

## Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

### Personal Details:

Name:

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name:

### Comment text:

I do not agree with the proposals as they are set out. The adherence to electoral equality reinforces a position in which councillors representing the more urban areas significantly outnumber those representing rural parts of the borough. This risks a skewed pattern of investment with a failure to understand the particular needs of rural communities, particularly in relation to public transport. The proposal to split the Goudhurst Parish seems to me to fail on all 5 counts of the community identity and both of the effective and convenient local government criteria. The concept of "South Goudhurst" is entirely new. It splits Goudhurst Parish. Those who live in this area relate more closely to the remainder of Goudhurst Parish for medical and education facilities. Bedgebury ridge within the forest is a natural feature which creates a boundary. I can see nowhere in the criteria an obligation for each ward to be represented by the same number of councillors and wonder whether a decision to seek to achieve that has resulted in these proposals. Would a solution be to include all of the Goudhurst Parish in the Rural Tunbridge Wells Ward to be represented by 4 councillors and a Hawkhurst and Benenden ward represented by 2? The outcome if these proposals are implemented seems to me to be more likely to exacerbate disengagement in local decision making and thus hamper the ability of the council to deliver what is regarded as effective and convenient local government.

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded