

## Dover District

### Personal Details:

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### Comment text:

To whom it may concern, Aylesham Parish Council (hereby the council) does plea for the number of councillors allocated to the Aylesham Ward remains at two members. The council is also keen for the correct population figures to be factored in to the process, as the current housing programme taking place in Aylesham we see the number of houses rise, thus number of people, rise significantly over the next election cycle. The council does not identify any links with the Elvington community, which is socially, constitutionally, geographically nearer to the Eythorne community. Also, there is a great deal of work involved in and around the Elvington community. Further dilution of time from councillors would not benefit neither Aylesham, Nonington nor Elvington. The only similarity is that both Elvington and Aylesham are former mining communities, but this is obsolete now. There is, again, no direct link (apart from a train journey) between the villages of Aylesham and Shepherdsweil with Coldred. These communities and the distance to travel by a Councillor, as well as the varying needs, will be difficult. When we say link, we again mean social, constitutional and geographical. The distance to cover for a councillor would be 4.49miles (7.23km) with Shepherdsweil and the distance for aligning with Elvington is 3.36miles (5.4km). When you consider this, the burden placed upon the councillors, who are already busy and engulfed with casework and issues affecting the current boundaries. To conclude, Aylesham is a growing community and finally realising its true potential that Patrick Abercrombie saw back in the 1920's. Aylesham, as a village, is currently larger than some 20 of the local Towns in East Kent. The difference being there being a distinct lack of facilities and provision for such a status (Sandwich has two secondary schools, Aylesham has none). This is even before the large expansion is due to finish. Also, once the current Aylesham Development is completed over the next decade, the local plan may look to harness land adjacent to Aylesham for further development. Aylesham does have a high level of needs with reference to employment, training and skills. Housing is also an issue, especially identifying ways of forming a cohesive community between the existing community and the newer residents. Aylesham is also an active village, with a great deal of clubs, groups, and organisations. We have a large industrial estate within the boundary that is another set of needs that a Councillor has to deal with. Finally, with the current rate of expansion and development, Aylesham Parish Council will be flying the flag to see if Aylesham can obtain an 'upgraded' status in terms of a 'Parish' to perhaps a 'Town'. This will be to the detriment of the other communities in the Ward boundary, because the district councillors will be split too thinly. (Sandwich ward boundary covers Sandwich only and deals with Sandwich Town Council only). No other Town Council area will have one set of councillors covering such a large area of the district. Aylesham Parish Council does therefore believe that the current Aylesham boundary does warrant two councillors, with the current boundary lines not taking in the communities of Elvington, Shepherdsweil or Coldred. Yours faithfully, Aylesham Parish Council

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded