

# Tandridge

## Personal Details:

**Name:** Mrs Helena Windsor

**Email:** [REDACTED]

**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:** Tandridge District Council- Bletchingley and Nutfield ward; Independent Group (District or county councillor)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Bletchingley and Nutfield; Tatsfield; Felbridge; Warlingham West and East

I have lived in Bletchingley since 1987 and was only elected to Tandridge DC this May. Bletchingley and Nutfield has worked well as a 3 councillor ward despite a small number of properties so close to Godstone that the residents tend to identify more with Godstone. Fortunately the 3 neighbouring Parish councils (the 2 ward parishes and Godstone) work well together so I am pleased this ward will continue in its present format.

I have one observation and two objections.

Firstly - if a 2 councillor ward was permitted because Woldingham remained a single councillor ward then I really do not understand why it is proposed to chop up Warlingham East to make Warlingham West a large 3 councillor ward and East the 2 councillor ward. Why not leave both as they were?

If Woldingham is considered suitable to sustain a single representative then I fail to see why Tatsfield(& Titsey) and Felbridge were not included as, to me, their relative isolation from the remainder of their proposed, amalgamated wards is potentially detrimental.

1. Tatsfield: I lived in Tatsfield for several years when I first moved to Surrey. It is a singular village- residents use the shopping and medical facilities in Biggin Hill and Westerham, Ricketts Hill and Lusted Hall (Biggin Hill on one side) run into Biggin Hill Valley. It is a close knit community. Whilst I could see a case to 'twin' it with Woldingham I consider that amalgamating with Limpsfield unsuitable, Limpsfield runs up onto the Chart (which I know well for its walking), miles from Tatsfield. If I still lived there I would have very serious concerns that I could find myself with 0 of 3 Councillors who lived in the village or who had any understanding of its unique position in the District.

2. Felbridge: Felbridge, like Tatsfield is a self contained village on the edge of the county, many of the issues which affect it come from just over the border in Sussex. There are some links with Burstow, Horne and Outwood but that is, like my ward, already an established 3 councillor ward. However the proposed linkage with Dormansland is problematic for all the reasons originally argued by the Independent Group. There is no natural link or connection between Felbridge and Dormansland. For Felbridge strong local representation has been extremely important and I know residents fear they would lose that.

Some years ago, when involved with a political party, I was tasked with getting a candidate for every ward if possible. It was abundantly clear that both Tatsfield and Felbridge residents wanted to vote for a candidate who lived in and was an integral part of their village communities. This was also brought home to me, subsequently, in Felbridge at the by-election following the death of a long serving councillor - the villagers opted for the candidate most rooted in the village.

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*