

Gloucestershire

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Stroud Town Council (Parish or town councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Stroud Trinity

As a Stroud Town Councillor, I am strongly against the concept of splitting Stroud Trinity Ward from the rest of the Town for a number of reasons, not least it doesn't meet the idea of local community and connections: Having a county councillor for one side of the road different from the county councillor for the other side, in a small rural town like Stroud will just look bonkers, and that's because it is! Local government has to be meaningful to people if it's to interest them, and something so nonsensical as this proposal to give off one sixth of a whole, which sits wholly within Stroud town, has no relationship to how local people perceive their communities. Why would the electorate be interested in voting for someone who may not even live in Stroud town, but instead live in a very rural part of the Division? If they lack the will to vote, because they don't think they'll be represented, we start to lose the very essence of local democracy. Similarly, I don't see how having two Councillors representing the same street (but possibly with opposing views on something like the recent county council parking review) is feasible - again it could just look like a farce. As a Town Councillor, I welcome the fact that we have one county councillor to report back to us on actions taken at County level, and similarly, I know that he values being able to speak collectively on behalf of the Town. The Town has its own, unique set of issues, especially a Ward like Trinity, and we want to know that we have. a county councillor who knows, recognises and can represent those views and those views alone, rather than having someone who may be more concerned about issues in Painswick or Bisley. Finally, I wholeheartedly support the rationale given in its submission to you by the Town Council. Stroud needs to stay as six wards, speaking as one, and not divided up to meet some numbers game.

Attached Documents:

None attached