

## Epping Forest District Council

### Personal Details:

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**Organisation Name:** Waltham Abbey Town Council

### Comment text:

To whom it may concern, I am writing to you today on behalf of Waltham Abbey Town Council to express it's concerns over the plans to align the High Beach ward to Loughton. High Beach is not "closely linked" with Loughton and there is a strong feeling that aligning the community in this way is the wrong course of action. The residents of the High Beach Ward consider themselves not only to be residents of Waltham Abbey but also communities within a community, those communities being High Beach, Upshire and Sewardstonebury. The ward resides wholly within Waltham Abbey. High Beach is the rural landscape of Waltham Abbey and does not have the same requirements as that of an urban area such as Loughton. The area is completely surrounded by Epping Forest and the Green Belt. These communities are serviced by 2 churches which are considered to be key community hubs, there are also primary schools in both High Beach and Upshire with the majority of students in all 3 areas attending Waltham Abbey based schools. The area also contains 4 mobile home parks and polling stations in 4 locations which serves the area well. The ward councillors for this area have been speaking to residents, to ensure that they have their say regarding this review. Directly quoted from Cllr T Matthews (Town and District Councillor for High Beach) "The High Beach ward is a unique case which I believe should be put to the Boundary Commission explaining that the ward is made up of three individual communities that are not linked to any other wards. This is a unique ward geographically as it encompasses a large part of Epping Forest, clearly an exceptional 'rural' ward with few residents. It is my opinion that although few in numbers these 2000+ residents deserve to have their views represented as the individual community that they are rather than being linked in with other larger more urban wards just to make up the numbers. It is very clear that High Beach Ward warrants an exception to the three councillors per ward ruling and that just one councillor should suffice to represent the residents of this ward" In simple terms, High Beach is a strong candidate for exception in the case of 3 councillors per ward, it can easily remain as it presently is with 1 councillor without a negative impact on this community.

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded