

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

21 April 1926 to 8 September 2022

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Personal Details:

Name:

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

[REDACTED] Cranbrook 3 September 2022 We have read your proposals with severe misgivings. We lived half way between Goudhurst and Cranbrook for more than twenty years, with our doctor, and most of our leisure and social activity in the former and our three children's school and facilities needed to run my business in the latter. Five years ago we moved into Cranbrook High Street. We have a strong affinity with both communities and wish the best for them equally. In passing we wish to say that we regard your frequent references to a submission from a political party, the Liberal Democrats, as concerning. That you even consider partisan political views in something like this entirely undermines any claim you may make to independence. Any political party will think only of its own electoral advantage. We are familiar with the ill effects of arbitrary change of this sort. Some years ago Cranbrook was summarily switched from being served by the Tunbridge Wells MP to the Maidstone constituency. As far as we knew that was just a numbers game, what you refer to as electoral equality in your proposal summary. It did not take proper account of community identity, your second delivery aim in this proposal, and nor does this proposed change. We are in the TW Borough, and the Maidstone Constituency. We are invited by TWBC to comment on, for example, housing development, but we have to look to Maidstone for support from our MP. It weakens our voice. We have recently seen draft proposals for yet more change in the parliamentary constituency boundaries in the rural High Weald of Kent and Sussex. What is to be gained from it? Where does the drive to fiddle about with this sort of thing come from? Rarely if ever from the people concerned. Goudhurst Parish includes Kilndown. You propose to split Kilndown away from Goudhurst. This can only be another numbers game, with little or no thought at all given to ancient ties and current links between two communities who are well used to and comfortable with each other. You can argue that this hardly matters; this is only about wards and councilors, and which of the latter has what particular constituency may be of little importance. That is not how "locals" think or feel. It is hard to see how this contributes to your third aim, to make governance simpler and more efficient. So what this feels like is change for change sake, just to get the numbers "right". There are many actual and proposed housing development projects around here. When another 1000 people call Cranbrook home, or another 300 are residents of Goudhurst, and so on all around the parishes, will your number crunchers start all this again? You asked TWBC for projected numbers, but they are entirely speculative. The case for change has simply not been made. The time and money required to push this through will not be well spent. You are making matters worse, not better. [REDACTED]

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded