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BUS. SUPPORT

West Sussex Review Officer,  
The Boundary Committee for England,  
Trevelyan House,  
Great Peter Street,  
London SW1P 2HW.

21/07/2008.

Sir,

It has come to my notice, that another piece of Government interference is due to be perpetrated upon us. I refer to the planned changes to the Electoral Boundaries here in West Sussex, in particular that of the Storrington Electoral Division.

I see that the proposal wishes to move Ashington into the Billingshurst & Shipley Electoral Division. What nonsense is this? There is no synergy between Billingshurst and Shipley to Ashington. There are no Transport links to Billingshurst from Ashington; Ashington does not even border Billingshurst. Road links between the two communities are not direct, so there is no affinity with each other. The Ashington community uses the facilities of Storrington, such as the Pharmacy, Library and for Doctor's visits. The local Children use Rydons College also in Storrington, prior to moving onto Steyning. The demands of Ashington and Billingshurst are different, the concerns of Ashington residents are generally not those of Billingshurst. At present, our County Council Division and District Council Ward form a neat cohesive unit with our neighbours, Wiston, West Chiltington and Thakeham. Moving Ashington into Billingshurst would create yet more problems.

As I understand, from reading your draft proposals, your remit is to give equal representation to each Councillor sitting on whatever body he/she is involved with. This magical formulae may operate in an urban situation where the population live close together in neat rows of houses, but in more rural areas, life isn't like that. The current system has served our communities well over the past years, and there seems no reason to change it now, other than Political expediency. As the adage says "if the fence ain't broken, don't fix it".

I trust Sir, you will consign your proposals to the appropriate receptacle in the corner of your office, and leave a good working system in place.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,



E-mail