

**Dunkeyson, Nicholas**

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**From:** Les Mead [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 30 August 2012 22:57  
**To:** Re views@  
**Subject:** TRDC Boundary Changes

Dear Sir,

I wish to support TRDC's case for at least 39 councillors. It is obviously important to have enough councillors to carry out council committee work but just as vital that there are enough councillors to deal with local ward issues. Councillors are closely involved with their communities and, being able to attend meetings outside council affairs, provides the opportunity to speak up for their area.

TRDC wards were not randomly set up but carefully worked out some years ago to give appropriate representation to the diverse areas and communities in Three Rivers. They include areas of affluence, of deprivation, rural parts and more suburban developments, villages and small towns.

The Liberal Democrats have a reputation for good government in TRDC. We have a very open democratic system, providing full opportunities for the opposition and the public to participate. We want to maintain this. It is clear that the Conservative proposal, if adopted, would make this very difficult.

I must also point out that the Conservative wards are in the more affluent parts of the district and because of this Conservative councillors do not receive as many requests for assistance from their residents as councillors in the less well off areas. I spend between 3 and 4 hours every day dealing with ward and council business, a greater reduction of seats would result in a much larger increase in residents which would make it even more difficult to carry out ward business efficiently and in the best interests of the residents.

Les Mead  
TRDC  
Councillor