

Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council

Personal Details:

Name: Sarah Hudson
E-mail: sarah.hudson@tmbsc.gov.uk
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: Tonbridge & Malling BC

Comment text:

[REDACTED] The Review Officer (Tonbridge & Malling) LGBCE PO Box 133 Blyth NE24 9FE11 July 2021 Dear Review Officer Please take this letter as my response to the current Stage 2 consultation run by Local Government Boundary Commission for England on the electoral review of Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. This letter is sent in my capacity as the Ward Councillor for Watringbury, which I have represented since May 2019. This focuses solely on the area I represent, and not any other part of the Borough. I fully accept that either the number of Borough Councillors representing this area, or the external boundaries of the ward, will have to change. Watringbury is a small rural parish on the eastern edge of the Borough. It sits astride the A26, and along the B2015, which forms a crossroads at the centre of the village. Watringbury has a handful of independent shops, a post office and small village school. Watringbury was mentioned in the Domesday book, and is predominantly a conservation area, with many listed properties along the A26. For many years it was the centre of the brewing industry in Kent, surrounded by hopfields, and many of the local road names reflect our brewing history. The newest development on the site of the Phoenix Brewery resulted in modern, family homes. The village school is small with around 200 pupils on the roll. I would propose creating a new ward of Mereworth and Watringbury. Mereworth is another rural parish and is also on the A26, and is in fact the first village you come to upon leaving Watringbury travelling west. It too has many listed properties and share many similarities, and many residents in Watringbury send their children to Mereworth Primary School, as Watringbury Primary School has regularly been oversubscribed. Mereworth has no post office, and residents of Mereworth drive to Watringbury to use the village post office. Watringbury and Mereworth are in the same benefice, with Rev Gary alternating Sunday services. I believe it would make common sense to merge the two parishes into a new ward, and hope you do too. Kind regards Sarah Hudson Ward Councillor for Watringbury on TMBC

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded