Please see the attached letter protesting against the proposed union of Hitchwood, Hoo, and Offa Wards in North Hertfordshire District Council. It is undemocratic, contrary to the wellbeing of the residents, and takes government further away from the electorate. Please reconsider, and reverse your proposals.
Thank you.
David Barnard
Dear Sir,

The Government appointed Boundary Committee has published its proposal to combine the North Hertfordshire Wards of Hitchwood, Hoo, and Offa into one larger, three member Ward.

It is obvious to all that this is a ridiculous proposal which serves ill rather than good to all, especially the electorate.

The change will serve to take away the close relationship that exists between the current ward members and their particular Parishes and local organisations and groups.

The electorate will be given a diluted service, since it cannot be possible for an individual member to give the required time and attention to three times the current workload. Specialist local knowledge and bonds take many years to build up, and there is a trust and comfort in local representation.

The needs and aspirations of each Parish varies; for example, Hexton at one end of the proposed ward has no real similarity to, say, Whitwell and St. Ippolyts at the other end.

*The result will be to move government away from the people rather than achieve the government’s expressed aim to bring it closer! Representation is about serving the area best. This achieves the opposite. The Boundary Committee is playing a pure numbers game, without regard for the current and future wellbeing of the rural residents of North Herts.*

Any level of government is about the most effective way of representing REAL PEOPLE and being involved in a partnership with them. It is NOT about drawing lines on district maps in an attempt to achieve a minimum change in numerical parity, which may well need re-adjusting within the very near future, depending on imminent development proposals in North Herts.

Please encourage everybody to write a response to the Boundary Committee individually, and as user groups and councils, before the 25th June.

Respond please to:

The Secretary,
The Electoral Commission
Trevelyan House,
Great Peter Street,
LONDON SW1 2HW

implementation@electoralcommission.org.uk

Thank you,
David Barnard