

Cllr. T W Mullard, CEng MIMechE



3rd April 2013

The Local Government Boundary Commission
for England

Dear Sirs,

I am an elected Member of Shepway District Council as well as being a Dymchurch Parish Councillor.

I feel that for an unelected body (the Commission) to dictate to a democratically elected body (the Council) is preposterous! The proposals are for a reduction of sixteen District Councillors, from forty-six to thirty, which will have the immediate effect of increasing the Shepway District workload by some 50% for each Councillor!

In addition, the proposal to reduce the Marsh Councillors from eleven to six (one fifth of the total Councillors as against one quarter at present) will mean an increase of 100% on the Marsh workload of each Marsh Councillor. The ward that I currently represent is 'Dymchurch & St Mary's Bay' with an electorate of 5316; ie some 1772 electors for each of the current three District Councillors. We now find that the new proposed 'Romney Marsh East' ward will have just two Councillors representing 6276 electors, so each Councillor will represent 3138 electors, an increase of some 77%! The new ward will also encompass five local Parish Councils. Just how the two Councillors can be expected to service five local Councils is quite beyond me! The proposed 'rural' wards are huge geographical areas.

I have to ask whether the Commission actually visited Shepway, and more importantly, whether they bothered to drive around the rural wards. To simply sit in London dreaming up a 'round figure' of 3000 electors per Councillor, without any idea of geographical areas, is ludicrous. The Commission's 'joint pen' has developed a 'joint map' which is quite unbelievable in the extreme.

As for attracting younger Councillors FORGET IT! The proposals can only lead to a 'full time' job for Councillors, who in the main will be retired people, which I assume was never the intention.

I must believe that the Commission lives in a 'virtual world' devoid of reality. I suggest that you go back to the drawing board!

Yours faithfully,
Cllr Terry Mullard