

Fenland District Council

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary Ward Community Speed Watch

Comment text:

Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary Ward Community Speed Watch (CSW) 2nd Consultation Response to LGBCE. Following on from its earlier objections and the LGBCE subsequent publishing of the proposal to split the existing Fenland ward for Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary into two new wards, CSW would like to add additional comments. CSW was set up to help address the speeding concerns raised by residents of the four villages of Guyhirn, Murrow, Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary, which are geographically well located for volunteers to operate in. Thorney Toll is also within the ward but CSW does not speed watch there because it is placed in a national speed limit. CSW has positive support from residents for its professionally designed and quality printed wheelie bin stickers which highlight the speed limit for the road. As well as the relevant speed limit the stickers carry the name Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary Ward Community Speed Watch. These are displayed on numerous wheelie bins throughout every road in each of the villages. Very expensive Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs are deployed in these villages for CSW's usage. The data gathered by CSW continues to support further traffic calming measures that need to be implemented. I am reiterating concerns in previous communication, but how is this established group supposed to continue functioning if the existing ward is dispersed into other wards? One of the proposed new wards would be too large and divided by the A47 and the River Nene, creating a physical barrier to good local governance. The new warding pattern could render parts of the ward being under-represented resulting in us no longer getting the support we need to keep our community group functioning. CSW has an excellent rapport and close working relationship with Cambridgeshire Constabulary and the two parish councils that the four villages come under. All of which highly regard the voluntary work the group does. CSW is also supported by its two existing Fenland District Council Ward Councillors, both administratively and as active speed watch volunteers. However, CSW is extremely disappointed that Fenland District Council (FDC) does not appear to have any regard for the voluntary work CSW is doing to help keep its community safe. If it did, then FDC would not have suggested splitting this ward and potentially causing the group to disband. Neither has FDC informed the group, at any point, of its proposals which would clearly have a severe impact on a voluntary group working within its governance. The proposed 42 member scheme appears to have Wisbech at its epicentre and not the towns in Fenland with the growth and development. Therefore CSW fears the ward is being impacted by a ripple effect created with the insistence on having 42 councillors. CSW would like the LGBCE to look closely at the 41 member scheme which would leave all the rural villages intact and allow our voluntary group to continue. CSW would like the LGBCE to take into account the strong objections submitted by Parson Drove Parish Council and Wisbech St Mary Parish Council. Not only do their objections reflect the problems residents and local community groups will face if the new warding arrangement goes ahead but their submissions also raise concerns regarding the threat to good local governance. CSW strongly opposes the new proposed arrangement given the detrimental impact it will have on a community that has excellent cohesion. Murrow has naturally developed over many years between two parishes and has close community links with both. There are many community groups, including CSW, that have volunteers working together from the villages within both parishes. CSW would also strongly oppose any suggestion for the whole of Murrow to be placed within either of the proposed new wards. It would only address the issue of Murrow not being split but it would not aid the functioning of the group within the other villages. CSW believe the changes proposed for its rural area will produce warding patterns that would not reflect local communities' needs. The group has 50 registered volunteers - 19 Guyhirn residents, 7 Parson Drove residents, 19 Murrow residents and 5 WSM residents. We are one team and volunteers speed watch in all of the four villages regardless of where they live. Scheme Co-ordinator for Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary Ward CSW.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded