



14 June 2016

Review Officer (East Sussex and Wealden)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor
Millbank
LONDON
SW1P 4QP

Dear Sir

Electoral Arrangements for East Sussex County Council

1. Proposed Division of Polegate and Watermill
2. Proposed Division of Willingdon and South Downs

Electoral Arrangements for Wealden District Council

Proposed District Wards of Upper Willingdon; Lower Willingdon and Polegate South and Willingdon Watermill

Electoral Arrangements for Willingdon and Jevington Parish Council

Proposed Wards of Upper Willingdon, Lower Willingdon and Watermill and abolition of Jevington Ward

Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for East Sussex County Council
Paragraph 49 – revised parish electoral arrangements for Willingdon and Jevington Parish

Draft recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Wealden District Council
Paragraph 41 – revised parish electoral arrangements for Willingdon and Jevington Parish

I write on behalf of Willingdon Residents' Association who were extremely surprised to see the proposed changes to our Parish Wards and that you propose the abolition of a separate ward for the village of Jevington and hamlet of Filching. It has long been our understanding that when the former Willingdon Parish Council merged with Jevington Parish Council some years ago, agreement was reached that there would be a one Member Ward for Jevington and Filching. We realise that may not meet the numerical test, but this has worked very well over the years with conscientious and committed residents living in Jevington coming forward and being returned as Councillors.

Jevington and Filching lie in the South Downs National Park and our current Parish Councillor for that Ward is a member of the National Park Authority and represents Parish Councils and Parish Meetings throughout East Sussex. Jevington and Filching is the only part of the Parish which can now be rightly classed as rural, the rest of the Parish having been subject to continual development. This development is continuing currently with an application in the proposed Upper Willingdon Ward for 390 dwellings waiting determination and another application for some 700 dwellings much of which is likely in the same Ward expected later this year. This new development will result a considerable imbalance between the proposed new Wards.

The Association would also draw your attention to the rather strange boundary you propose between Lower Willingdon and Watermill Ward in that five dwellings – Numbers 79 to 87 would be extracted from Broad Road, which is in Lower Willingdon Ward and placed in Watermill Ward. These dwellings are currently in the Lower Willingdon Ward and we believe that whatever your decision on other matters they should remain so which is far more sensible.

In your proposals you state that your recommendations are not intended to be based solely on the number of electors including proposed changes in a five year period but strong identifiable boundaries.

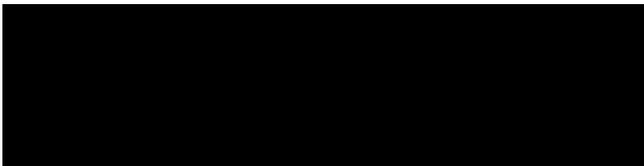
Certainly as far as Broad Road is concerned the proposed boundary does not make sense and does not follow a strong identifiable boundary but we would further suggest that the development referred to above for 390 dwellings is likely to be substantially built out during the next five years. The size of this development is not included in your figures because it was not known at that time that this area would be developed.

Willingdon Residents' Association has extremely strong community links which help bind our community together. We have no direct links to Polegate High Street or the nearby provision of facilities. Wannock Hall is extremely near to us and we hold many community events there, whereas Polegate Community Centre is at least a mile or more away.

Our Association recently undertook a survey about residents' wishes with regards to a possible removal to Polegate from Willingdon Parish and the overwhelming response verbally, by telephone and in some cases in writing, was that they wish to remain in the Parish of Willingdon and Jevington as it is where they identify themselves as being a part of.

Willingdon Residents' Association objects, therefore, to your proposal to abolish Jevington Ward and we propose that the Parish boundaries remain unchanged at present until the build out is clear and other solutions may become clearer to provide for electoral equality in the Parish. Should you not accept our view for not making changes, although we trust that you will give it due consideration, we would agree with the Parish Council's response that the title of Upper Willingdon Ward be changed to Upper and East Willingdon and Lower Willingdon to Lower Willingdon, Wannock and Jevington.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Councillor John Pritchett
Chairman, Willingdon Residents' Association