

Elmbridge District

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Cobham, Downside, Oxshott & Stoke D'Abernon Labour Party

Comment text:

Cobham, Downside, Oxshott & Stoke D'Abernon Labour Party has had preliminary discussion of the review of Elmbridge, upon which they would wish to comment further when the eventual recommendations are made. In the meantime they have instructed me to convey their very strong view that the number of seats overall should not be reduced from 60 to 48. That proposal seems to run counter to the democratic purpose promoted by the Government that more local involvement in current affairs and decision making should be sought. In our area the involvement shown by voting is not as bad as in some, but it is nevertheless critical enough to merit all efforts to improve it. With 60 members to voluntarily share the burden of Elmbridge's substantial remit, there is a far better chance of candidates coming forward to give of their personal time and effort, than if only 48 had to maintain a heavier workload. Furthermore even 12 extra members means 12 extra family and friends involved in the business of local responsibility which is so desirable - small stones to ripple out on the sea of inertia and help interest younger people to take an active part in the borough's and their own futures. On the specific ward boundaries the Branch did not feel qualified to submit ideas for the Borough as a whole but in those three wards within their remit they would be happy to see a solution to the anomaly of Cobham, Fairmile ward which is essentially two separate areas divided by the Portsmouth Road, one part linked socially and as it were commercially, with Cobham and the other presenting confusion in its difficult definitions of boundaries with Oxshott. The aim of standardizing, so far as practicable, the size of all the wards seems to the Branch to be eminently desirable. Could these views please be included in the consultation, Yours faithfully
Richard Anstis, hon. secretary, [REDACTED]

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded