

Mole Valley District Council

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Newdigate Parish Council

Comment text:

Please see uploaded document detailing Newdigate Parish Council comments.

Uploaded Documents:

Download (https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1654117863_PC+Submitted+Response+-+Boundary+Review.pdf)

**Newdigate Parish Council
Village Hall
Kingsland
Newdigate
Surrey
RH5 5DA**

“Newdigate Parish Council has examined the proposals for change put forward by the Commission in respect of the ward including our parish. Whilst we feel that there was considerable merit in the argument made by Charlwood PC for continuing with a single councillor, we are disappointed that this suggestion was rejected. It would appear from this decision that the requirement for all wards in Mole Valley to have three councillors is therefore immutable. As a consequence a range of potential problems emerge from the imposition of a three councillor regime and its impact on individual councillors. With a geographically extended ward the addition of an additional councillor will not necessarily decrease the workload of individual councillors. They will have to travel greater distances and thus spend more time on servicing the requests and needs of their electorate. In the case of our own councillors they will have to try and attend four parish council meetings each month. This regular contact between councillors and their parish councils is a vital link in the chain of local democracy and should not be put at risk. Indeed it challenges one of the core objectives of the Commission by potentially decreasing the efficiency and convenience of local government.

Although it would now appear to be a forlorn hope, Newdigate Parish would have preferred our existing two councillor ward to have been maintained, and Charlwood with a single councillor. We remain unconvinced that dogged adherence to the mathematical dogma of three council wards will yield any benefits to the residents of our parish, and very possibly the reverse.”

Kind regards

**Chairman and Councillors of
Newdigate Parish Council**

1st June 2022

clerk@newdigateparishcouncil.gov.uk