

East Hampshire District**Personal Details:**

Name: Malcolm Johnson
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: East Hants District Council

Comment text:

I am pleased to note that the LGBC has seen fit to recommend the inclusion of the hamlets of Finchdean and Idsworth into the Rowlands Castle ward for East Hampshire District Council. This reflects the local situation where both are part of the Rowlands Castle community. However I take issue with the LGBC draft proposal regarding the significant increase in the size of the Rowlands Castle ward which will embrace a significant area of what is currently the Horndean Hazleton-Blendworth ward. Not only is there a significant geographical separation of these two settlements but they are also of a totally different nature. Rowlands Castle is by its very location a rural community self-contained around its village centre complete with one of the largest village greens in the south of England not to mention the vibrant community that exists at the heart of the village. Contrast that with Horndean to the north which straddles the A3 trunk road and is itself very much an urban community with its own identity and purpose. The current draft proposal would bring the centre of Hordean with all its community services, including its parish office, into the ward of a rural community some two miles south, separated by farmland and large wooded areas, with no commonality between either settlement. The concept of this vast area now to be represented by two district councillors is fraught with many difficulties and is locally viewed as impractical from the point of view of good elector representation. Currently in each separate ward local residents can identify with their current elected representative and in turn he or she is familiar with the needs and aspirations of their communities, i.e. their electors. In the event of this draft proposal being confirmed it will present a significant administrative nightmare not just for the elected councillors but also the administrative officers at East Hampshire District Council with no resultant benefit either in local representation terms or financial, in fact in the latter case it could well prove more costly and less efficient than the current two wards with separate councillors. In conclusion I would refer you to the submissions by Horndean and Rowlands Castle Parish councils both of whom do not support the idea of this enlarged two-councillor ward. For more supporting data on retaining Rowlands Castle and Horndean Hazleton/Blendworth as two distinct wards with separate and clearly identified councillors I refer you to EHDC's submission to the Commission. Malcolm Johnson Rowlands Castle Ward East Hampshire District Council.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded