

Harlow District Council

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Comment text:

In Harlow, the A414/A1184 currently functions as a North to South ward boundary throughout except for about 400m in the extreme South East where, for some unknown reason, the ward of Harlow Common was established but truncated into two unrelated parts by the A414. This created a ward where the two constituent parts have no natural linkages for shopping, schools, community association, medical centres, etc. The former Potter Street Residents' Association - renamed the Harlow Common Residents' Association - has very few members and its meetings (which as a ward councillor, I attend) rarely have more than a dozen present, all of whom reside on the Potter Street side of the Ward. I enquired to the Chairman why they did not alternate meetings between the two sides of the Ward. He replied that it was inconvenient for members to go to the Latton side, and besides, they had no members there. Their Harlow Common Residents' Forum page on Facebook has just 11 members. There is no sense of common community between the Latton Bush and Potter Street sides of the ward. Furthermore, they do not even share the same County Councillors (hardly ticking the box for good governance). The Post Office also uses the A414 as a postcode division, with the eastern districts of Potter Street, Church Langley, Newhall and Old Harlow coming under CM17, whilst the districts to the West fall under CM18. Harlow Common is a fiction without rational justification. • No proposed future wards should traverse the A414/A1184 or Gilden Way. • The electoral population residing to the East of the A414/A1184 divide, stood at 17,475. Divided by the Average Ward population, shows that this area requires 3 wards. It currently is under-represented with 2.49 wards. It is abundantly clear that the eastern side of the A414/A1184 currently requires three wards. This is even more pressing given that the area will be where most new residential development is taking place and will do so for the foreseeable future. The case for democratic electoral equality is overwhelming with the A414/A118 being a clear boundary throughout the District.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded