

Epping Forest District Council

Personal Details:

Name: Bruce Stratton

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Abbess Beauchamp & Berners Roding Parish Council

Comment text:

As a member of Abbess Beauchamp & Berners Roding Parish Council I would express my concern at the proposal of three District Councillors per ward. We believe rural wards such as ours are better represented by individual Councillors rather than expanding the size of the Ward. Our existing ward covers a considerable area stretching from Berners Roding in the north to Stondon Massey in the south, a distance in excess of 8 miles, as the crow flies. If this was tripled in size what expectation would there be that three District Councillors would have any local knowledge of their ward. If we had a different District Councillor attend our Parish Council meetings each time there would be no continuity in our discussions or enable the local community to have a regular point of contact. When items are referred to the planning committee we feel it is important that there is representation with local knowledge by someone who knows the area. Our own Parish is approximately four miles across East to West as the crow flies and considerably further by road and organising community events over this area is difficult enough. We recently organised a Parish Picnic to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and this was the first whole Parish event for a number of years. We were fortunate that our current District Councillor attended for part of the event and this was appreciated by members of the Parish. I think it unlikely that if the proposed three Councillors were appointed they would all attend every community event within their Ward. We hope to encourage more community participation and have regular events encouraging continuity in the Parish which we hope will include regular attendance of our District Councillor.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded