

Mole Valley District Council

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Comment text:

Charlwood Parish Council objects in the strongest terms to the proposed changes in the ward boundaries across Mole Valley. The Parish Council believes the proposed inclusion of Charlwood into a ward including Capel, Leigh and Newdigate would not be in the interests of our parishioners. The Charlwood parish has always been served by a single District Councillor who is able to focus on our particular needs and issues and that situation should continue. We are unlike any other parish in Mole Valley because of the fact that our immediate neighbour is Gatwick Airport. Our residents suffer from myriad issues not experienced by other Mole Valley residents, such as aircraft noise and disturbance, increased traffic on our roads, illegal taxi parking, antisocial behaviour by airport users etc etc. The Parish Council believes that in the proposed Capel, Leigh, Newdigate and Charlwood ward, and also the Leith Hill ward, residents would suffer disproportionately and would lose fair representation. Moving from one district councillor to three would lead to a loss of focus on our parish's unique needs which we have always enjoyed from a system in which there was a single representative for Charlwood. Spreading three district councillors over a large ward area would make it more likely that Charlwood's interests are overlooked. With a single, fully-focused, councillor there is a guarantee that those interests are always protected. An unnecessary increase in car journeys (MVDC scope 1 emissions) by the councillors concerned would be entirely contradictory to the 2018 MVDC declaration of Climate Emergency, whereby all efforts must be made to minimise fossil fuel use and to reach net zero carbon by 2030. In order to reach this goal, we must minimise car travel wherever possible. Vastly increasing the ward size for councillors would mean that where currently, visits can often be made by councillors on foot or by cycle, now there would have to be significantly far more use of the car.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded