

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

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Comment text:

I am writing on behalf of Speldhurst Parish Council. We are part of Speldhurst and Bidborough Ward with a current electorate of 4706 (3800 Speldhurst and 900 Bidborough). This is well below the 6600 aspired figure for a 3 councillor ward. If we are to be combined with another ward we suggest that Speldhurst and Bidborough are separated and Speldhurst is combined with Rusthall (3681) making approx. 7400 electors. Whilst this is considerably higher than the 6600 figure we have substantially more contact and connection with Rusthall than with Bidborough with various issues spanning the two parishes and the parish councils working together on these. We do not have the same relationship with Bidborough. Combining Bidborough with Southborough North, which are adjacent to each other and with Capel which is adjacent to Southborough North would create a ward spanning much of the north of Tunbridge Wells borough with an electorate of 6000. We have not discussed this with Bidborough or Rusthall so must stress that these are the views of Speldhurst Parish Council only but are sure that Rusthall would see much more synergy with Speldhurst than with any other adjoining ward or part thereof, and are also sure that Bidborough would not see any significant disadvantage from not being in a ward with Speldhurst. This is all predicated on the assumption that leaving the current Speldhurst and Bidborough ward unchanged is not acceptable to the commission given the large gap between the ward elector numbers (4706) and the aspired 6600.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded