

Malvern Hills District Council

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Comment text:

The draft report states that its creators have not visited the area. This is very obvious from many of the proposed wards, some of which contravene the Commission's own guidelines on ward establishment. The most glaring example is the new ward of Ripple which covers both sides of the River Severn without any means of communication between the wards on either side. In the central area, the two wards proposed for Alfrick & Leigh and Bransford & Rushwick are geographically and socially absurd. Alfrick and Lulsley are closely conjoined communities that form a uniform whole. Lulsley has little, if any, contact with Martley, which is only accessible via a narrow, twisting road with a 16% gradient up Ankerdine Hill. Splitting Alfrick and Lulsley is simply nonsensical as the inspectors would have learned had they troubled to visit. At the detailed level, several houses on Green Street will be marooned in the new Martley ward, though they are geographically part of Alfrick, rather than Lulsley and have only one access route: to Alfrick! In Leigh and Bransford, the situation is, if anything, even worse under the draft proposals. Bransford is an integral part of the parish of Leigh & Bransford and development crosses the proposed ward boundaries both there and in Leigh Sinton. Adjacent properties will be arbitrarily divided between the new wards along: Stocks Road, Leigh Sinton; Suckley Road, Bransford and Leigh Road, Bransford. Bransford is a single community and should be treated as such, not divided between two wards. It seems very odd that the word of a sitting councillor, Daniel Walton, presumably seeking to obtain a safe seat in Rushwick under the new arrangements, has been preferred over real evidence on the ground. The way to remedy this gross error of judgement by the Commission is to create a larger ward, represented by two councillors. It should comprise all the current Alfrick & Leigh Ward, with the exception of Knightwick & Doddenham, plus the parish of Rushwick. This would not affect the viability of the enormous new Martley ward, it would be within the Commission's 10% electorate guidelines and it would actually reflect the communities' desires and needs, unlike the two wards in the draft proposal.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded