

Malvern Hills District Council

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Comment text:

The present Hallow ward consists of 1 large village and several interlinked small villages and hamlets. These while seeing themselves as separate entities are linked by educational, social and often family ties. As the sitting District Councillor I find it relatively easy to be a presence throughout the area so that constituents can easily identify me and contact me with concerns or request for help. I believe that having a single Councillor being accountable to the electorate in an area not only gives the member a sense of greater responsibility for the area but maintains a closer connection with the constituents. I recognise the force of circumstance that would deem Hallow as having proportionally too few electors in a smaller council though I would question the overall need to reduce the number of Councillors or the sense in doing so when large housing developments are planned. Hallow has grown by about 25% in the time that I have been representing it and current and planned future developments will add approximately a further 100 houses. Considering reorganising districts to achieve a more proportional representation would in Hallow's case mean joining with neighbouring villages. This would involve a reorganisation of either the neighbouring Council districts of Broadheath or Woodbury. The village of Broadheath could not be sensibly divided into smaller if conjoined to Hallow. Even if separated from Rushwick and other smaller components it would dominate Hallow area and would require it to be a multi member ward. The Parish of Holt (Baldwin), within the Woodbury ward, is next to Hallow ward. Holt has been intimately conjoined to Hallow, particularly to Grimley, it sharing the local Grimley and Holt primary school. The Churches have for many years been serviced by the same rector, and the local Parish magazine forms the main communication for the conjoined area. When looked at on a map it is clear that moving Holt into Hallow Ward would form a compact and coherent area. Each of the villages of Hallow, Grimley and Holt border onto the Severn. My understanding is that this proposed to new area would in the year 2025 give a forecast electorate of 2345, some 4% greater than the assumed ideal of 2250. Further to this I have been privileged to view Cllr Daniel Walton's submission. My proposal would accord with his and I view his other proposals as a realistic method for reconfiguring the electoral wards in the northern area of MHDC.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded