

Waverley Borough Council

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Comment text:

Please find to follow a copy of the comments that Tilford PC has submitted to the Boundary Commission regarding the draft proposals. COMMENTS ON DRAFT BOUNDARY COMMISSION REPORT

These are the comments of Tilford Parish Council on the draft Boundary Commission report on Waverley Borough. Tilford Parish Council is currently in a ward with Frensham, Churt and Dockenfield served by 2 Ward Councillors. Tilford Parish Council notes that the Commission has proposed that Tilford would be combined with Frensham, Churt, Dockenfield and Thursley yet still represented by 2 Borough Councillors. Currently Thursley forms a separate ward with Elstead and Brook where combined with Tilford's ward they are represented by 4 Borough Councillors. By including Thursley within the Tilford-Churt-Frensham ward and retaining the same number of councillors (i.e 2), whilst reducing the representation for Elstead it is very clear that there is a significant under representation for rural residents at Borough level. At the moment parishes struggle to enjoy full Borough Councillor attendance at their meetings and it is hard to find a day where they are free to participate in parish meetings given the number of other parishes and borough meetings that they must attend. By including another parish council it will make it even harder to ensure regular attendance. The proposal to name the ward Churt-Frensham is not supported by Tilford Parish Council. It implies that Tilford, Thursley and Dockenfield have less importance resulting in a loss of identity for all three villages. As the name Churt-Frensham-Tilford-Thursley-Dockenfield is too cumbersome a better alternative would be Western Commons. Overall Tilford supports a reduction of councillors at Waverley Borough Council however it feels as if rural areas are being disproportionately affected by these proposals with much of the reduction coming through combining rural villages and reducing the numbers of ward councillors in these areas. Our four main towns in Waverley are well served with councillors and are also better looked after in terms of higher precept receipts and with WBC responsible for their recreational ground maintenance etc. Rural communities have lower precepts but recently have had to pick up many duties historically undertaken by our borough and county councils. Parish councils also have to fund maintenance to recreational grounds out of our precepts for which we no longer receive compensation. With this imbalance it is even more important that rural areas have fairer borough councillor representation in order that their voice may be heard at Waverley. Tilford Parish Council therefore asks the Commission to reconsider its proposals.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded