

North Hertfordshire District Council

Personal Details:

Name:

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I strongly object to the proposed new Ashwell and Weston Ward. The proposals are just an extension of the town of Baldock and are completely different to rural Bygrave. As a previous District Councillor for Arbury for 24 years, I can confirm that issues residents do face are totally different, and the new settlement proposed will look to Baldock not to the villages that Arbury currently represents.. Bygrave currently has over 200 electors, but the new development will contain around 1,500 electors , completyetly overwhelming the rest of Bygrave parish. The current proposal will lead to dissatisfaction for all. The new Baldock residents will want to address issues connected to Baldock and of an urban nature. The villages have completely separate issues of a more rural nature. The ward will be dominated by residents who will identify as being from Baldock and are serviced by Baldock's schools, shops, pubs and transport links. This would. It occur if the new settlement electorate were attached to the current Baldock East ward, which is already linked in any case geographically and the number of councillors increased there by one. The proposed Ashwell & Weston ward is geographically very large, and the two sets of villages (form Arbury and Weston and Sandon)are separated by a major road, the A505. Perhaps more importantly this will also create a ward with 11 parishes. Unsustainable as far as an elected councillor is concerned. Fair and equal representation for all 11 parishes, plus a large chunk of new electors with completely different priorities in Baldock is is unthinkable and undemocratic. I can remember a similar situation occurring in North Herts with Great Ashby. The combination of new town style development being forced together with villages failed. After the failure this was changed to reflect the situation I have outlined above. The name of the proposed new ward will not satisfy either the 9 villages not named nor the new part of Baldock and is just a falsely created name to suit a falsely created district Ward. Just a small adjustment to the Lgbce recommendation; to allocate an extra councillor to Baldock East and incorporate the new Baldock development and leave both Arbury and Weston and Sandon as they are, would solve all the above mentioned problems and makes common sense both numerically and culturally

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded