

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Personal Details:

Name:

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

As a resident of the Civil Parish of Southborough and High Brooms I strongly object to the proposed boundary changes which pay no regard to the parish boundaries and Parish Council responsibilities nor to historic and existing communities. These proposals will diminish local democracy and destroy the unique local identity of the area; there is a huge amount of community spirit within this area, with parish/town councillors (some of whom are also Borough Councillors for the area) closely involved in the many community activities. All of this will be lost by the split created by apparently random drawing of new boundaries with no knowledge of the communities impacted. It appears that there are also issues in the rural areas, where villages that are some distance from each other and are again historically very separate and unique communities have ended up being grouped together. It is unclear how individual Councillors will be able to fully support residents over such wide physical areas. I fully recognise the need for equal numbers of electors for each Councillor but understand that the particular issues have arisen from the way our Borough Councillors are elected - by thirds every year rather than the more common approach of all Councillors being elected on block for a four year-term. I know that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council now has voted to change to the four-yearly voting method and will be asking the Boundary Commission to review the Wards again with a view to maintaining (or staying close to) existing ward boundaries, with the number of Councillors for each ward being determined by the number of electors. I believe that this approach would enable the required reduction in the number of borough councillors to be met without adverse impact on residents, and I would fully support such a change.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded