

John Gittins



Coughton Parish Council

Parish councillor



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I agree with the proposal to reduce the number of district Councillors by a third, but this cannot be looked at in isolation. It will only work if their relationship with local communities is close and effective, i.e. the electorate can engage fully. It must not just be a cost cutting exercise, as it will require greater support from officers and possibly greater empowerment to Town/Parish Councils - and these elements will have costs attached. It will require a clearer understanding of, and adherence, to local council policies, so that decision making is strategic rather than operational. For this restructuring to work, it is essential that the public have a greater understanding of local government - of all tiers, and it is a good opportunity to make local societies work, provided there is a genuine commitment to do so.