

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

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Comment text:

Rusthall Parish Council have asked me, as Chair, to respond to the Boundary Commission's proposals on their behalf. We are pleased to see that the LBGC took into account the views of Rusthall residents and councillors on the uniqueness of the village and our sense of community. We were pleased that the Commission considered keeping Rusthall as a separate 2-councillor ward, but are naturally disappointed that the necessary parameters were not achieved. The suggestion that we join with Speldhurst to make a larger 3-member ward are largely welcomed as the best solution. Rusthall has more in common with the villages in Speldhurst Parish than with other areas nearer to the centre of Tunbridge Wells, and wants to keep its village identity. The suggested name of the new ward - Rusthall & Speldhurst - is acceptable to us as it preserves the identity of the 2 parishes involved, thus making it easily understood and recognised by their residents. Although not directly affecting Rusthall, concern was expressed at the size of some of the rural wards, particularly Paddock Wood and Pembury & Capel, and Eastern Parishes. In both cases the physical size of the wards makes it difficult to see how each parish's interests can be fully represented. Each village is unique in its needs, and it is almost inevitable that, with wards this large, equal representation will be impossible.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded