

**East Hampshire District****Personal Details:****Name:** Leah Coney**E-mail:** **Postcode:** **Organisation Name:** Alton Town Council**Comment text:**

Alton Town Council wishes to lodge an objection to the proposed boundary commission warding arrangements for Alton. At a district ward level Members of Alton Town Council would be strongly opposed to any arrangement which altered the current single councillor ward layout unless it is in exceptional circumstances, where, in order to achieve electoral balance, there is no viable alternative. It is accepted that with the current level of development across Alton this would be the case going forward with the current ward of Holybourne which may need to merge with the neighbouring ward at Ashdell in order to attain fair democratic representation. The current warding arrangements at a Town Council level continues to work well with two councillors representing each of the current wards with a single councillor for Holybourne. Again Members would object to any arrangement which would alter this well worked arrangement, particularly where the result would be one ward represented by 6 Councillors (Westbrooke) There is demographic synergy within the existing ward boundaries which benefit from thriving residents associations (some of over thirty years standing) and a strong sense of community. Some wards have long established Neighbourhood Watch schemes and Members feel a deep-seated sense of place with the current system. In particular the proposals made by the Boundary Commission to add the Manor Estate into the Holybourne ward would cause significant disruption to the community within in this area. It is understood that there needs to be fair democratic representation and the proposals put forward by East Hampshire District Council for the warding arrangements for Alton are felt to be acceptable and preferred to the options proposed by the boundary commission. They take account of the new developments being built across Alton and also restore traditional boundaries; i.e putting Amery Hill School, Steeple Drive and Tanhouse Lane back into Amery ward.

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded