

## Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

### Personal Details:

Name:

[REDACTED]

E-mail:

[REDACTED]

Postcode:

[REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

### Comment text:

I am a resident of Langton Green and have so been since 1995. Langton Green is a part of the Speldhurst Parish Council area which has four separate and distinct village communities, each with its own Parish Church and Village Hall. They are Langton Green, Speldhurst, Ashurst and Old Groombridge. Old Groombridge does not have a Village Hall but uses their Parish Church for meetings etc. It is also a very unusual community because the River Grom is the boundary between Kent and East Sussex and the TWBC and Wealden District Council's. Groombridge Village is much larger and sits wholly in East Sussex. The existing Speldhurst ward for the TWBC includes the Parish of Bidborough to the north. There are no community ties whatsoever linking Speldhurst, Langton Green, and Old Groombridge with Bidborough. Bidborough has its own School and Parish Church and Parish Room. There is only one road running north from Speldhurst towards Bidborough but it is not a direct road. As a resident of the Tunbridge Wells area for the past 77 years and having worked in the area as a telecommunications engineer [REDACTED] thesis years, I can say the residents of Bidborough have community ties and an identity with the neighbouring town of Southborough to their south east. Indeed, the Parish Churches of Bidborough and St Peters on the Common at Southborough are a linked benefice with the Vicar of both parishes living in the Rectory at Bidborough. The road passing through Bidborough leads directly to the A21 and into Southborough. I would recommend Bidborough is combined with Southborough North Ward. I approve wholeheartedly the proposal to reduce the number of Councillors to 39 from May 2024. I watched the debates of the Council dealing with proposal to reduce the number of Councillors and the separate proposal to have one election every four years. I would also support one election every four years, as happens across the most of Kent already. I detected an air of self interest by those contributing to the discussions without one declaring any personal interest. The financial savings shown in the paper prepared by the Council Officer by having one election of the TWBC once every four years as against continuing with one third elections was substantial. Also important is the work for hard pressed staff involved in having one third elections as against one election every four years. I have no other points to make about the proposal to reduce the number of Councillors of the need to retain community ties.

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded