

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Personal Details:

Name: Dianne Hill

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: [REDACTED]

Comment text:

I am responding as a resident of High Brooms, also Borough and Southborough Town Councillor, to reject the LGBCE's draft recommendations as they will divide Southborough Town putting High Brooms in a new Tunbridge Wells North ward leaving them with little if any representation. I have lived and represented this area for many years, we are a distinct local community with our own Mayor, we pay our Town precept and we have our own Civic Centre and Town offices. Southborough and High Brooms has been a council for over 126 years, it has its own in-house staff who maintain our parks, commons, hedgerows, Ridgeway and Yew Tree playing fields and cemetery. It was, an Urban District Council, until 1974 when the Local Gov. Act of 1972 came into force. We have always been an independent Town and very proud of our community, working together litter picking, planting tubs and flowers across the Town. If these proposals were to go ahead St Matthews High Brooms primary school would be annexed from High Brooms and placed in a ward called Bidborough and Southborough. The St Matthews Church, pre-school, cubs, scouts, brownies, guides, etc along with 90% of the children who attend that school put into a huge Tunbridge Wells North ward that does not relate to them in any way and never has, it makes no sense, there is no benefit in this. In High Brooms we have a Community Larder, the recent Harvest Festival offerings from St Matthews School went to that larder in High Brooms, not Southborough they have their own school. The High Brooms larder works with the school in many ways as I do as a local Councillor, taking the children on litter picks in Barnetts Wood where many of them live. Teaching them to look after their community. As a local Councillor I would no longer represent that school on the Borough Council which would be a ridiculous situation. We have very many local organisations, just to mention two of them. SHDOFA (Southborough and High Brooms District Overseas, Friendship Association) twinned with Lambersart in France, in High Brooms we have Lambersart Close and we have in October our 30-year celebrations with our friends in Lambersart. Southborough Society representing the rich heritage of Southborough and High Brooms of which we are very proud. The Crest of Southborough Town Council This tells the story of Southborough and High Brooms, In the centre we have a cricket ball for which Southborough was famous for manufacturing, either side we have two bricks representing High Brooms brickworks. These red bricks were used to build much of the area and exported around the world. Below that we have the Oak tree (Bounds Oak in Southborough) at the sides we have yellow broom (High Brooms). At the top we have the Ram representing the weaving industry. The Town motto "we look after what is ours" The community is vital to the wellbeing of our residents, it is so important that we have local representation, these draft proposals would not do this. The Town of Southborough and High Brooms will have approx. 9, 187 residents by 2027, this is perfect for 2, 2 member wards. Southborough North and Southborough and High Brooms. I do understand the difficulties of keeping communities together with good local represent if we have only 3 member wards. If this 2 wards with 2 member cannot be accommodated within the current voting system then I believe the system should be changed, as these proposals divide communities, not only in Southborough and High Brooms but across the Borough.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded