

East Hertfordshire District Council

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Westmill Parish Council

Comment text:

Westmill Parish Council does not support the proposed boundary changes. The proposed changes increase the ward size by an extra parish still covered by only 1 member, increasing the workload for this member over a geographically wide area. The village address is: Westmill, Buntingford and links to the nearest town of Buntingford are not just geographical due to closeness, the Westmill community naturally aligns itself with Buntingford and the services provided there and shares common issues such as planning and highways with Buntingford, Aspenden and Cottered, supporting Buntingford in its '20s Plenty' campaign. Buntingford provides all local services such as schools, doctors, places of worship, local football club, dentists, workplaces, childcare providers, shops and public transport and is within walking and cycling distance. Westmill does not have a bus stop in the village and Buntingford is the nearest place to safely access public transport links. Aspenden is in walking and cycling distance and has a pub and church which are enjoyed by Westmill residents and is a popular dog walking route. The current district and county councillors are involved in a major planning issue involving unauthorised development and are well-placed to continue their involvement being local residents to Buntingford. Residents of Buntingford regularly walk or cycle to Westmill for the pub and tea room so the link is reciprocated. Westmill village is surrounded by a 4 mile road loop which is popular with walkers, cyclists and joggers often from Aspenden and Buntingford. Of Westmill's 5 road exits, 2 exit onto the A10 northbound toward Buntingford and 1 exits to Aspenden. The proposed new boundary covers a large area and is geographically disparate with most hamlets and small settlements sharing links to Ware which Westmill does not share. Westmill is approximately 125 households so could be assimilated into the 3 member ward of Buntingford. This would be a good opportunity to retain Westmill's current relationship with Cottered and Aspenden and align Westmill with its important neighbouring service provider town of Buntingford.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded