

Terry Mullard



Shepway District Council

District/County councillor



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As a Shepway District Councillor, representing Dymchurch & St Mary's Bay, Romney Marsh, and also being a Dymchurch Parish Councillor, I find the commission proposals not only ludicrous, but preposterous. The proposals cut the current 11 Romney Marsh District Councillors down to just 6, down from a quarter of the current 46 District Councillors to a fifth of the proposed 30 District Councillors! That, in effect, will double the ward workload of each Marsh Councillor. The proposed new 'Romney Marsh East' ward will have 5 local parish councils in it, for just 2 Councillors to service. This extra work will be very difficult to do. Urban wards generally have just a single town council to service! The huge geographical areas of the four large rural wards, as proposed, with Councillor numbers greatly reduced, will make ward representation almost impossible unless Councillors are prepared to do the job as an almost full-time occupation. In addition to the ward business, each Councillor will have a 50% increase in workload within Shepway District Council on meetings, paperwork, reading, etc. I cannot believe that the Commission has looked closely at the large rural wards to see for themselves the huge task being placed upon Councillors from May 2015. Looking at the 'electorate per Councillor' just does not make any sense at all in rural wards. I urge the Commission to look again at the numbers and areas. PLEASE!