

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 October 2022 16:28
To: reviews
Subject: Catisfield: Proposed Ward boundary changes.

Categories: Submissions, [REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam,

Catisfield: Proposed Ward boundary changes.

I write to object strongly against the decision to divide the Catisfield community by the proposed change in Ward boundaries.

I speak from extensive experience of this small community in which I have been a resident for over 50 years. My own home on Catisfield Road has been part of this community since 1954.

This is a small historic community that has been established for many generations. It is based on the original ribbon development along this small section of what was the main A27 road between Fareham and Southampton. In its early development, well over 100 years ago, there were a number of large residences, horticultural establishments and smaller homes for local workers comprising the area of Catisfield. Despite subsequent development and re-routing of the road, this remains a cohesive residential area in which local people have worked hard to maintain a perpetually active community.

Examples include the Catisfield Memorial Hall established just over 75 years ago to commemorate Catisfield residents killed in the Second World War. The Hall is a charity (301,774/1) regulated by the Charity Commissioners. The Scheme under which the charity operates states "The object of the Charity shall be the provision and maintenance of a village hall for the use of the inhabitants of Catisfield and the neighbourhood thereof (hereinafter called "the area of benefit") ". For purposes of certainty and to reflect the area in question, the area of local residents eligible to exercise authority over the charity through voting at each AGM was reported to the Charity Commissioners as follows: "Catisfield and the neighbourhood thereof is defined as the area including the following roads and any future development within that area: Catisfield Lane, Harvester Drive, Fishers Hill, Mount Drive, Chalky Lane, Hampton Grove, Forneth Gardens, Highlands Road (Up to and including Place House Close). Catisfield Road, Friars Pond Road, Chatsworth close, Appleton Road, Beechcroft Close, East Lodge, Hunters Lodge, South Lodge, Cherrygarth Road, The Timbers, Larches Gardens, Maple Close and Woodbourne Close. As a long-term Trustee of this charity, I can confirm its status and activities in providing the only social, educational and recreational facilities for local people.

Alongside is the Catisfield Village Association (of which I have also been Chairman) providing a residents' association for local people. The CVA is the focus in relation to planning and development plus traffic and other community issues and offers a vibrant social programme for local people, centred at the Memorial Hall. Our community spirit is manifest in such simple acts as planting bulbs around Catisfield to enhance our environment.

All the above should also be considered in the wider context of Titchfield and the Meon Valley with which Catisfield has close and enduring connections. Indeed, significant parts of our community extend into the conservation area of the Meon Valley. The countryside and the roads all directly impact on our local environment and are key to the history of this small community. Our efforts to protect that environment, conserve the heritage and keep it an

active area for local residents and other people is important to us all. We resist being separated from our heritage by this Ward change.

In recognition of our shared history and community, the close ties between the Hall and CVA are evidenced by their identical respective constituency area as listed above. This comprises residences both to the east of Highlands road plus those to the west along Catisfield Road and its small adjoining network of residential streets.

The current change in Ward boundaries would split this small community and destroy its cohesion. The current central role of the Hall would be separated both psychologically and politically from the majority of the Catisfield residents. Currently we benefit from long-established links with the Fareham Borough Council through Councillors who are also residents within Catisfield. The Ward boundary changes risk destroying those local links and consigning us to the peripheries of other Wards.

Residents have manifest their commitment to this local geographically defined community in regular collective representations to the Council, shared commemoration of their predecessors who died during the last World War, Christmas and other festivities, Jubilee and, next, Coronation celebrations. The community acts collectively to support itself and others including donations to residents of Ukraine. In this era of increasing division and reducing social participation, we want to keep the sense of community spirit that adds value to our lives and environment.

The proposed Ward boundary changes appear to be a wholly arbitrary bureaucratic exercise based on no knowledge or understanding of the local community and its history or interests. The changes are wholly unacceptable and should be amended to reflect the long-established community of Catisfield as described above and in accordance with the Fareham Borough Council's submission advocating that this community be included in the new Meon Ward (replacing the previous Titchfield Ward).

Please acknowledge receipt of this response to the consultation.

Yours faithfully,

