

Epping Forest District Council

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Comment text:

I commented on the initial proposals but feel very strongly that the proposed changes do not treat the residents of the rural parishes fair and reasonably. There was a recent article in the press regarding the Commons Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee calling for an urgent overhaul of governance arrangements to "empower local decision-making". MPs commented that due to the overly centralised system of government in England people are losing out on policies and services suited to their local area. The system has "significant geographical inequality" people are feeling like they have no say in political or societal change. The proposed Rural East ward is in excess of ten miles from Hook end in the southeast to Sawbridgeworth in the northwest and seven and half miles from North Weald in the southwest to Abbess Roding in the northeast. That equates to an area in excess of seventy-five square miles. I find it difficult to understand how three proposed District Councillors can even begin to have knowledge or understand the services required over this large area. The wants and requirements may well be completely different the residents will feel they have no constant representation at District level. As a Parish Councillor if we had a different District Councillor turn up at each meeting there would be no continuity of representation. I am not aware of any advantages in the proposed enlarged ward system in the rural areas. I think people prefer to have one point of contact with local knowledge rather than an option of three where none of the Councillors have intimate knowledge of the area. It would be more democratic and empower local decision making if the system was retained as one Councillor in a smaller Ward rather than a mega rural Ward of seventy-five square miles with three councillors.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded