

Dover District

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Comment text:

The Dover Priory Historic Association is composed of members of the public who wish to commemorate and promote the history of Dover. While we are focused on Dover, we have members from Deal, and people from as far afield as London and Europe, so we feel we want to make notes on the proposals that affect the whole district. We do not feel the council has given any thought for the communities of Dover and Deal. After a heated discussion of our group, who were bemused and confused why the council would suggest this plan, we can only conclude the council are gerrymandering the district to suit their own purposes. The new map of the district of the council does not reflect any community. It only reflects where the Conservatives believe they need to break wards into pieces to win the election. Historically the Conservative Party has not been able to win Town & Pier, Tower Hamlets, Priory, St Radigunds or Buckland in Dover. Similarly in Deal they have not been able to win Middle Deal, Mill Hill or North Deal. All of these wards are planned to be merged or erased from the map by the council in a cruel misuse of their control of the council. I believe it is known as "cracking and packing". If you were to look at the election results for the district council over the past twenty years, which are freely available online, you will see the Conservatives are unable to win Town & Pier, Tower Hamlets, Priory, St Radigunds, Buckland, Middle Deal, Mill Hill or North Deal wards if they remain independent wards. They could win North Deal, St Radigunds and Buckland if the wards were merged with other areas, due to the large amount of Conservative voters in that ward and nearby. They intend to do the same in Middle Deal, Mill Hill or North Deal. Where they can't win, they are packing the Labour voters together in Aylesham, Town & Pier, Tower Hamlets, Priory and St Radigunds, regardless of the communities. The Conservatives will pack Labour areas together and Crack Labour areas apart. We feel this is an outrageous abuse of power. The council are not democratically elected to do this kind of thing for their own interest. Which brings us to the reason we were originally going to write to you about. Dover is a town but definitely has distinctive areas within it that should not be broken up. If you were to ask anyone from Tower Hamlets where they live, they will probably say "Tower Hamlets" rather than Dover. Maxton is the same. Over the past five years when I have spoken to people moving to Maxton they say they are moving to Maxton, not Dover. It is okay to merge Maxton with Priory and Elms Vale, but not with Tower Hamlets. Merging St Radigunds and Buckland would only be suggested by someone from Deal. Buckland resides in a hill and St Radigunds is in a valley. There are not linked in any way. Neither by community or geography. We hope you see how ruthlessly this council is trying to rig elections for years to come.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded