

BOUNDARY REVIEW CONSULTATION

On behalf of the Independent Group at Tandridge District Council

Cllr Martin Allen Group Leader – District Councillor for Tatsfield and Titsey - 1 Member ward

Cllr Judy Moore – District Councillor for Felbridge – One Member ward

Cllr Jeremy Pursehouse – District Councillor for Warlingham East, Chelsham and Farleigh an already long established 3 member ward.

We have reviewed with officers the overall position of the wards in the District and have come to the following conclusion which we believe for the reasons quoted that these 3 wards remain as they are within the new review.

This is the collective response from the three Councillors that form the Independent Group on the Tandridge District Council. Two of the Councillors are from one member wards and the other represents a large town but also has a rural area on the outskirts of their ward. Each fundamentally different to the other but all three border and rely on areas from other Councils for much of their “other” services.

The suggestion by the Independent Group to maintain the status quo along with a more defined and slimmed down workforce will have little impact on the Council, but will enable improved communication between Council and Councillors which in turn will improve communication between Councillors and their residents, specifically better for one member wards.

Tandridge District is the most easterly Local Authority in Surrey and within that district Tatsfield the most north-easterly and Felbridge the most southerly.

The district has the highest percentage of Green Belt of any authority in England (94%) including two Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB): Surrey Hills in the north and High Weald in the south-east. Just under a third is open space or woodland, while over half is in agricultural use. It also has numerous landscapes valued for their biodiversity. These include eight Sites of Special Scientific Interest, seven Local Nature Reserves, and Biodiversity Opportunity Areas. These green space areas in the north of the district are much of the reason why Tatsfield is spread some distance from both Limpsfield in the South and Warlingham/Woldingham to the west.

Community Leadership for both of these one member wards flourish better when they are represented by persons who live or work in these areas, who know the people from the local area and who are highly visible by their living alongside their residents. Living locally enables councillors to provide leadership to their communities to become involved in local societies and clubs and to encourage locals to have a positive feeling about the ward in which they live.

Tatsfield is set separately from the rest of the District with limited bus routes to the south and transport wise is more aligned to the north Biggin Hill.

Tatsfield would have a completely set of different problems than the three main towns of Oxted, Warlingham and Caterham and as such would need a closer personal relationship between it's Councillor and villagers who would better understand those problems and would prove better able to deal with them. Not to have a Councillor close to the community will diminish the local cause and effect of the single simple and closely connected one ward Councillor

The village of **Felbridge** is situated on the border of Mid Sussex District Council and Tandridge. At it's heart it has a church, a lake, a village hall, a public house and a village grocery shop. Many sports including football, bowls, cricket, ballet, equestrian etc. occur in the village. It is also located near to many shops at North End.

At present Felbridge functions well. It has an experienced and well-established Parish Council for local decisions, myself as District Councillor and strong links with the County Council.

No other ward is in the situation that Felbridge is and for that reason I would like Felbridge to remain as a single ward to maintain it's individual identity and to focus on local needs. Much time is spent on dealing with the detrimental impact that Mid-Sussex has on the lives of the residents of Felbridge, mostly focusing on housing and infrastructure. The next ward is not really nearby and what goes on in that ward, does not have much effect on the lives of the residents of Felbridge.

Residents of Felbridge are similarly not affected by wards to the North. The A264 to Crawley/Gatwick, the A22 to East Grinstead and the M25 are of most importance to the residents of Felbridge as well as local village life.

It is, therefore, of little value asking residents to vote for another ward which has little impact on their lives.

I respectfully request that Felbridge remains a single ward. It has enough to deal with being situated on the county border.

Councillor Judy Moore District Councillor- Felbridge Tandridge District Council.

Warlingham East, Chelsham and Farleigh the ward member here has served as one of a 3 member ward since 1988 and sees no reason for this to change in any way at all. 4776 electorate.

Our proposal is to maintain the status quo for the single member wards for **Tatsfield** and **Felbridge** both being rural and somewhat isolated wards and maintain **Warlingham East, Chelsham and Farleigh** as a 3 member ward.

Note 2. Whilst reviewing the above with officers on interactive maps , it looked to us that much of the eastern side of the district, Limpsfield 2 member ward , Dormansland and Felcourt - 2 member ward would also be best left as they are due to the rural and widespread area of the from the north to the south on the eastern side. This would leave the Commission evening out the numbers of residents from the more heavily populated areas of Oxted, Godstone, Whyteleafe and Caterham. Although we feel we are unable to make a committed judgement and leave those proposals to the Councillors who serve them.

We feel we have made a good case to retain the single member wards of Tatsfield and Titsey and Felbridge and would hope that you would see the sagacity of supporting us with this decision, however we are aware that the presumption is for a 3 member ward and as an alternative we would reluctantly suggest:

That **Tatsfield & Titsey** be linked with **Limpsfield** to make a 3 member ward as it is directly south of Tatsfield and supports an Independent representation through the Oxted and Limpsfield Residents Group 2 members. 4862 electorate.

As for **Felbridge** by looking at the map for a second preference, the only ward with two councillors is **Dormansland and Felcourt**, although this has a split representation of and Independent and one Conservative Councillor presently. 5374 electorate.

On the map it appears to be nearby but in order to drive to Dormansland the approach is A22 towards East Grinstead, left past the fire station onto Moat Road, past Queen Victoria Hospital (heading towards Kent) and turning left before the Kent border towards Dormansland. So this this is not really nearby. That events and happenings going on in Dormansland/Felcourt do not have much effect on the lives of the residents of Felbridge.

Residents of Felbridge are similarly not affected by wards to the North. The A264 to Crawley/Gatwick, the A22 to East Grinstead and the M25 are of most importance to the residents of Felbridge as well as local village life.
Hence this is considered to be a very poor alternative **to a good single ward member** representation for **Felbridge**.

Martin Allen
Independent Group Leader
On behalf of the Independent Group

Tandridge District Council

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Comment text:

This is a joint consultation from the Independent Group on the Tandridge District Council.. Please believe us when we say it is important to retain single members wards in the Rural parts of the district

Uploaded Documents:

https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1677615341_BOUNDARY+REVIEW+CONSULTATIONJM.docx