

Gravesham Borough Council

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Comment text:

As a parish councillor I have some views on the way we are represented and the type of representation we require. -The ward is largely AONB, a rural area with much lower population density and having a higher priority for rural issues. It is essential that it retains its identity and that its representatives fight for that, or Gravesham will become a homogenous suburb of the town centre. -Being AONB, our representatives are less concerned about development (as it is more tightly controlled in the AONB) and are more concerned about conservation. - We have no street lighting, speed limits or yellow lines and the majority of our roads are single track. We suffer poor internet and mobile phone connectivity. Combining us with Vigo or Meopham, would mean our issues have little or no priority (as their recent issues concern issues we don't have problems with). - We need representatives who are aware of the problems associated with traffic rat running on single track roads and what can be done about that, a problem we share with Cobham. - There are a number of community links between Luddesdown and Cobham (churches, sporting facilities, visits to pubs and shop) which are not as strong with Vigo and Meopham. Our representatives need to be aware of these in order to help preserve and promote them. The parish church and congregations are linked, we use the facilities at Cobham, Cobham Colts (the sports club) use Luddesdown recreation field, both villages frequent each other's pubs - more so now the Amazon and Tiger has closed in Harvel. - The Lower Thames Crossing is likely to affect the entire area; however the specific problems of Luddesdown, excess traffic forced off the M2/A2, are again intrinsically linked with Cobham's issues. - 60% of our parish electorate live in Henley Street which is under 1 mile from Cobham. - We are comparatively unconcerned about parking and speed enforcement but there is a high proportion of NMU use on our roads, our representatives need to keep their needs foremost for developments affecting our parishes. - The majority of those working within the parish of Luddesdown are agricultural workers, which requires an understanding of that area, how working practices in agriculture are changing and how it will affect local residents and how to promote training and opportunities in agriculture. Currently our representatives at GBC are pro-active and dealing with the sorts of issues we identify with. They are also pro-active in involving us in areas of concern (such as this current consultation) and highlighting the effects of policies and developments on us (such as the changes at Standards Committee, the availability of grant funding to start our fly tipping enforcement camera project and to fund the defibrillator etc). Our experience in previous campaigns (Lower Thames Crossing & Core Plan Review) has been to find that we are standing on the same platform as our representatives. One of our ward councillors attends every parish council meeting. Prior to their election we were represented by a Gravesham urban based councillor who had no interest in our issues and only attended one parish council meeting in four years, we feel therefore that we have experience of poor representation and do not wish to be represented by urban or sub-urban based councillors.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded