

Wokingham Borough Council

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Comment text:

Wards are better off reflecting the areas they represent. I represent the Ward of Sonning which has a long and rich history. There are several villages in the Borough, such as Swallowfield, Hurst and Charvil and each of them is unique. If the rural communities of Sonning, Charvil, Wargrave and Remenham are merged together they will lose their identity and create a massive geographical area with many complex issues. These rural communities on their own add to the diversity of settlements in the Borough of Wokingham. Even the report states these "have distinct separate identities". These rural communities have very little in common with the urban areas of the Borough, where for example Earley and Woodley are their own communities with many councillors. In one member wards there is a better relationship with residents and a greater understanding and being able to focus on the issues. The single member wards of Sonning, Charvil, Hurst, Swallowfield, Barkham and Arborfield all work. Why is there a need to change and break up a very good system. If something is not broken, there is no need to replace it. This proposal in the report fails to adequately recognise these rural communities and it simply would not work.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded