
From: Cllr Loughlin [REDACTED]
Sent: 01 July 2013 16:32
To: Reviews@
Subject: Boundary changes - Stort Valley Ward. Uttlesford District. (Essex).

Dear Sir,

I wish to object to the proposed boundary changes to Stort Valley Ward. I have been the District Councillor for the ward for 13+ years. I do not live in the ward, I am a resident of Stansted. I was also a member of Stansted Parish Council for over 23 years so I speak with some experience of local government.

Stort Valley consists of three unique villages each with its own identity. It bears no relation to, nor has any cultural connection with, the constantly growing town of Stansted.

'Secure effective and convenient local government' will not be best served by enlarging the ward to such an extent that it will be necessary to raise the number of councillors from one to three. This serves no-one's best interest. Having seen the political in fights that occur elsewhere I don't believe it will make for good governance. A three member ward will inevitably lead to political conflict which Stort Valley has thus far managed to avoid.

Uttlesford District Council proposed that the village of Ugley should be joined with Stort Valley. This is the most sensible suggestion as they have much in common. The B1383, which divides the settlements, is not an insurmountable problem to overcome and Ugley village is only a short distance from Stort Valley. Indeed it is not much further from the Stansted North ward to which the small village of Ugley is currently aligned.

'Provide for equality of representation' Stansted is growing very quickly with developers grasping every opportunity to build especially as the Council's 5 year land supply has not been reached. The District Councils projected number of electors per councillor for an enlarged Stort Valley ward comes very close to your estimation for the Stansted North ward. Why then should it be 'lumped' in with a town that the residents neither feel a part of or have any connection?

Stort Valley is very close to the large town of Bishops Stortford where most local people choose to shop. They also use the Town's services such as dentists, hairdressers, library, etc. Many local children attend Bishops Stortford secondary schools; a bus service goes through the villages of Stort Valley to Bishops Stortford twice each day and at weekends.

The residents of the three villages that make up the Stort Valley ward have a symbiotic relationship and a close community spirit unlike any found in a large town. People work together, their village halls are used for numerous social events and they enjoy the peace and tranquillity of village life. They feel that they are very well represented by one District Councillor and have no desire to part of an urban sprawl.

I very much hope you will take into account the wishes of myself and of local residents and don't immerse this attractive and rural part of the County into the hubbub of urban living that is Stansted.

Yours faithfully,
Janice Loughlin (Mrs).