. It is the view of Ulcombe Parish Council that when considering the larger service centres the one most vital to Ulcombe is Headcorn and therefore that the Parish of Ulcombe should remain as part of Headcorn ward. The links between Ulcombe and Headcorn are numerous, we outline several important links below but these should not be seen as exhaustive: Transport Many of the parishioners of Ulcombe use Headcorn as a vital transport link. The trainline from Headcorn is used by many residents as their commuting line to work primarily in London but also in Tonbridge and Ashford. The trainline is also used by many village school children for commuting to high schools in both Ashford and Tonbridge. Should the no.59 bus service that runs through Ulcombe be cancelled after Kent County Council's current consultation then Headcorn will also be the nearest public transport available to the vast majority of residents of Ulcombe. It is therefore essential that decisions impacting these services take into account the views of the community of Ulcombe Healthcare Headcorn provides primary healthcare services for many residents in Ulcombe. Parishioners of Ulcombe use Headcorn for GP, and dental services. Headcorn also provides the nearest pharmacy services to Ulcombe. For new parents Headcorn is their nearest health visitor clinic and children's centre. Shopping Headcorn is the nearest comprehensive shopping offering to Ulcombe. With a butchers, bakery, post office, hardware store, supermarket petrol station and a couple of convenience stores it covers the majority of day to day needs. Clubs & Societies There is significant interaction with the clubs and societies in Headcorn. Ulcombe residents are members of the dance school, tennis club, cricket club, football club, ukulele group to name just a few. The Headcorn Football Club also have two teams that play all their home matches on Ulcombe recreation ground due to lack of space in Headcorn itself. Gypsy, Roma, Traveller (GRT) Ulcombe and Headcorn have a significant GRT population, many of whom live on the boundary between the two parishes. Headcorn and Ulcombe parish councils regularly cooperate on matters relating to our shared GRT communities. Equally many of the GRT children living in Headcorn Parish attend Ulcombe school. It is important that the specific needs of the GRT community of Headcorn and Ulcombe are not overlooked by this boundary review. For all the above reasons, the position of Ulcombe Parish Council is that we should remain as part of Headcorn ward going forward.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded