

Fareham Borough Council

Personal Details:



Comment text:

This consultation follows the format of most of the usual (local) government consultations, (i) provides little clear information for any reader to understand the real issues, (ii) uses lots of links to various documents, some of which are very hard to even access or print (eg the electoral numbers presented as a pdf so no easy analysis can be made and the fixed format prints on 56 pages!), (iii) is verbose and repetitive with the same words repeated in various different docs. It is not easy to see how the representation for Fareham is greater or less than other areas or the national average? it is not clear which year has been used for the 'forecast electorate' and if this is based on the current draft local plan or some other basis? it reveals that 2 areas, Warsash and Fareham East are forecast electoral growth of >30% and all the other areas are

Uploaded Documents:

https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1647865627_Fareham+Ward+Change+Commentary.pdf

- I am basing my comments on the projected population in each ward in 2027, as it would be pointless to use today's figures in reassigning ward boundaries. The next few years will see a large amount of house-building, which will affect some wards (such as Warsash) far more than others. In 2027 the total number of voters in Fareham is predicted to be 97,790.
- With 32 councillors, the average number of voters per councillor should be 3,056 ($97,790 \div 32$). This means a 2-councillor ward should have 6,112 voters and a 3-councillor ward 9,168.
- There are two ways to get the right number number of voters per councillor. The first is to increase the number of wards to 16. In this case the average electorate per ward will be $97,790 \div 16 = 6,112$, which is exactly the right number for two councillors. Thus every ward would have two councillors (none with 3) and an electorate of 6,112. However, to increase the number of wards would entail a lot of boundary juggling.
- An alternative, and one which I think would work well for Fareham, is to have 13 two-councillor wards and two three-councillor wards. Looking at the five central Fareham wards, their total population is about right, but Fareham North would need to be reduced a bit and the excess electorate moved to its neighbours. Portchester East is an almost ideal candidate for three councillors, with just a small adjustment to its population.
- Looking at Warsash, we would have 1,152 too many electors, which could be transferred to Park Gate. Similarly, Titchfield Common could give 191 electors to Park Gate and Sarisbury 202, making Park Gate's electorate 9,056, which is close to the right number for three councillors.
- Alternatively, given the larger physical area of Warsash, we could become the three-councillor ward, with Park Gate, Sarisbury and Titchfield Common giving us their excess numbers. Someone just has to decide how to shift the boundaries.
- In summary, I believe that only by knowing all the above numbers can anyone make a rational plan for adjusting ward boundaries. I fail to see how the ordinary elector could make any sensible comment or recommendation without knowing all this.
- If we opt for a 3-councillor ward in the Western Wards, it would be a matter of choosing either Park Gate or Warsash. This is where you could state your preference, or you could suggest something else entirely.