West Berkshire

Personal Details:
Name: Geoffrey Mayes  
E-mail: 
Postcode: 
Organisation Name: Beech Hill Parish Council

Comment text:

Dear Sir or Madam . The deadline for Comments on this important subject predates our next scheduled Parish Council meeting on 11th July 2017. Therefore following email consultations with the five elected Parish Councillors, I am representing and presenting the attitude of Beech Hill Parish Council to the proposed plan to reduce the population of Mortimer Ward from the current 4563 persons and two Councillors by splitting the ward up by removing Padworth, Ufton Nervet, Wokefield and Beech Hill PC areas. The new Ward is proposed as Stratfield Mortimer PC alone with one Councillor. Beech Hill PC strongly objects to this proposal as we have significantly strong linkages with the Mortimer Village Service Centre 3 miles away and none at all with Burghfield (5miles), which has I understand been approved by West Berks Council in their recent Council meeting. Beech Hill is linked with Mortimer by Road and the Railway at Mortimer Station, we also have a water services link through the Thames Water Sewer System as the Beech Hill foul sewer from Donkey Pond pump station delivers to the Sewer system in Mortimer and to Mortimer Sewage Treatment Works in Grazely Road Mortimer. The Service Centre of Mortimer in Planning parlance provides our Shops, Primary (Infants and Junior) Schools, Doctors, Dentists, a Post Office, the Bank and Library facilities .. We have none of these necessary neighbourhood services in Beech Hill. To visit the West Berks Council offices in Newbury we have to go through Mortimer on the only road westwards from Beech Hill. All other routes are "Out of District" and "Out of Ward". Our recyclable waste has to go westwards to Padworth (8miles) or Newbury (34 miles) . Rubbish collection is the responsibility of West Berks Council as we can no longer used the Reading/Wokingham Smallmead facilities. Reducing the numbers of Councillors is another ill conceived cost saving exercise which will result in unintended consequences and poorer representation for Beech Hill residents. We understand that Mortimer's population is larger than justified by one Councillor and that adding Beech Hill would make it too large. Therefore Beech Hill wishes to remain in a Mortimer Ward represented by two Councillors. We have no common boundary with a Burghfield Ward under the current proposals and to make the population numbers balance the Commission should consider retaining Beech Hill in Mortimer Ward and possibly adding Wokefield in the revised Mortimer Ward. In fact Burghfield PC did not support Wokefield PC in a recent Planning Application and could not be guaranteed to support a more distant Beech Hill resident. We understand that Burghfield PC also favours NOT attaching Beech Hill to a two member Burghfield Ward. Beech Hill Parish Councillors strongly support Beech Hill PC and Stratfield Mortimer PC forming a two member Mortimer Ward from 2019. End . . .

Uploaded Documents:
None Uploaded