

North Hertfordshire District Council

Personal Details:

Name:

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I don't often say this, but I agree with North Herts Council on this issue. The current one-member Arbury ward works well. If we were swallowed up by the proposed Ashwell and Weston ward (which is much larger), we would lose the direct accountability that comes from being represented by a single councillor. Furthermore, the majority of the population in the new ward would be based in the mega-development to the East of Baldock. The issues arising in this massive new urban development will be very different to those in the small rural villages (many of which have been in existence for more than a millennium). What will happen in practice is that the needs of the villages will be largely ignored because the three councillors will have their hands full dealing with the problems created by the new development. Furthermore, when the majority of their electorate are town-dwellers, the councillors can hardly be blamed for focussing on urban issues. Since there is no one councillor with specific responsibility for the small rural villages, ownership of specific issues will become blurred. All through the planning / public consultation stages for the new development, we were told that it would be an integral part of Baldock. If that really is the case (rather than just a convenient fiction) then putting the new development in the Baldock East ward makes much more sense. I therefore support the proposal that has been put forward by North Herts Council.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded