

Maidstone Borough Council

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Organisation Name: Hollingbourne Parish Council

Comment text:

Dear Sir / Madam Thank you ever so much for re-considering the plight of the North Downs villages, and keeping them together with Hollingbourne. Your assistance in this matter is much appreciated and reassures residents of the North Downs about the strong ties which we have with them, particularly Hucking and Bicknor. The only concern that the Hollingbourne Parish Council has is that the proposed Harrietsham, Lenham and North Downs ward is so large and diverse in its local concerns, that smaller villages and hamlets may become overshadowed by the larger communities. Smaller rural settlements may miss out on the Borough Councillors' care and attention, as it is imagined that areas where there is a denser population, and therefore more voters, will take up more of the Borough Councillors' time and efforts. After all, if they are looking for an overall support from voters, especially when it approaches local elections, the Borough Councillors will want to please a larger audience. Where will this leave the residents of smaller villages? Will their problems and concerns be swept under the carpet? Will the Borough Councillors bother to help the villages where the residents are lesser in number – is it worth their while?? The Parish Councillors feel that it seems inevitable that the voice of the residents in the smaller communities will, when being part of a very large ward, become dim and hard to hear! Hollingbourne Parish Council is and was very lucky with our current and previous Borough Councillors. The Parish Council can truly say that they help so much when there are queries with regards to work relating to the Borough Council. Their knowledge and enthusiasm to help overflows within Hollingbourne and the surrounding villages. Our past and present Borough Councillors know the residents personally, understand their concerns and are willing to stand up for their rights. If the Borough Councillors would have to cover a far greater area, we fear that they will not be able to have such an active involvement within the North Downs villages, and this would be a terrible shame. The local smaller communities would miss out on this help and support, and sadly end up becoming isolated. Please would you be able to consider this serious concern that the Hollingbourne Parish Council has about the size and variation of the proposed Harrietsham, Lenham and North Downs Ward. The Parish Council feels that North Downs, including Hollingbourne village, needs to be classified as a separate ward to its larger neighbours, Harrietsham and Lenham. Thank you for your assistance in this matter and valuing our input towards your consultation.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded