

Canterbury

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: Chartham and Stone Street ward

I wanted to share my view on the boundary of the ward which is joined to the Blean Forest ward. Prior to the previous boundary review in 2014 polling district RCS7 and RCS8 were within their own ward for Harbledown. Subsequently they joined Chartham and Stone Street ward for 2015 elections. RCS7 is within Chartham Parish Council so the parish was split across three councillors (two for Chartham and Stone Street and one for Harbledown) so it was helpful to ensure the whole parish area was within the city council ward. This, however, meant that RCS8 was within Chartham and Stone Street ward and created a new split within the parish for Harbledown and Rough Common Parish Council. For the past eight years the parish council has been served by five canterbury city councillors as well as a Kent County Council councillor, parish councillors and the MP. It can become confusing to residents and unhelpful to have five city councillors invited to a parish council meeting (two from Chartham and Stone Street and three from Blean Forest). I would ask that you consider moving RCS8 (Harbledown) to Blean Forest Ward. While it would worsen the variance for Chartham and Stone Street Ward it would conversely improve the variance for Blean Forest which is clearly out of kilter. Three city councillors could easily absorb the workload of around 600 residents given the absence or unregistered university students. Harbledown residents always say that they didn't consider themselves to be part of Chartham or Stone Street but clearly identify with Rough Common and therefore Blean. I hope this helps your considerations.

Attached Documents:

None attached