

## Fenland District Council

### Personal Details:

Name:

E-mail:

Postcode:

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

### Comment text:

I am objecting to any proposed boundary changes by Fenland District Council to Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary Ward on behalf of a voluntary group, Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary Ward Community Speed Watch (CSW). It was set up for volunteers to speed watch in the four villages within the district council ward. Volunteers hold roadside sessions in all the villages regardless of which village they live in. I learnt of the proposal by Fenland District Council to split the existing ward of Parson Drove & Wisbech St Mary, when attending a Parish Council meeting. It is a great pity that Fenland District Council has not sort the view of the wider community groups before submitting its proposal for 42 councillors. It takes years to establish community links in rural wards and the group I represent believes that any changes to our existing boundary can only be detrimental to established communities working within its ward. We further believe changes in our rural area will produce warding patterns that would not reflect local communities' needs. Murrow, being one of the ward's villages is already split at Parish level and the proposals to split the village into two district council wards will severely disadvantage the community, including the valuable work CSW does. Speeding is a recognised problem throughout the ward and the data collected by CSW has been used to help with applications for traffic calming measures. CSW would like to continue to supply data within the existing ward for further traffic calming measures to be achieved. CSW works closely with its ward councillors on traffic issues. Proposed changes to increase the number of councillors to 42 would render the residents of Murrow who live within the Parish of Parson Drove forming one district ward and the remainder of the residents who live within the Parish of Wisbech St Mary becoming a different district ward. I can see no justifiable reason to split a small village into two district council wards. It can't be in the best interests for residents and community groups who have formed strong links within the district council ward that is already established. If the boundary changes proposed by Fenland District Council go ahead, where Guyhirn and Wisbech St Mary will be placed in one ward and Parson Drove placed in another ward then in order for CSW to continue operating in its existing villages it will also have to consider encompassing all the extra villages within the two new wards. The area involved will be too vast for it to be a viable proposition. With the situation of Murrow being placed in two district wards CSW will not have the option of reorganising to only speed watch in the villages within one district council ward. The CSW group has been recently recognised as being one of the most active groups within Cambridgeshire and any changes that could affect the operation of the group should be questioned. I understand from the Parish Council meeting that if Fenland District Council only increased to 41 councillors, then the majority of the rural wards boundaries, including Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary Ward could remain as they are, as it fits within the criteria. Is it justifiable to have rural communities so severely disrupted to accommodate one extra councillor? [REDACTED] Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary Ward Community Speed Watch.

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded