

Review Officer (Fareham)
LGBCE,
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE14 9FE

Dear Sir/Madam,

Catisfield: Proposed Ward boundary changes.

I write to object strongly against the decision to divide the Catisfield community by the proposed change in Ward boundaries.

I am a member of The Catisfield Village Association (CVA) a residents' group for local people. The CVA is the focus in relation to planning and development along with traffic and other community issues and offers a vibrant social programme for local people, mainly hosted the Catisfield Memorial Hall. Our community spirit is manifest in such simple acts as planting bulbs around Catisfield to enhance our environment.

The Catisfield Village Association (CVA) membership cover the area commonly known as Catisfield which includes the following roads: Catisfield Lane, Harvester Drive, Fishers Hill, Mount Drive, Chalky Lane, Hampton Grove, Forneth Gardens, Highlands Road (Up to and including Place House Close). Catisfield Road, Friars Pond Road, Chatsworth close, Appleton Road, Beechcroft Close, East Lodge, Hunters Lodge, South Lodge, Cherrygarth Road, The Timbers, Larches Gardens, Maple Close and Woodbourne Close.

All the above should also be considered in the wider context of Titchfield and the Meon Valley with which Catisfield has close and enduring connections. Indeed, significant parts of our community extend into the conservation area of the Meon Valley. The countryside and the roads all directly impact on our local environment and are key to the history of this small community. Our efforts to protect that environment, conserve the heritage and keep it an active area for local residents and other people is important to us all. We resist being separated from our heritage by this Ward change.

In recognition of our shared history and community, the close ties between the CVA and Community Hall which is evident by their identical respective constituency area as listed above. This comprises residences both to the east of Highlands Road and those to the west of Catisfield Road and its small adjoining network of residential streets.

The current change in Ward boundaries would split this small community and destroy its cohesion. The current central role of the CVA would be separated both psychologically and politically from the majority of the Catisfield residents. Currently we benefit from long-established links with the Fareham Borough Council through Councillors who are also residents within Catisfield. The Ward boundary changes risk destroying those local links and consigning us to the peripheries of other Wards.

Residents have manifest their commitment to this small geographically defined community in regular collective representations to the Council, shared commemoration of Christmas and other festivities, Jubilee and the up coming Coronation celebrations. The community acts collectively to support itself and others including donations to residents of Ukraine. In this era of increasing division and reducing social participation, we want to keep the sense of community spirit that adds value to our lives and environment.

The proposed Ward boundary changes appear to be a wholly arbitrary bureaucratic exercise based on no knowledge or understanding of the local community and its history or interests. The changes are wholly unacceptable and should be amended to reflect the long-established community of Catisfield as described above and in accordance with the Fareham Borough Council's submission advocating that this community be included in the new Meon Ward (replacing the previous Titchfield Ward).

Please acknowledge receipt of this response to the consultation.

Yours faithfully,