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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 05 September 2022 15:51  
**To:** reviews  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Tunbridge Wells Electoral Review feedback

**Categories:** Submissions, [REDACTED]

Dear Sir or Madam (copied to Cllr Ben Chapelard, Leader, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council),

I am emailing to register my disagreement with plans laid out as part of the Tunbridge Wells Electoral Review, which is due to close on 10 October.

I do not agree with the boundary proposal to merge the rural Tunbridge Wells parishes into fewer, larger borough wards. Such an approach will further distance electors from the elected and make local engagement more difficult, not easier nor more efficient. It stands to reason that the less representative a deciding body is, the greater is the risk that decisions will be more generally dissatisfying. With ever-greater need for costs efficiency, this is a risk we can ill afford to take.

Furthermore, it has not been sufficiently explained why the borough council needs to have numerical equality of ward voters when it appears reality would have to be bent out of shape to achieve it. Local decisions need local representatives.

Nor do I agree with the proposal of an annual electoral cycle, which could expensively increase focus on politics as opposed to improving things for local people.

One of the strengths of our most local form of government is its generally apolitical foundation. Annual elections could well pave the way for the intrusion of party politics. In short, drawing funds away from where they are needed and subjecting electors to a bewildering carousel of rhetoric. More talk, less walk. Rather than increase engagement, the likely effect could well be precisely the opposite. Especially given the expedient proposal to split an existing rural parish into two separate wards.

I therefore urge the borough council to think again, to seek to protect local democratic representation and encourage engagement, and to find alternative means to the ends they are seeking.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]