

East Hampshire District**Personal Details:****Name:** Christopher Patric Curwen**E-mail:** [REDACTED]**Postcode:** [REDACTED]**Organisation Name:** Bentley Parish Council**Comment text:**

Bentley Parish Council has studied the draft Re-warding of East Hampshire District Council, and has the following objections to these proposals. In general terms it was felt by the Parish Council, when discussed under Agenda Item 4 of the meeting on the 6th November that the proposals were an unacceptable reduction in the local aspect of the District Council. This moves focus on local matters outside our geographical area. The specific objections were:- 1. 2. 3. 4. Bentley Parish Council is strongly opposed to Multi-Councillor wards. It can reduce accountability and local responsibility. The proposed mix of parishes would be a poor partnership because:- a. The name. "Bentley & Binsted" conceals the sprawling nature of the ward and ignores the proposed presence of Selbourne and Farringdon. To travel to Selbourne from Bentley takes 20 minutes via both major and minor roads. b. Bentley would be the only parish in the ward not in the South Downs National Park. We feel Bentley would then be disproportionately forced to absorb all of EHDC Planning Authority's housing targets in that ward. A further point that must be considered in drawing up a new ward is the increase in Bentley's population since the last census: a. The 2011 census recorded 1127 residents in 430 dwellings in the parish. Subsequently, there have been 62 dwellings added; either completed, under construction or with planning permission. b. We estimate, using the same proportion of residents to dwellings, that the Parish population will, therefore, increase in the near future by 162. This must have an impact on the population figures used for the warding pattern going forward. If a Ward of Bentley & Binsted is non viable, despite the above arguments, then we believe that a better match would be a Ward of Bentley and Froyle, for the following reasons: a. There is a strong affinity between the two parishes. b. It is another of the "Villages to the North of the South Downs National Park" and has also suffered from the planning system protecting other villages in the National Park. c. Both Parishes share Bentley C of E Primary School. d. Bentley, and Froyle are the members of the same C of E Benefice. In short, we believe the District Council is an organisation that helps us to mould our environment for the benefit of our electorate. To continue to achieve this it must maintain a connection and relevance to local people. We therefore, feel the objections raised must be considered and your proposed amendments must not be implemented. The current situation, which as lasted 17 years or so, has worked well. If change is necessary then Bentley and Froyle is the best option as far as Bentley is concerned.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded