

## Lewes District

### Personal Details:

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### Comment text:

I am making this submission as the Lewes District Councillor for Barcombe and Hamsey ward. Lewes District Council has proposed changing the current 2 member ward of Chailey and Wivelsfield to make a single member ward for Wivelsfield and then combining Chailey with Barcombe & Hamsey to make a new 2 member ward. I disagree with this proposal. The guidelines for proposals state that sometimes criteria can contradict each other, such as where a proposed ward might reflect the shape of local communities but deliver poor levels of electoral equality. I believe the ward of Barcombe & Hamsey is such a case. According to the predicted electorate figures, Barcombe & Hamsey will be 12% under the average electorate per councillor whereas Chailey & Wivelsfield will be 20 % over. If Chailey is combined with Barcombe & Hamsey then the electorate will be 13 % over. The change does not, therefore, bring about electoral quality and is only a slight improvement on the current arrangement. More important is the interests and identities of the communities. The majority of Chailey and Wivelsfield people use Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill for shopping and recreation and use the railways stations in Haywards Heath and Wivelsfield. Barcombe and Hamsey residents use Lewes as their main shopping and recreation centre and also use Lewes and Cooksbridge railway stations. There is no public transport from North or South Chailey to Barcombe. Buses from Barcombe either go to Lewes or to Uckfield. The majority of the residents in Chailey ward live in the northern area closer to Wivelsfield. Only the villages of South Chailey and South Street in Chailey ward could be said to be near to the current Barcombe and Hamsey ward boundary. If the Boundary Commission does not accept that Barcombe and Hamsey ward can stay as it is, due to electoral inequality, then I would prefer to have some of South Chailey, or possibly South Street, brought into the Barcombe and Hamsey ward rather than combine with Chailey ward to make a 2 member ward.

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded