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From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 July 2022 19:22
To: reviews
Subject: Superwards in rural areas - seriously?

Categories: [REDACTED]

To whom it may concern

Rural villages such as Rushwick, Alfrick, Lower Broadheath, Hallow and Grimley seem doomed to have even less of an ear regarding district council matters.

I have just read the below and it doesn't make impressive reading:

Recent 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 Commission 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 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 a lot 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..... '

I feel that the council tax we pay in Lower Broadheath, Hallow or any other village is worth as much as that in Malvern Link. The rural community should be represented and creating Super wards to ensure all urban wards can have 3 councillors is wrong.

I understand that once this is adopted it will go ahead at the next elections so I want to act now. This might not feel important now but it's going to have a huge negative knock on effect. You probably already know that and brush it under the carpet.

I would like to have a district Councillor when needed a District Councillor I want to make sure there is one. As I say, I pay my council tax so please dont 'exclude' rural areas and wrap them up under a sub heading. Thats what it will feel like.

Yours faithfully,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

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