

Tandridge District Council

Personal Details:

Name:

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I strongly believe Woldingham is a unique rural community with its own neighbourhood plan and design guidance, and a deep sense of community identity expressed through many active Woldingham organisations. It faces issues in common with other rural villages and communities, but has little or nothing in common with dense urban centres, such as in the northwest of the District. I believe that we should remain a one Councillor Ward. If we do not: We lose direct representation. We may never have a Councillor from Woldingham elected again and therefore our interests and needs as a community may never be as well understood or served. E.g. we have more rural concerns like worries about travellers, or many and complex planning issues, especially being greenbelt and AONB; we have crime (like everywhere) but the range of crime in an urban area is different from the range of crime in our area and so we focus on different things; issues surrounding large amounts of social housing are very critical for urban centres, but not so much for Woldingham (and there is no non-greenbelt space for more). To be elected, not a single one of those three Councillors would need our votes. They would need to make the majority happy and may focus on the more populous area on which they would rely for election. They would be focussing on extremely worthy issues, but not our issues, which means we would suffer a lack of effective democratic representation. In short, remaining a discrete ward makes sense and is the most democratic outcome. And Woldingham has near perfect electoral equality as a single Councillor ward. However, if we must be merged with other wards, I do not think merging us with an urban centre makes sense as the workload for Councillors, who do not understand or work on issues similar to ours, increases. I would not feel represented as part of an urban ward in which our voices and needs were in the minority. Woldingham is a unique rural community with its own neighbourhood plan and design guidance, a character assessment, and a deep sense of community identity expressed through many active Woldingham organisations, such as Keeping Woldingham Safe, the Woldingham Association, the Horticultural Society, and many others. From an identity and interests point of view, as well as governability, we should be combined with communities that have needs similar to ours so that all our needs will be understood and addressed. An adjacent ward to the east or south such as Tatsfield and Titsey, Chelsham and Farleigh, or North Oxted would be more appropriate parishes to merge into a ward with Woldingham.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded