

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

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Organisation Name: None, Member of the public

Comment text:

Brenchley and Horsmonden Ward need to be representative (of the people they are supposed to represent). As it stands, they are not. I hope the Commission will review this and I hope for a change in this respect. Horsmonden, where I live, should be represented by its own Borough Councillor - at present it is represented by two Councillors, from the villages of Brenchley, Matfield and Horsmonden and voters in all three villages vote for councillors. Horsmonden is large enough (and will be even larger once many hundreds of new houses are built) to have its own Councillor, elected by its own residents, the residents of Horsmonden. The residents/voters of Brenchley (and Matfield which is also included in this Ward) should not have a say in who represents Horsmonden, and vice versa. Brenchley & Matfield villages have a single combined parish council and approximately 2300 electors combined across their two polling districts G and H. Horsmonden has its own parish council with 1800 electors at the last election in polling district K. They are very different communities with plans and directions set by different local councils. Furthermore, the demographic and needs of residents in Horsmonden is very different to those of Brenchley/Matfield. We are very different communities. Over the next few years according to the local plan for Horsmonden there will be somewhere between 240 and 320 new residential buildings in Horsmonden, approximately 50 of which are due to be completed and ready for occupation this year. As the new buildings are completed this will effectively equalise the electoral numbers between the two parish council boundaries. For example with each dwelling comprising an average of 1.5 voters Horsmonden would have almost 2300 voters in the event of the larger number of new dwellings being built. There is very little/negligible building planned in Brenchley and Matfield. Previously, Horsmonden was a single member ward before being put into a two member ward with the neighbouring villages in the 1990s. It needs to once again be a single member ward to allow the residents of the village and parish to have a representative from their community that can focus 100% on the issues and concerns of their parish. The voter numbers would also allow for the two parish councils to have a practically equivalent ratio of electors per representative. I hope this can be achieved, thank you.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded