

Vale of White Horse

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Related subject: District council number of councillors

It is regrettable that the latest LGBCE review of VOWH District Council does not appear to recognise the situation on the ground in our local area. In your review of March 2013 (became law 2014) the number of District Council representatives was reduced from 51 to 38. We were told at the time that this was to make the constituencies of roughly equal size and representation across England. Fair enough.

Now LGBCE propose keeping the number of representatives for VOWH DC the same despite everything that is happening here.

It is a matter of record that the Wantage and Didcot Parliamentary Constituency has the highest growth figures of any constituency in England and Wales. Furthermore according to the Times and Sunday Times August 2023 "The Wantage constituency has had a higher percentage rise in new housing than anywhere else in Britain over the last decade" with more than half of the homes in the last Local Plan for this area yet to be built.

ONS census data shows that in 2001 the combined Wantage and Grove population was 17,744, in 2011 it was 18,348, whilst in 2021 it had reached 21,051. The 2021 population figure is 18% more than in 2001, and 15% higher than 2011. Therefore we can see that Wantage & Grove has a population roughly 3,000 greater than in 2013 which is recognised as being the highest growth in the UK, yet our constituencies remain represented by the same number of councillors.

Since the 2011 Census over 3,000 homes have been built in OX12 and around a further 4,000 have received outline planning permission.

Another 450 are either included in the local plan or have applications being considered. 7,000 houses equate to approximately 17,000 people of which only around 3,000 have arrived so far. Over the next few years we will see a rapid population growth.

It is not credible that our councillors still represent roughly the same number of people as everywhere else due to our recognised exceptional growth figures. So can we take it that LGBCE are no longer looking at approximate uniformity in constituency population size with everywhere else when it comes to representation?

Please end the helicopter approach to determining constituencies and come and talk to our well informed and highly regarded Councillors. A desk top exercise will not tell you everything that you need to know.

Best wishes

Attached Documents:

None attached