

# Tandridge

## Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Tatsfield

I oppose this proposal for the following reasons:

1. Despite being served by Surrey County Council and Tandridge District Council, the village of Tatsfield is 'out on a limb' geographically.
2. Housing at its northern border merges with the built-up area of Biggin Hill in the London Borough of Bromley. No obvious natural boundary is visible.
3. A stretch of two miles or more of open countryside separates the village from its nearest settlements in Tandridge – Limpsfield and Woldingham.
4. Village residents tend to travel North for services. As the crow flies, Biggin Hill, with its supermarket and shops, is a mile and a half away. Oxted with its supermarkets and shops is more than two and a half miles away. Even by road, Biggin Hill is easier to reach than is Oxted. Biggin Hill Valley, with a small supermarket and facilities including a pharmacy is only a mile and a half away by car, less than half the driving distance to Oxted.
5. Public transport favours journeys to Biggin Hill and London. A seven day a week bus route run by Transport for London provides more than 30 journeys a day on weekdays and more than a dozen on Sundays to Biggin Hill and Croydon, allowing frequent connections to Bromley. Buses run from before breakfast until after midnight. By contrast, there are only four weekdays bus journeys a day to Oxted and none on Sundays.
6. Tatsfield residents tend to be registered with NHS doctors in Biggin Hill or Westerham. For many years, both practices had branch surgeries in Tatsfield.

7. The first fire brigade response in the village is usually provided from the full-time London Fire Brigade station in Biggin Hill, rather than from the part-time Oxted fire station.

8. Because of Tatsfield's postal address – WESTERHAM TN16 2.. – many people still associate the village with Kent, rather than Surrey.

9. Taking into account the above factors has been second-nature to the district councillors who have represented us for decades. The Commission puts the combined electorate of a combined Tatsfield and Limpsfield ward as 4,444.

Tatsfield's electorate is a third of that. For councillors of a three-member ward, Tatsfield would therefore be a minority interest. There would be no guarantee that any one member would have adequate relevant local knowledge to represent the interests of Tatsfield.

10. The Commission suggests that Woldingham's identity justifies retaining a onemember ward with an electorate of 1590 in 2022. The same argument should apply to Tatsfield and Titsey which has a similar number of electors.

For these reasons, I believe that Tatsfield should retain its one-member status.

## **Attached Documents:**

*None attached*