

Lawrence, Arion

From: Bowen, Sebastian (Cllr) [sbowen@HEREFORDSHIRE.GOV.UK]

Sent: 08 May 2012 16:27

To: Reviews@

Subject: Review of right numbers of Councillors for Herefordshire

Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to comment upon the electoral review of Herefordshire Council

I strongly think that the present number of Councillors (58) serves the very rural and dispersed county of Herefordshire very well. The fact that Herefordshire has a sparsely distributed population means that most Councillors have to travel quite a lot round their wards – very time consuming – and spend a great deal of time dealing with many separate though often linked communities. Except for Hollington Ward, the vast majority of wards are more or less within the required parameters. My Ward, Bircher, is about nineteen people short of ideal numbers but when you consider that we are planning for at least twenty more affordable houses and have quite a number (at least as many) planning permissions that have been granted but not yet built – we will very soon be well over the suggested number. Herefordshire generally has a growing population and I think that Councillors will be kept very busy in their wards as they are. Councillors also have to take an active part in the running of the Council itself and you need a wide spread of bodies and talents for this. The smaller you make the Council; the more you load whoever is left. This leads to the conclusion that less Councillors would less effectively represent the interests of Herefordshire's various communities.

Please remember the old adage: "If it's not broke, don't fix it".

Also, let me point out that the Council's decision to go for fifty-four wards was hotly contested and the result was far from overwhelming. Remember, Herefordshire is a predominately rural county and needs all its rural Councillors.

I know that all my parish councils share my views as does everyone who has discussed this matter with me.

If you should wish to discuss this matter with me, my mobile phone number is: [REDACTED]

Yours faithfully,

Councillor W.L.S. Bowen

"Any opinion expressed in this e-mail or any attached files are those of the individual and not necessarily those of Herefordshire Council, Herefordshire Primary Care Trust, Wye Valley NHS Trust or 2gether NHS Foundation Trust. You should be aware that Herefordshire Council, Herefordshire Primary Care Trust, Wye Valley NHS Trust & 2gether NHS Foundation Trust monitors its email service. This e-mail and any attached files are confidential and intended solely for the use of the addressee. This communication may contain material protected by law from being passed on. If you are not the intended recipient and have received this e-mail in error, you are advised that any use, dissemination, forwarding, printing or copying of this e-mail is strictly prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error please contact the sender immediately and destroy all copies of it."