

Dorset

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Toller Porcorum Parish Council (Representative of parish/town council)

Comment text:

Related subject: Eggardon Ward

Local government in Dorset works best when there is effective communication between residents and their parish/town council, between residents engaging directly with Dorset Council and of course local parish/town councils engaging directly with Dorset Council.

Key to these engagement paths are the elected ward members. In Dorset there are 160 local town and parish councils. Whilst it is recognised that a review of councils does not form part of this review it should be recognized that rural parish councils are at a distinct disadvantage to more urban councils as there are more Dorset Councillors to engage with fellow town councils than in rural areas where there are more parish councils and less Dorset Ward Councillors.

The Parish Council believes that in order to achieve effective communication as described above there needs to be a greater number of Dorset Councillors serving rural areas.

The Parish Council believes that currently there is an electoral imbalance between rural and urban areas disadvantaging rural communities which puts an undue burden on rural Dorset Ward Councillors.

The Parish Council ask that if the number of Dorset Councillors is not to be increased, which it thinks is a mistake, then the warding of rural wards like Eggardon be reviewed not just by electoral numbers but also by rurality issues such the number of parish councils per ward and the geographic spread of those parishes compared to more densely populated areas.

Attached Documents:

None attached