

Malvern Hills District Council

Personal Details:

Name:

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name:



Comment text:

Having studied the comments made and the report on the new boundaries proposed I am mostly in full support. My concern is simply on the three member wards in the town. When looking at Councillor attendance and interaction it is the three member wards that see very low attendance figures from elected members and a lack of accountability. I am always more in favour of two or single member wards where accountability to the electorate is obvious. That said I believe that this iteration does now maintain community relationships and does now best reflect statutory criteria . There is equality of representation ,community interest is identified and it provides for effective and convenient local Government . I support fully the changes to the Ripple and Upton area as it now meets your own criteria for cohesion . Powick and a Kempsey again meet all your statutory criteria and are on the whole supported by those who commented. As already mentioned I do not support three member wards. I do not believe they best represent community interest or provide for effective local Government . A study of Councillor attendance rates in the town area of there member wards is an indication of this . Certainly in Pickersleigh and Chase wards it is evident that some Councillors are less than engaged . Moving north to Alfrick ,leigh and Rushwick I believe this now represents communities and is backed by local Parish Councils,it reflects community interest . Cllr Walton set out that Bransford has links with Rushwick and you were persuaded to make that link in the first instance. But removing Bransford from Leigh would cause harm . Further this makes for efficient and convenient local Government . Living in Leigh Sinton Rushwick is very much the next village and is linked with transport routes but also culturally . With people using this area for recreation,using local pubs and walks and social clubs such as Bransford cricket club,golf club and the local football club drawing local children together. Whilst Rushwick PC has mentioned it would like a single Cllr ward Cllr Clarke sets out he believes that Rushwick requires more than one Councillor for the future . Without evidence as to why it should be a single ward I cannot support this as a necessity for your statutory criteria. Rushwick Cllrs at present live in Tenbury Wells and Bewdley so it cannot be a local connection is important . It is most important that their councillor(s) is fully engaged and working hard for the community So I fully support this new ward pattern . As I have no evidence to support any change . When looking at the Broadheath and Hallow area this is supported by Holt who wish to be part of the North. Which directly contradicts Cllr Waltons comments that they should be part of this ward area. I fully support the Abberley PC suggestions as again it is following your criteria and is not based on getting elected but on electoral representations and communities . It respects the geography of the area and representations received. I agreed that the initial Martley ward was far too large to allow Councillors to function as they need to for residents. So the solution here is again supported. Tenbury and Lindridge remain sensible and follow your criteria. There will be no perfect solution to this change. Someone will always remain dissatisfied . However the solution presented now does follow your criteria,respects parish boundaries,community wishes ,geography and responses received. So other than moving the two member or single member wards within the town for greater electoral accountability and efficient Government I am supportive of this proposal .

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

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The below was posted by Cllr Daniel Walton on his Facebook page to encourage local representation on the review. I am highlighting it as I believe it is factually inaccurate when it references the Boundary review. But it may explain responses you get to the review from a particular area. Which May then enable you to make decisions about the boundaries. VERY IMPORTANT. The below proposals recommends dropping the number of District Councillors from 38 to 31 with those councillors being dropped coming from rural wards. The truth is that the number of councillors in rural wards are being cut so representation is dramatically cut while in town wards all wards will get 3 councillors!! The proposal sees Lower Broadheath become part of a SuperWard which covers a huge geographical area and comprises of 6 Parishes! This includes Lower Broadheath - which will also include 2,500 new homes being built in the Parish, Hallow, Broadwas, Cotheridge, Grimley, And Wichenford. Only 2 councillors will cover this area. Rushwick will become part of Leigh and Alfrick taking us from the border of Worcester to the border of Herefordshire. For residents in Rushwick who may face more house building in the future - and want their say to be heard - they will be usurped into a ward with other councillors. Representation is being taken away - specifically - from rural wards. The Boundary Commision who conducted this review (and this is their second poor attempt) have yet to even visit the district. They don't know their Broadheath from their Broadwas. Where this leaves me isn't important at the moment but it's important to say that I didn't get elected to do a bad job and if I don't feel I can represent people in all communities, bearing in mind I have another job as well, then I'm unlikely to seek re-election in this Super Ward. At the same time it's expected that Rushwick will just become part of Leigh and Alfrck. I know lots of great people who would make great District Councillors but we can't expect people to take on these wards. Where does it leave the future? For these Super Wards you'll have District Councillors you see less and whose focus may be elsewhere in the ward. What you need as more and more housing is targeted to rural areas are District Councillors who are focused on doing the best for you and where you live specifically. There are alot of great initiatives from the District Council but rural communities will know less about them because their District Councillor will be spread thinner. And we've launched connected communities to listen to all communities. In urban areas residents will have three pairs of ears listening whilst across huge rural Super wards in rural communities there's a good chance less focus will be on communities as District Councillors drive from one parish council meeting to another. Connected communities is about knowing and listening to your communities. Spreading us thinner while focusing attention and ultimately spend on urban areas is not good. Please use the link below and register that you feel the council tax you pay in Lower Broadheath, Hallow or any other village is worth as much as that in Malvern Link. That you should be represented and creating Super wards to ensure all urban wards can have 3 councillors is wrong. Once this is adopted it will go ahead at the next elections so it's important to act now. This might not feel important now but when you need a District Councillor I want to make sure they are there.

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None Uploaded