

Canterbury

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Comment text:

Related subject: Herne & Broomfield Ward and proposed New Wantsum Ward

My husband and I would like to voice that we very strongly object to the proposal to slice part of Broomfield away from the current Herne & Broomfield Ward, and place it in the unrelated and new Wantsum Ward. Our reasons follow:-

Herne & Broomfield is one local community, and has been for as long as we can remember, having moved here in the 1980s. Making this change would divide the community with physical and communication barriers, thereby fragmenting it. The proposed new boundary appears to be a very haphazard and disjointed line, resulting in neighbours both next door and opposite sides of the road being in different Wards, and therefore having to communicate with different councillor representatives. It is common knowledge that local populations can, and do vary on an annual basis, people moving around for various reasons. Surely, therefore, it makes more sense to use a dividing boundary line to be taken from the natural map layout, in this case being the A299 Thanet Way. Particularly as it is proposed to include part of the RedRow Development, other side of the A299, into the Herne & Broomfield Ward, with the remainder being included in Greenhill - fragmenting yet another local community! Surely good common sense would suggest by keeping the existing boundary line, incorporating all the RedRow Development into Greenhill, with Herne & Broomfield staying as at present, this will enable both communities to remain as a whole, rather than being fragmented. This helping to improve community cohesion rather than breaking it apart.

At present we are represented by 2 councillors, which works very well, and whom can be easily accessed by local residents. Placing a third councillor in the equation will, yet again, raise another barrier. With a large rural area for the Wansum Ward councillor to represent, it is possible that opposing views held by different sections of the ward could not easily, or indeed impartially, be represented. It is also possible that parish meetings could clash, making it difficult to attend any meetings at the Herne & Broomfield parish. Broomfield residents could well find that they must travel a considerable distance to meet with their local councillor, which could cause difficulties if relying on public transport - a problem that

does not exist at present.

Taking into consideration the points made above, we would therefore urge you to reconsider these changes, and suggest that common sense prevails, keeping Herne & Broomfield Ward as it is at present, a long standing, interactive community, that works well as a whole!

We look forward to receiving your comments in due course.

Attached Documents:

None attached