

Malvern Hills District Council

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Organisation Name: Broadwas & Cotheridge Parish Council

Comment text:

Broadwas & Cotheridge Parish Council welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this stage of the consultation. We recognise and support the important work of the Boundary Commission in ensuring that at parish level people have access to elected representatives on the basis of a fair and even distribution of wards boundaries and councillors. Unfortunately the previous and current stage of consultation to the boundary map has not paid due attention to the position of a small rural parish and therefore has not evidenced that it has taken into account the following: 1. Subsuming a small rural parish council such as Broadwas & Cotheridge into what is in effect a super ward (a feature of proposals) makes it more likely that the interests of our parishioners will be subjugated. 2. The attendance of district councillors at parish meetings and events is valued and strengthens the link between parish and district/county and supports the connected communities strategy. The present proposal makes it more likely that district councillors will be unable to achieve this and remove them as community champions to become remote figure, thus marginalising the interests of parishioners. This will create a huge democratic void for those in rural communities who will be under represented and have less involvement with their District Council. 3 It does appear that the Boundary Commission thus far are not able to evidence that they have taken into account the particular needs of small rural parishes especially when they are adjacent to or subsumed into large wards that will necessarily focus on large population centre. 4. We do not understand the inconsistencies in application of numbers of district councillors to wards, but do understand the rationale for decreasing the total number of district councillors. Under the current proposals there is no clear logic for which wards have 3 district councillors and those who have less. Clearly Broadwas and Cotheridge we not benefit. In summary we believe the current review process to be flawed in that it has failed to take into account and or address the position of this parish, either in terms of visiting the area or understanding the nature of rural communities. The net result of the current proposals is that as a parish will have less access to and therefore involvement with district councillors and the district council. What is needed are smaller wards supported by few councillors. This is a retrograde and marginalising step and we therefore urge the commission to revisit this and or postpone its process to allow for further necessary consultation and consideration of more equitable and realistic options. Broadwas & Cotheridge Parish Council

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded