

East Hampshire District

Personal Details:

Name: Elaine Woodard

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Liberal Democrats

Comment text:

The Liberal Democrat response to the further draft recommendations for Horndean and Rowlands Castle - part of the East Hampshire District Council review is attached.

Uploaded Documents:

[Download \(https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1520173756_LD+response+on+further+limited+draft+recommendations+for+Horndean+%26+I](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1520173756_LD+response+on+further+limited+draft+recommendations+for+Horndean+%26+I)

RESPONSE BY THE LIBERAL DEMOCRATS TO LGBCE'S CONSULTATION ON FURTHER LIMITED DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR HORNDEAN AND ROWLANDS CASTLE

General

We agree with the commission that there should be separate Horndean Catherington & Lovedean, Horndean Downs and Horndean Murray wards. We also agree with the boundary for the Horndean Downs ward. However, we believe that there should be minor changes to the other two proposed single members wards to enable the proposed three-member Horndean Kings, Blendworth & Rowlands Castle ward to be divided into three single member wards.

Horndean Kings, Blendworth & Rowlands Castle

In proposing this three member ward in the latest draft proposal, LGBCE have still not understood the strength of local opinion in not combining Rowlands Castle with any part of Horndean in a multi-member ward. And this is not a party-political view as it is supported by East Hampshire Conservatives and both Parish Councils. Indeed we have sought to work with the local district councillors on this as our views are aligned.

As was stated in our earlier proposal Rowlands Castle Parish, excluding the new Land East of Horndean development, can meet the numbers target for a single member ward. We have sought to confirm this with LGBCE but have only been given 2023 numbers for existing wards, which are of little use when proposing changes. But even if the commission disagrees and decides this proposed new ward would be in excess of the 10% threshold, the difference would only be marginal and this is only **one** of the criteria that should be taken into account when deciding on ward boundaries. The other two criteria of community identity and effective local government are far more important to local residents and should therefore have precedence.

The whole of the Land East of Horndean development lies within the Horndean Settlement area. It is separated from the developed areas within Rowlands Castle and will look to Horndean for local amenities. So it is natural that this area should fall within a Horndean ward.

Proposed Horndean Kings and Horndean Village & Blendworth wards – submission by the District Councillors

We have seen the District councillors response to the commission for these two new wards and note the minor changes that would then be needed to the LGBCE draft proposals for the Horndean Catherington & Lovedean and Horndean Murray wards to achieve wards within the +/- 10% tolerance.

Summary

The Liberal Democrats have always felt that Horndean and Rowlands Castle should be split into 6 single-member wards and that there should not be a combined Rowlands Castle and Horndean one.

The work that LGBCE has done so far in it's further draft proposals for Horndean and Rowlands Castle will be enhanced significantly if the response to it by the district councillors is accepted. As a final solution this would have local support.

Elaine Woodard
Liberal Democrats
4th March 2018