

Fenland District Council

Personal Details:

Name:

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I am objecting to any proposed changes to the Fenland District Council ward of Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary as a resident of Murrow. I learnt of the proposal by Fenland District Council to split the existing ward to achieve increasing the number of councillors from 39 to 42 when attending a Parish Council meeting. I understand from the meeting that if Fenland District Council only increased to 41 councillors, then the majority of the rural wards' boundaries, including Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary Ward could remain as they are, as it fits within the criteria. Confusion has reigned for a number of years between residents, me included, because Murrow Village is split into two parish councils. I think further confusion will be created if the proposal to split Murrow into two new district council wards comes into effect. Arguments between residents, which could potentially occur in a small village regarding which district councillor represents which residents can't be good for the community. Murrow is a thriving community with numerous volunteer groups actively working to benefit its community. If two new wards are formed then residents, in different council wards, who are members of the same voluntary group will want to have their say on which district council ward should be approached for advice on community projects taking place in the village. How can this be good for any volunteers of a voluntary group that will face this unnecessary dilemma? It could see the closure of some voluntary groups because of ill feeling and lack of understanding regarding how councillors from the two different district council wards will represent us all. Strong community links and friendships have been formed between many residents of Murrow and the existing ward villages. I believe that the proposed changes threaten firstly, the wellbeing of Murrow community and secondly, our neighbouring communities within our existing boundary. The proximity of the villages within the existing ward has ensured that we have local councillors who understand the area representing our needs. If the ward splits into two new wards and it encompasses villages further away then I am concerned that future councillors will not be local and therefore not truly identify with the needs of the individual villages within the larger area they will represent. I understand the idea that each councillor represents about the same number of electors and in towns, due to the close proximity of housing, this is easily achievable. But in the rural areas to achieve this councillors will need to travel distances and therefore not all councillors will be local to the people they are supposed to represent. That could disadvantage the rural electorate if the boundaries stretch too far afield. I think some physical barriers also need to be considered. The distance councillors will be expected to travel to visit and represent residents could be an issue. Major roads such as the A47 and crossing the River are obstacles to be looked at. It will mean that councillors will have to drive whereas with the existing boundary to our ward they could walk or cycle I value the friendships and links I have with other Murrow residents and the wider community. Our existing ward villages have similar needs therefore there are voluntary groups who work together for the benefit of the community. To cover the concerns I have raised I would welcome our boundary remaining as it is Murrow resident

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded