

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

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Comment text:

As a standing Parish and Borough Councillor for Rusthall and a resident of 14 years I feel very strongly that Rusthall has a unique and clearly identified characteristic in it's current format and would strongly advocate it remaining a 2 councillor ward and to be looked at as a 'special case'. In terms of topography the ward is currently edged by main roads, the commons and farm land. I fully appreciate that in order to remain a 2 councillor ward it would still need an increase in the electorate it covers. I feel that bleeding over into adjoining sections of Langton Green is it's natural route and also including the Parish Church into it's boundary to enable a Parish boundary review to include this at a later date . There are very little associations with the Northern and Western sections of Bidborough and Speldhurst and as communities we feel very little affiliation in terms of resources. Also we very much identify as operating separately to Royal Tunbridge Wells and any inclusion into the main town would work against the Local Plan. Rusthall has a well established Village Association, Community Arts, Community Cinema, Community Larder, Community Coffee Mornings, Bonfire and Fete, Library, Post Office, Primary School, x2 Play Schools, x3 churches, lunch club, Medical Centre, Pharmacy (all very much serving the existing ward electorate) to mention but a few and, importantly, an active Parish Council. Any boundary changes for Rusthall Ward really must take into the consideration the very strong sense of self and identity that is held by residents. Rusthall predates Tunbridge Wells and due to its well established character I would hope that any changes to the ward boundary did NOT result in Rusthall losing its name/ Thank you for taking the time to read my comments

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded