

TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL – LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION – REVIEW 2022-23  
RESPONSE TO DRAFT ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS TO FORM A THREE COUNCILLOR WARD BY  
MERGING DORMANSLAND & FELCOURT WITH FELBRIDGE

BY CLLR SIR NICHOLAS WHITE, INDEPENDENT MEMBER OF THE RESIDENTS ALLIANCE\*

## **Introduction**

In March 2023, our initial assessment of electoral arrangements included a proposal that Dormansland & Felcourt ('Dormans') remains as a two - councillor ward. This was endorsed by the previous boundary review in 1998 and little has changed since that review. The Commission rejected this and instead has a draft proposal to form a three-councillor ward by merging Dormans with one-councillor Felbridge ward. We reiterate our proposal that Dormans remains as a two-councillor ward and set out our reasons below:

### **Dormansland & Felcourt as a two- member ward**

The following issues are core to the rationale for keeping Dormans as a stand – alone two-councillor ward:

1. Electoral equality: at the last election Dormans had an electorate of 3,064 and requires 2 District Councillors. This electorate is allocated as follows: Dormansland and surrounding area – 1928 voters; Dormans Park – 596 voters; and Felcourt – 540 voters.
2. Identity – Felbridge is an urban area with a small amount of rural housing whereas Dormans is 95% rural with just two small residential areas (Dormansland Village and Dormans Park). The remainder of the area is open countryside/farmland with the High Weald AONB (about a third of the ward's area) on the eastern side between the southern boundary of the ward and the B2028.
3. Facilities - Dormansland only has one shop/post office and one primary school. For everything else, residents have to travel to Lingfield (including the GP surgery) and, for a wider choice of shops, to either East Grinstead, Lingfield or Edenbridge. Felbridge has its own shopping area.
4. Transport links: By car it takes 15/20 minutes to travel the 5.5 miles between Dormans & Felbridge. This does not support effective local government.

## **Conclusion**

In our earlier review we said that '... a proposal to merge (Dormans) with Felbridge would be greeted with widespread local opposition. The issue of community identity and a sense of belonging and connection, with solid social and cultural ties, looms large amongst residents of Dormans.' We reiterate this stance and request that the Commission does not finalise draft electoral arrangements for this part of the District in their current form and that the two-councillor ward of Dormansland and Felcourt is retained.

- formerly 'Independents & OLRG Alliance

# Tandridge

## Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Postcode: [REDACTED]  
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

## Comment text:

Dear LGBCE,

Please find attached a response to the final consultation on electoral arrangements for Tandridge District Council. Perhaps you would be kind enough to acknowledge receipt.

Many thanks,

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

On behalf of Sir Nicholas White, Independent Member of the Residents Alliance, Tandridge District Council

## Attached Documents:

- DORMANS.docx