

East Hampshire District**Personal Details:**

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Comment text:

We would like to strongly oppose the create of a multi member ward for Binstead and Bentley resulting in the loss of Selborne Ward. Selborne ward which currently includes Selborne, Blackmoor, Oakhanger, Kingsley, East and West Worldham being very rural in character is large and ungainly as it is. Although we would support the inclusion of Upper and lower Farringdon within a new Selborne ward as they are geographically and historically close together and perhaps more in common than Farringdon does with Chawton. Each village including the smaller villages of Blackmoor and west Worldham have their own distinct identities, communities and it is a challenge for district councillors and election candidates to get around this large and dispersed area and it can be difficult to reflect the views of all the disparate villages within the ward. For example if it is made harder to travel through Selborne it tends to have a knock on effect to traffic travelling through Kingsley and vice-versa. The creation of a super large multi member ward with Binstead and Bentley for it seems the only reason of creating a multi-member ward is utterly ludicrous. Not only do Binstead and Bentley have little in common with Selborne and the other villages but it effectively doubles the size of area by becoming a multimember ward, making it even more difficult to effectively represent or canvass at election times. Blackmoor is also a separate village from Whitehill. It is no where near Liss despite its peculiar GU33 postcode and much closer to Selborne (GU34). Its parish councillors are elected to Selborne Parish Council not Whitehill Town Council. To have Blackmoor voters voting at one polling station for District elections and another for parish would cause massive confusion. Selborne has never had a Lord of the Manor as it belonged to the Church, before its lands were sold to Magdalen College Oxford and thence to the National Trust. Blackmoor in contrast has a strong village identity by its association with the Selborne family who arrived in the mid-late Victorian period and developed the hamlet into a Victorian model village (which is why there is no pub) and provided work with the establishment of the Blackmoor Estate Apple Orchards established in 1922. Blackmoor is therefore connected to Selborne and not to Whitehill and certainly not to Bordon. There are however common sense changes that should be made by including areas in clearly geographically in Whitehill Hogmoor and that are more part of Whitehill Community than Blackmoor. These include Planattion Way, houses at Eveley Corner and Firgrove Rd opposite the Golf Course and the southerly section of Drift Road up to and including Bracken Lane and Gunsite but not including Blackmoor School, which needs to stay in Blackmoor and thus Selborne Parish. Selborne being the home of the internationally famous grandfather of Natural history rev. Gilbert White is a major destination in the South Downs National Park, it is the key hub for the surrounding villages and should retain more or less its existing ward boundaries with the inclusion of Farringdon. If the inclusion makes Selborne ward too unwieldy in terms of the number of electors then perhaps Kingsley could be included with Bentley and Binstead to make a new Binstead, Bentley and Kingsley ward as these are all close to gather in the north of the district and closely connected. Please retain two separate wards for Selborne, Blackmoor, Worldhams, Oakhanger and Farringdon. And one for Binstead, Bentley and Kingsley. Blackmoor is rural and must remain part of Selborne Ward, although small sections of it logically belong in Whitehill, Hogmoor which lies and has always been firmly to the West of the A325 (Petersfield Rd - former Farnham -Petersfield Turnpike)

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded