

East Grinstead Town Council
Community Governance
Review Consultation 1
Responses

East Grinstead Town Council
Community Governance
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Responses: Local Residents
Submissions

From: [eforms](#)
To: [communitygovernancereviews](#)
Subject: Commmmunity Governance review response (Ref: DSCGR-1653612992)
Date: 27 May 2022 02:00:04
Attachments: [Community Governance Review.pdf](#)

team - team email	communitygovernancereviews@midsussex.gov.uk
team - team name	the Democratic Services team
Reference number	REDACTED
Your representation	Local Resident
Council name	Mid Sussex District Council
Your name	REDACTED
Contact email address	REDACTED
Confirm email	REDACTED
Phone	REDACTED
Postcode	REDACTED
Address	REDACTED
Which review are you responding to?	East Grinstead Town Council
Would you like to enter your response below, or upload it?	Write
Your submission to the community governance review	<p>I have studied the two maps supplied with the Terms of Reference, showing the current wards and the expected warding pattern: I am concerned with the East Grinstead Baldwins ward, being a resident in that area. The proposal to increase the number of councillors to 2 would, I am sure, meet the approval of the community. It would greatly assist in gaining equality of rights among the community so that residents would feel more encouraged by the councillors to participate in any schemes which might be suggested to improve standards generally; in so doing, they would take a pride in the area.</p> <p>May I comment that I feel it would be beneficial to retain 2 councillors for East Grinstead Town South as at present, with 2 councillors for East Grinstead Town North, instead of 1, with the suggestion to include East Grinstead Sackville with the East Grinstead Town North. It might be more workable to have 2 member wards in this instance.</p> <p>Trusting you will accept my response with regard to the Community Governance Review.</p>

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It has taken me over half an hour to try to understand the letter sent to every member of the electorate in East Grinstead about the CGR. My husband and I have three degrees between us and many decades of experience in both public and private sector jobs and yet we could not understand at first reading the letter and proposal due to: jumbled references to Town Council, District Council, parish and ward and the poor sentence structure in the counter proposal where the conjunction 'which' is used to start an apparent sentence but should really be part of the previous sentence. Who checked all this for clarity?

Furthermore, the list of six proposed wards and the number of councillors is rather unhelpful unless you can see the existing list and the number of councillors. I have managed to find the existing list of wards online which amounts to five with Town and Worsted combined and no mention of 'rural'. Again online I have found how many wards in Mid Sussex have one, two or three councillors but not which ones. Why should I have to do this research to try to fathom out what is being proposed?

All of this confusion has formed a smoke screen for what is actually being put forward here. In short, I do not see how engagement with the community can be improved by 16 councillors doing the work rather than 19. How the newly shaped wards with altered boundaries will affect population numbers in those wards and the ratio of residents to councillors, I cannot know or tell but statistically it does not seem possible for improvements in communication to take place. As for cohesion in our community, this will be altered in terms of the electorate so there will be reduced cohesion not enhanced cohesion. Just desiring a 'better' local democracy does not create it nor does it make local services and government more effective or convenient without some considerable time for adjustment.

I believe there are political and economic reasons for this proposal. Central Government has expected county councils across the land to reduce their budgets in recent years to untenable levels requiring major cutbacks in expenditure at county and district levels. Is there really anything other than money-saving at the bottom of this proposal? I think not.

In the times in which we live, change is not needed or wanted by the majority of people. It is stability that we need and hope.

Local schools need support to stay open, improve attendance and sustain achievement; our transport services are shattered by lack of use during the pandemic and reduced staffing; town planning seems perpetually to demand more housing which is much needed but is rarely supported by funding for better road infrastructure, medical and educational facilities, indeed, local social media regularly shows the fury of local residents in keeping roads safe and fit to use after years of neglect; waste management is less controversial at present but I understand is also set for change by introducing roadside food bins which have been in place for decades in Kent and Surrey (I have lived and worked in both counties).

What has happened to local businesses competing with increased online retail and office staff working from home during the years of Covid is an utter shame and our beloved library services and museum need all the help they can get to encourage the use of social and educational resources for all age groups in these straitened times. Is a reduced number of councillors going to provide that help? I know little of public safety and social care but I do know that, nationally, our social care system is struggling and badly needs a better structure and improved funding.

After trying seriously to consider this proposal for change within East Grinstead Town Council, I still have no idea whether tweaking the number of wards and councillors will help or hinder the town I have come to love. My instinct is that reducing the number of councillors is a retrograde step.

Thank you.

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I'm all in favour of reducing the number of EG Town councillors; 3 tiers of local government is excessive, causes local confusion / duplication and is unnecessarily expensive.

8 councillors for the Town Council would be sufficient as virtually all power sits within WSCC or MSDC.

If one of the above tiers is removed then yes Town Councillors x16 with more power would really improve local accountability, decision-making and local community engagement.

As MSDC are conducting this review, they will not vote to remove the MSDC tier of local government! I anticipate a low local response rate to this review, so hold out no prospect of the radical change needed to generate greater local involvement at a much reduced cost.

Please will you acknowledge this response and send me an email copy of the summary findings once the review is concluded.

Definitely less councillors.

One important thing that I think must also be considered is East Grinstead.

As an East Grinstead resident it does feel as if Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill come above us for everything.

So as long as East Grinstead starts to get a fair representation, the fewer the councillors the better.

I have read the counter proposal submitted by East Grinstead Town Council and referring to the themes outlined in the terms of reference I comment as follows

The Council's submission is unfortunately very basic and provides no real firm evidence for residents to consider as to why they reject to the proposed 8 wards and 19 councillors model, counter proposing to stay with 6 wards and reducing councillors to 16. They do not demonstrate how maintaining the same amount of wards and reducing the number of councillors will improve community engagement, enhance community cohesion, deliver better democracy and effective service delivery whilst taking into account the identities and interests of the community. The proposal seems to be centred upon reducing costs to the electorate and aligning the numbers of elected representatives in East Grinstead with towns in the south of the District, who have equal or slightly larger populations but it does not demonstrate the impact of their proposed reduction with respect to the benefits for the community from a local democracy perspective only as a cost benefit.

If we want to encourage greater interest in local democracy and cohesion within the community then the proposed 8 ward model would make wards smaller thus more personal and give electors and elected representatives an enhanced opportunity to get to know each other, which meets with the aims of the themes outlined in the terms of reference. Also the background information notes that the LGBCE is of the view that each area should be considered on its own merits having regard to not only its population but geography and pattern of communities. The Council's submission does not appear to have taken the last two elements into account.

It is also difficult to understand why – in increasing the number of wards, there would be an increase in cost to the electorate when the number of elected representatives would remain the same. It is easy to see that to reduce the number of elected representatives by 3 with the number of wards remaining at 6 would reduce costs, but at what cost with respect to reducing access to elected representatives as wards would remain larger with fewer representatives.

Paragraph 4.3 guidance note 155 states that the National Association of Local Councils Circular 1126 suggested that the minimum number of councillors for any parish should be seven and the maximum 25 so whilst it's difficult for the Council to understand the rationale behind increasing ward numbers to 8 with the same amount of councillors, as a resident it is difficult to understand

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how their rationale for maintaining the number of wards at 6 but with a reduction in elected representation 16 serves the community more effectively from a local democracy perspective.

Having read the review, I believe there should only be changes if it does not involve most costs to the community.

I don't believe the change will improve community engagement

I don't believe it will enhance community cohesion.

I cannot see it will better local democracy.

I cannot see how it would be more effective and convenient in its delivery of local services and local government.

How ever regardless of the above if it means a reduction in costs by having less councillors I see it viable if it is going to increase overall costs I do not see it viable .

It is difficult to see how a reduction improves community engagement.

The recommended levels are 16 councillors for 9000 electors, 19 councillors for 13000 electors.

East Grinstead has over 45000 electors (extracted from local gov website) which needs 25 councillors.

More councillors would deliver wider democratic representation.

I have to say the document and the statements within were not clear and not helpful.

I agree with the counter proposal that the wards be aligned with the District Wards with a ew name for Worsted and rural as "East Grinstead South", and to retain the wards at the current 6, and reducing the overall councillors to 16.

At the present time any efforts we can make to reduce the costs of administration are essential.

Fully agree with reduction of council members. Anything in this day and age that can reduce costs and be more efficient (Less people involved) must be a benefit to us all

I agree with the counter proposal submitted by East Grinstead Town Council to maintain the number of Wards at 6 with representation by 16 Councillors.

This provides for a more cost effective and efficient representative arrangement for East Grinstead ad it makes sense to align the Town Council Wards with the District Wards.

It will provide better clarity which can only enhance community cohesion.

I am sure that this proposal is in the best interests of the East Grinstead community in that it is cost effective and improves clarity on delivery of local services.

If reducing the numbers of councillors improves efficiency in making community decisions for East Grinstead- then I support the reduction the numbers from 19 to 16.

Their representations in MSDC must be formidable to get best for East Grinstead community- especially Highway road management in & out of the town and supporting education & health services to the increasing population.

In my opinion it makes sense to reduce the number of councillors to 16. I understand that the current population of East Grinstead is between 26,000 and 27,000 but I suspect that the vast majority of residents either never have need to contact their councillor, or will only need to do so very infrequently. I have no access to statistical data but I would be surprised if councillors engaged with more than 32 people each year on council business assuming there are 16 councillors with an even spread of contact from residents across the wards. I appreciate that there are also committees to be sat upon and meetings to attend but it appears these could be manned and managed adequately with 16 councillors.

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Therefore, I feel that there is no need for 19 councillors and reducing the number to 16 would not detract from the services provided by the town council, but there would be a saving in expenses. If Haywards Heath, with a population in excess of 39,000, can manage with 16 councillors then East Grinstead should be more than adequately served by the same number.

I agree with the counter proposal which would retain the wards at the current 6 and reduce the overall Councillors to 16.

I think in the current unstable economic situation it is important to minimise expenditure and bureaucracy.

Having studied the proposals put forward for the East Grinstead town council, I confirm that support the proposals put forward and would meet the required governance for East Grinstead Town.

My reading of the proposals (as set out by expected 'warding' pattern map) support, is: -

1. That there would be 8 Parish Councils; these being Baldwin's Hill, E.G. Imberhorne, E.G Town (2), EG Ashplats (2), EG Herontye and E.G. South.

I would question why there are two Parish Councils for the E.G. Ashplats ward, or indeed any of the the proposed wards. Why not bring Parish Councils in line with proposed wards.

2. That there would be 5 Wards; these being E.G. Baldwins & Imberhorne, E.G. Town, E.G. Ashplats, E.G Herontye an E. G. South.

I am concerned that the combined Balwins and Iberhorne Ward is some what blurred in the wording of the written proposal.

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I am concerned that the combined Balwins and Iberhorne Ward is some what blurred in the wording of the written proposal.

Agree that councillors should be reduced.

Ashplatts seem to be too high why can't there just be 2 along with the rest of the proposal Parish councillors should be reduced and not increased

Business costs as well as other costs increasing, councils should be similar to businesses which have to reduce manning and look at reducing costs by continuing to improve efficiency

I am against this proposal.

A reduction in representation does not improve democracy. Having fewer councillors reduces representation and engagement; they'll be spread more thinly; there will clearly be less opportunity for reasoned discussion and consensus.

The interests of the community are better represented by having a broad range of councillors.

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Having read the information provided about the prospect of reducing the number of councillors, I ultimately support this proposition. I assume this is an attempt to recuperate some of the financial losses the council have experienced this year. I strongly feel councillors absorb too much money in their permitted expenses and incomes and this could save the council money. Furthermore what I read in the information about the illogical arrangement of the ratio of councillors to residents (e.g. Burgess Hill having more residents for fewer councillors with no apparent extra duties exceptionally applicable to East Grinstead) is definitely a reason to consider reducing numbers.

However, I have not received any information on the following:

- What the criteria is for considering which councillors are to remain and those to leave. Is it based on duration of position held? Overall performance?
- How much money is estimated to be saved by reducing councillor numbers, such as on election costs as mentioned in the letter, and their wages.
- Where that money will be going. Given the 2.8% council tax increase between '22/23, and no apparent reductions in council charged facilities e.g. parking, I am sceptical that the financial relief from reducing the number of councillors is going to directly benefit the residents under this council. Given promises of council tax reduction falling flat in 2020 and increasing anyway, I would like to know how this money will be used, including any side projects specifically attributed to the interests of individual councillors.
- How will this benefit or negatively affect residents, as this was not specified in the letter.

As I am left with this many questions, I cannot say for sure that this will do no more than rearrange a few names and representatives, while increasing council budget for things that the residents of East Grinstead will never notice the benefits of themselves, such as cheaper council tax or improved local facilities. Additionally, given the council's penchant for going back on their word, I do not doubt the opinions of the residents will do much to affect any final decision regardless.

I think anything which reduces money is a good thing for the community, if it does not mean less services. If other councils with larger communities can function just as well then I think we should reduce our councillors to 2 for ashplats and 2 for the town, in line with Imberhorne Baldwins Herontye and East Grinstead south.

This seems fair if the population of each is roughly similar.

Yours,

REDACTED

I agree with the proposal to align to 6 wards with 4 councillors each for the Wards Town & Ashplats, and 2 for each of Imberhorne, Baldwins, Herontye & East Grinstead South, thus giving 16 councillors in total.

This aligns East Grinstead Town Council with other towns in Mid Sussex which are growing faster due to their better road and rail links particularly to Gatwick & Brighton. I am keen to see development in East Grinstead kept to a minimum and reduced costs for the electorate will come with fewer councillors who can adequately represent the town and provide a more consistent local democracy.

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I completely support this proposal, this is a good way to reduce costs in both elections and the councillors allowances. This also seems a very efficient way to re-draw the current ward boundaries, the one member Worsted ward never made sense.

I'm sure not too sure what this is all about but I do know from past experience that in the future I would like to see East Grinstead Town Councillors represented on all Mid Sussex District Council Planning Meetings were East Grinstead Planning Applications are being considered.

This would definitely help to improve community engagement and cohesion and a feeling of local democracy. For too long East Grinstead has been pushed aside as far back as when the residents of this town applied for it's own indoor swimming pool when its existing outdoor pool was closed.

These changes would help to reflect the identity and interests of the community greatly.

I would wish the views of our existing local councillors to be taken wholly into account. Their wish for the boundaries and number of councillors is what I support.

Any changes will invariably increase costs and waste money which is NOT what should be happening in the current financial circumstances.

I am in favour of the proposal to reduce the number of Councillors from 19 to 16 and see no need to increase the current wards from 6 to 8.

I would question the need for as many as 16 Councillors to cover 6 wards. There should be a maximum of 6 Councillors, one for each ward and holiday cover would work as it does in industry. You don't employ twice as many as you need, just to cover holiday, sickness etc. This is residents money which you are wasting.

If East Grinstead can manage with just one or two policemen, it begs the question as to why we need as many Councillors? What exactly do they do and how many residents ever consult them or even know what they are there for?

I'm sure there are lots of inefficiencies having 19 Councillors, and I'm sure a town the size of East Grinstead could work efficiently with 16 Councillors. It should improve community engagement and probably improve local democracy. The reduction in the number of wards does seem like a sensible proposal.

I am unaware of my local Councillors name, but I'm sure she/he would be there if I needed her/him.

I think that we definitely do not need 8 wards across the town. We do not need any more costs especially at the moment. I think each ward could manage with less councillors. I think we could manage with 1 councillor for each Ward.

I agree with the Counter Proposal to retain the number of Wards to the current 6 and reducing the number of councillors to 16. It suggests costs will be saved and that can only be beneficial.

My wife REDACTED REDACTED and I wish to vote for reducing the East Grinstead Council from 19 Councillors to 16 in 6 wards, for better Local Democracy and a more effective way to deliver local Government and services.

REDACTED
REDACTED

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Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this local issue.

I am in favour and support the reduction of councillors representing the local areas, the reduction of the wards to six along with the potential cost savings mentioned. This is provided that there is proportional (or close to) representation among the six wards proposed.

I am sure the current status is historic and we need to review these issues to ensure the electorate and tax payers are getting the best value both democratically and economically.

I therefore support the counter proposal mentioned in the Public Notice.

REDACTED

I agree with the East Grinstead Town Council that there is no need to increase the wards and therefore the election costs.

Also, the more on a committee, the longer the process takes.

I agree fully with the views expressed by East Grinstead Town Council (EGTC) in its Public Notice.

I share EGTC's distaste for 1-member wards for the same reason they give - that in the absence of that one council member representation will be denied.

Additionally I believe that multiple member wards will provide a better spread of councillors' political representation and that this will lead to better decision making.

I agree with EGTC that a smaller council, aligned to the District ward boundaries is the best option. It is simpler and cheaper.

I am writing to support the views of East Grinstead Town Council. I have lived in East Grinstead for most of my life and could never understand why the Town and District wards were not aligned. This would make local politics easier to understand, easier for people to identify and contact their councillors and encourage community involvement and cohesion. It could also increase voter turnout.

As to the proposed changes to wards for the Town council, some of the proposed new wards look very small and the point about 1 councillor wards is very salient; it would only take a councillor to be e g taken ill or sent away for work to leave a whole ward unrepresented.

I would suggest that the experience of the people who are running the Town council should be respected and their views on the best formation of the council should have considerable weight.

I do not consider that more wards are required in East Grinstead due to the further election expenses that would be incurred but also do to suggest that there should be a reduction in the number of Town Councillors. The world of councillors who have a limited allowance is already high and by increasing workload / reducing the number of councillors will only deter future candidates from standing for election. I would therefore leave the position as it stands

I agree with EG Town Council Counter Proposal. It will save money and avoid distortion between the existing Wards

I find these proposals totally confusing and poorly presented by MSDC Democratic Services. There is no explanation of the maps provided and in the modern day there needs to be less red tape than more. Hence the proposals submitted by East Grinstead Town Council appear to be a better solution than those suggested by MSDC in so far that it appears to reduce the number of local elections required down from the 9 proposed by MSDC to the 6 proposed by EGTC. Thus more cost effective for the tax payer in the longer term.

MSDC you need to do better in spending our taxes and produce clearer, more meaningful documentation.

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I agree with your counter proposal.
I think the ward names are very unclear as to what area of the Town they represent. E.g. Ashplats - what is that? Is it a road??? How would anyone know.
I would like to see a return to East Grinstead North, South, East and West.

The number of individual councillors I agree is way too many and I would reduce it to 2 for each ward. Reason for this is that greater access is available to elected members and services online. I would also reduce the number of meetings the members attend.

I also, would recommend returning to Town Councillors not receiving payment/salary/expenses as was the case in the 1990s.

Thank you.

East Grinstead has 19 Councillors, who in my opinion are fully utilised in fulfilling the needs of the residents residing in the areas which each Councillor is charged with representing. The residents within the overall area of East Grinstead have seen and are seeing a large increase in the number of houses being built, which will of course swell the number of residents; therefore according to the structure of your table showing the number of Councillors required to service the needs of the rising population, will require more, rather than less Councillors!

Of course, I don't know the total number of residents who will eventually be housed within all the new homes; not only those which have already been built, plus those being built, or even those numbers of houses envisaged to be built in the master plans for the area, but the Councillors individual workloads are only going to increase, again meaning an increase in the number of Councillors required to administer them.

My wife has also received Notice of Community Governance Review, Ref: BFD-699 and we would like this submission to reflect both our views on this important subject. Many thanks.

I believe the number should not change and should continue to be 19 councillors. This is because this gives the town enough space to have enough councillors to cover all aspects and does not then mean that some areas are not covered.

It is hard for a "ordinary" member of the public to comment on matters of governance without ,knowing exactly how it all works.

Its good to be asked but hard to express an informed opinion.

Clearly though as a local resident I would want the best representation and the best value for money.

So a balance between too few and too many to do this efficiently and with integrity is desirable.

As long as the views of the local community are listened to and represented accurately the practical decisions of size of electoral wards ..town and district and the number of councillors serving them and who can represent them properly I have to entrust to the representatives who understand how it all works

I agree with the EG Town Council proposal to retain 6 wards with 16 councillors. This would better represent the constituents that each ward would cover. Increasing the number of wards would just dilute the help and support that would be available to residents and would not reflect the community it is meant to serve.

Having 6 wards would create better community engagement and cohesion as each of the 6 wards has different social, economic and geographical issues.

19 is better as more representatives means more ideas and collaboration.

Given that a number of EG Town councillors also serve on the Mid-Sussex District and/or West Sussex County councils it is clear that there are too many levels of local government and we could make financial savings by abolishing the District council, transferring functions to either Town or County as appropriate. This would mean a saving in overpaid senior management staff who don't actually perform any useful function.

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Regarding the number of councillors on the Town council, surely with the increasing population of the town due to the various large and infill house developments in progress and planned, we will need MORE councillors, not less?

I believe that reducing the number of councillors will reduce costs, therefore providing more revenue for investment into local infrastructure and the delivery of local services.

As the concerns of local residents will vary very little between the wards, having fewer councillors will not adversely effect community engagement or cohesion.

I support the counter proposal that the Wards be aligned with the District Wards with a new name for Worsted and rural as "East Grinstead South". This would retain the wards at the current 6.

I also support the following review of Councillor numbers:

- Ashplats 4
- Town 4
- Imberhorne 2
- Baldwins 2
- Herontye 2
- East Grinstead South 2

This would reducing the overall number of councillors to 16 in line with Haywards Heath Council as required. Also it would avoid the creation of single councillor wards which are not desirable in my view. I believe that local democracy would not be well served by a system which can leave residents without representation should their single Councillor not be available due, for example, to illness.

My proposal is that East Grinstead Town Council wards be aligned with district wards. Worsted & Rural to be renamed as East Grinstead South. This will retain the current six wards and suggest councillor numbers as follows:

- * Ashplats - 4
- * Town - 4
- *Imberhorne - 2
- * Baldwins - 2
- * Herontye - 2
- * East Grinstead South- 2

Benefits

1. Will mitigate against increased election costs, improve community engagement and cohesion.
2. Maintain optimum local democracy
3. Effective delivery of local government services
4. Better reflect interests of local communities.

I am writing to support the Boundary Commission proposal to increase the number of wards in East Grinstead Town council elections as I believe this will improve representative democracy in our town.

I would like to object to the Town Council counter proposals which seem anti-democratic and appear to seek to consolidate an existing power base. I am particularly concerned with the proposed reductions in representation in my own ward Imberhorne.

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There is no case provided and I can only assume that absent any other reasoning this has more to do with the last county council election result than any desire to promote improved local governance.

I provide the following table to support this point.

Boundary Commission proposed District Councillors and the Town Council suggested Town Councillors vs last Election

District District Councillors TC Propose Town Councillors For comparison

Last Election

Ashplats 2 4 4

Town 2 4 4

Imberhorne 2 2 3

Baldwins 1 2 4

Herontye 1 2 3

AW & EG South 1 2 1

I fully support the counter proposal by East Grinstead Town Council that the wards be aligned with the District Wards with a new name for Worsted and Rural as "East Grinstead South", which would retain the wards at the current 6.

I also support reducing the number of Councillors to 16, in line with Haywards Heath Council as follows;

Ashplats 4, Town 4, Imberhorne 2, Baldwins 2, Herontye 2, East Grinstead South 2.

I am not in favour of 1 Councillor per ward, as in their absence there would be no elected representative to approach.

The review I believe does reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area; and is effective and convenient. It maintains the democratic imperative while making sensible and practical changes. I support the changes outline.

I write in response to the East Grinstead Town Council's proposals to the Boundary Commission's proposals for the Town Council Wards in East Grinstead.

I do not support East Grinstead Town Council's proposals which would merge several small Wards within larger Wards thus resulting in more distant representation and risking the lack of local Town Ward community and cohesion.

I also oppose the number of Councillors the Town Council's proposals allocate to Wards as distribution is not equal per population count thus depriving the Town voters of equal representation.

For the above reasons I urge any response to the Boundary Commission's Community Governance Review to support the original Boundary Commission's proposals for the East Grinstead Town Council Wards.

The Boundary Commission's proposal seeks to give the most democratic outcome and I am in favour of this. The Town Council's counter proposal seeks to further entrench the status quo and I believe is not appropriate.

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To whom it may concern.

The suggestion to change the election wards for East Grinstead could create confusion when it comes to election time. The wards would no longer be aligned. By reducing the Mid Sussex wards to 5, and reducing the number of councillors, there would be much less representation of views that residents have submitted to their Councillors. East Grinstead Town Council propose that the wards should be aligned, and this would really seem to be the sensible thing to do.

East Grinstead is at the very edge of Mid Sussex, and many residents already feel totally unrepresented and forgotten when it comes to the District Council.

The Town Council have been ignored on some occasions, especially regarding planning applications, and I feel the District Council often ride roughshod over representations put forward by East Grinstead Town Council. The East Grinstead Society are sometimes at Council meetings, but their views seem to carry not enough weight, even though they represent our town. Reducing the number of Town Councillors could well exacerbate this situation. It would not seem to improve community engagement at all.

It would seem the only benefit from reducing the number of Town Councillors would be to save some money. Not just on allowances, but also on election costs.

The Town Council currently provide some good local events, which could enhance community cohesion. Equally, there is not enough provision for youngsters in this town, and anti social behaviour is becoming worse, so lack of facilities for a growing population of youngsters will certainly NOT encourage community cohesion. Reducing the number of Councillors to speak out for certain groups can only be detrimental to the town.

I can see no benefit to local democracy. Until District Council and local MP's listen to local people, there can be no gain of any kind to local democracy.

There is insufficient police presence in East Grinstead. No one in authority listens when E.G. residents voice their concerns it seems.

Local services such as rubbish collection and recycling collection are currently very efficient.. The amenity tip hours seem to have been accepted by most residents, and that local service works well. Age UK in Glen Vue have provided a Repair Cafe, which is proving to be good. The Library is excellent, but that falls under WSCC. Does that count as a local service? if it does, they are so very helpful, and deserve praise.

I still feel East Grinstead is the 'poor relative', stuck at the edge of the county.

Having spent time ploughing through all this, it would be nice to think persons in authority will take note.

To the Mid Sussex District Council

Oaklands, Oaklands Road, Haywards Heath, West Sussex, RH16 1SS

To whom it may concern

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you and I can appreciate the invitation you were able to send regarding the proposed **Community Governance Review 2022 relating to East Grinstead Town Council**.

I, the undersigned, having received by post on the 4th of April 2022 the letter of invitation and having observed the Terms of Reference and Guidance for Respondents, have submitted on the 19th of April 2022 my views via your online form. Having received by post on the 25th of April 2022 the letter advising on the now published additional reference materials at the MSDC's webpage - namely a map showing the existing District Council Wards (MSDC) and a map showing the new Town Council Wards (EGTC) which were both recently recommended by the Local Government Boundary Commission (England), and as I wish to amend and add to my previous submission, hereby am capable, feel honoured and pleased to offer you my views under the following and same previously agreed four terms:

1. With respect for the deciding authority, Terms of Reference and procedural guidelines which advise that:

- The decision of this authority will depend wholly on the quality of the propositions and the evidence offered in support of them
- All qualitative submissions will be carefully considered and when the MSDC publishes the draft recommendations all such responses will be published together with respondent's names at the council's website
- What kind of data is meaningless at a Community Governance Review

2. Taking into account:

- What is a community governance review and why it is now required
- That the review is being undertaken to consider the feasibility and desirability of a reduction to the Council size from 19 Councillors to 16 Councillors

- That a key aim is to complete this review and give effect to any new council size and boundaries to take effect at the next ordinary local government elections in May 2023
- That before making any recommendations, the Council will take account of any representations received

3. a) Researching and understanding the Terms of Reference and especially point **4. Background information** with all its subpoints, but foremostly and in particular:

- 4.1 The Local Government Act 1972 provides that **any parish council must have at least five councillors. No maximum number is prescribed.**
- 4.2 **When considering the number of councillors to be elected for a parish the Council must have regard to the number of local government electors for the parish and any change to that number that is likely to occur within five years of the date on which these terms of reference are published...**
- 4.3 Joint guidance issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in 2010...:

“154. In practice, there is a wide variation of council size between parish councils. That variation appears to be influenced by population...

155. The LGBCE has no reason to believe that this pattern of council size to population has altered significantly since the research was conducted. Although not an exact match, it broadly reflects the council size range set out in the National Association of Local Councils Circular 1126; the Circular suggested that the minimum number of councillors for any parish should be seven and the maximum 25...

156. In considering the issue of council size, **the LGBCE is of the view that each area should be considered on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities.** Nevertheless, having regard to the current powers of parish councils, **it should consider the broad pattern of existing council sizes.** This pattern appears to have stood the test of time and, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, to have provided for effective and convenient local government...

157. Principal councils should also bear in mind that **the conduct of parish council business does not usually require a large body of councillors**. In addition, historically many parish councils, particularly smaller ones, have found difficulty in attracting sufficient candidates to stand for election. This has led to uncontested elections and/or a need to co-opt members in order to fill vacancies. However, **a parish council's budget and planned or actual level of service provision may also be important factors in reaching conclusions on council size...**"

b) Researching and understanding the abovementioned now published additional reference materials at the MSDC's webpage, as well as how these may be relevant for the consultation, but foremostly and in particular:

- The ratio between the number of elected or projected elected councillors by May 2023 and the different wards of East Grinstead, as well as the corresponding pattern of community and number of local government electors for the parish, including per each ward

4. Considering the Terms of Reference and especially all of the above, my views of what the Community Governance arrangements for my area should be are outlined and sustained as follows below.

In support of my case for a particular council size, you may find arguments concisely explaining how my proposition might derive the following benefits:

- Improved community engagement
- Enhanced community cohesion
- Better local democracy
- More effective and convenient delivery of local services and local government

My considerate response is also able to explain and provide clarity on how my proposition:

- Reflects the identities and interests of the community

For the abovementioned purpose, may I respectfully invite you and I trust you are capable to please, as a first step, take into your competent consideration the following questions, entirely for the sake of reaching clarity and in order to support understanding based on facts as well as a consistent and constructive debate:

- Does the current number of elected councillors (19) reflect/represent/respect the real current fabric of community residing in

East Grinstead, the number of local government electors for the parish, the area on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography and the pattern of communities, and the broad pattern of existing council size?

- Do all different and diverse groups within the East Grinstead community under the current warding pattern benefit from representation in line with the UK law, British Values and fair principles of equality, diversity, inclusion and equity, beyond or alongside the criteria of numbers outlined in the ToR?
- Do the projected new council size and boundaries (expected to take effect at the next ordinary local government elections in May 2023) impact, change or keep/maintain/respect the current fabric of community residing in/allocated to East Grinstead, through restructuring/grouping/re-grouping and/or new expected warding pattern?
- Does the Mid-Sussex District Council intend to apply representativity and will the number of councillors be a result of applying in line with the law's recommendations and requirements representativity and democracy to the new expected warding pattern in East Grinstead?

The key principles and aspects required/mandatory to refer to/consider here are:

- Representativity
- Democracy
- Legitimacy and lawfulness of governance
- All of the above three points via respecting the rights of all rightful members/groups of the East Grinstead community in line with the UK law, British Values and fair principles of equality, diversity, inclusion and equity, beyond or alongside the criteria of numbers outlined in the ToR.

If indeed the current number of 19 councillors meets these requirements including in the case of the projected /expected new warding pattern, then this is the number of councillors necessary/appropriate for governance going forwards. However, it then may and can be argued whether or what this would mean in terms of keeping or replacing the current 19 councillors (and how many of them) so as to reflect and achieve representativity according with the new expected warding pattern (as released and shown in the now published additional reference materials at the MSDC's webpage) and consequently, with the associated fabric of community within it, once this becomes effective in 2023.

If indeed the current number of 19 councillors no longer is relevant neither for the current fabric of the community neither for the expected new warding pattern, then reconsidering (and depending on the case, reduce or increase) the number of councillors would be the right thing to do from multiple other reasons besides/along the savings of community funds, at least till the projected next ordinary local government elections in May 2023.

In your capacity as local and District Council, you have the authority, the right by law and the logistics to access as well as research via the appropriate means and database updated and accurate facts regarding the community you serve, while via the correct algorithms and procedures you are in the right and should be capable to reach the right solution (e.g. the right number of necessary councillors).

In my capacity as an East Grinstead local resident and registered local government elector, I may, am keen and capable to offer you my support as well as provide you with the legitimacy you must maintain including via this kind of consultation and review, for the purpose of and in exchange for you fulfilling your role and duty of care towards the best interest of the community you serve: **improving community well-being and providing better services, work with local people and partners, such as local businesses and other organisations, to agree and deliver on local priorities as per gov.uk guidelines.** Which would then be in itself the most consistent, respectful and dignifying way to derive the abovementioned benefits and reflect the identities and interests of the community. And the appropriate formula by which the right number of councillors can emerge as a natural consequence and outcome of the democratic process followed through rightfully.

In my capacity as an East Grinstead local resident and registered local government elector, I am delighted that you have considered and invited me to contribute my views on this important matter, along all other registered local government electors. While taking your invitation, my role and the role of all concerned in the matter very seriously, I am pleased to observe the UK laws, the Terms of Reference and Guidance for Respondents, as well as the now published additional reference materials at the MSDC's webpage.

However, in my capacity as a resident of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, I am capable and willing to do the right thing: respect the laws, values and traditions of the UK; treat people equally, with respect, fairness and tolerance; look after myself, my family, the area in which I live and

the environment; fulfil my responsibilities as a citizen and help to make my community a better place to live and work.

Therefore, through my views, I would like to make a positive contribution to the society in which I live. I would be happy to see going forwards improvement in the way the East Grinstead Town Council and the Mid Sussex District Council work together, consider, take into account, communicate and bring forward into public notice/consultation/debate the ways and solutions through which, the proposed Community Governance Review 2022 relating to East Grinstead Town Council is able to **improve community well-being and provide better services, work with local people and partners, such as local businesses and other organisations, to agree and deliver on local priorities as per gov.uk guidelines.**

Hence, I can trust you, the East Grinstead Town Council and the Mid Sussex District Council are capable and, in the same time, able to improve the service. I would be happy to treat with respect and receive civil service from you, the East Grinstead Town Council and the Mid Sussex District Council, as well as from all appropriate channels, if all concerned will be capable to achieve all of the above through all reviews and decisions while assessing accordingly as per UK laws and gov.uk guidelines with respect for all concerned.

Thanks in anticipation of a positive response.

Yours faithfully,
REDACTED

8th of May 2022

Ref Number: **REDACTED**

Address: *REDACTED*
el.: REDACTED
E-mail: REDACTED

Response to Community Governance Review 2022

Re: East Grinstead Town Council

After looking at the numbers of electors in the different wards I believe the EGTC proposals for reducing the size of the Town Council will have a negative effect on local democracy in two respects.

- Reducing council representation for Imberhorne ward
- Over-representation in EG South ward (ex. Worsteds ward).

Context

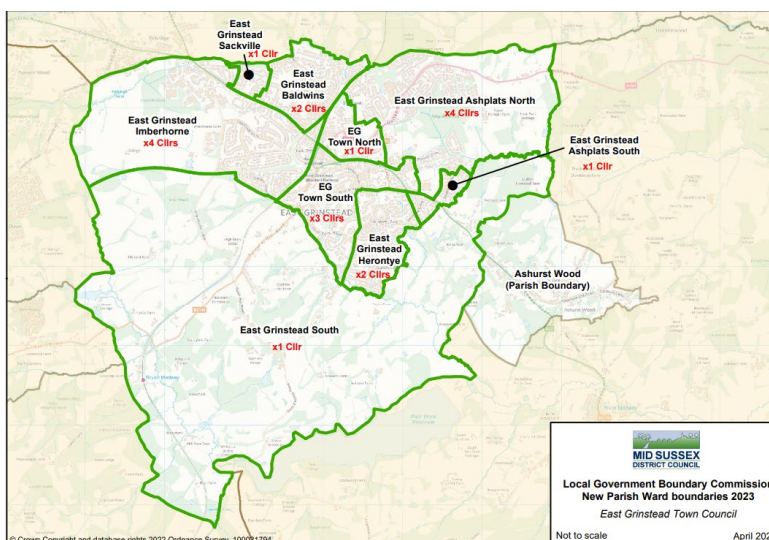
The Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) published its Final Recommendations on updated electoral arrangements for Mid Sussex District Council (MSDC) in February 2022. It includes recommendations for corresponding updates to the wards used for election of East Grinstead Town Council:

145 We are providing revised parish electoral arrangements for East Grinstead parish.

Final recommendations

East Grinstead Town Council should comprise 19 councillors, as at present, representing nine wards:

Parish ward	Number of parish councillors
East Grinstead Ashplats North	4
East Grinstead Ashplats South	1
East Grinstead Baldwins	2
East Grinstead Herontye	2
East Grinstead Imberhorne	4
East Grinstead Sackville	1
East Grinstead South	1
East Grinstead Town North	1
East Grinstead Town South	3



The present East Grinstead Town Council (EGTC) has requested a Community Governance Review, and has proposed to retain a 6-ward structure (aligned with MSDC wards) and reduce the number of Town Councillors from 19 to 16 as follows:

Ward	No of Councillors
Ashplats	4
Baldwins	4
Herontye	2
Imberhorne	2
South (existing 'Worsted' ward)	2
Town	2

Response

1 Proposed reduction in Councillors for Imberhorne Ward

I am concerned that the EGTC proposal for Imberhorne ward will *impair local democracy* by reducing the number of councillors from 3 to 2. This would increase the number of electors per elected councillor compared to the comparably sized Ashplats and Town wards.

SCENARIO 1 - based on LGBC proposed seats (19 councillors)									
	Ashplats	Baldwins	Herontye	Imberhorne	Town	EG South			
Electors 2027*	5788	2875	2938	5797	5091	1036	Total electors	23525	
Seats LGBC	5	2	2	5	4	1	Total seats	19	
Electors/seat	1158	1438	1469	1159	1273	1036	Mean	1238.16	
Variation from Mean	-6.5%	16.1%	18.6%	-6.4%	2.8%	-16.3%	Excluding EGSouth as outlier:	Mean 1299.25	
Assumptions	Inc N+S wards			Inc LGBC Sackville	Inc N+S wards	Assume 40% of EGS+AhW		SD 148.54	

SCENARIO 2 - based on EGTC proposal (reduction to 16 councillors)									
	Ashplats	Baldwins	Herontye	Imberhorne	Town	EG South			
Electors 2027*	5788	2875	2938	5797	5091	1036	Total electors	23525	
Seats EGTC prop.	4	2	2	2	4	2	Total seats	16	
Electors/seat	1447	1438	1469	2899	1273	518	Mean	1470.31	
Variation from Mean	16.9%	16.1%	18.6%	134.1%	2.8%	-58.2%	Excluding EGSouth as outlier:	Mean 1704.95	
Assumptions	Inc N+S wards			Inc LGBC Sackville	Inc N+S wards	Assume 40% of EGS+AhW		SD 671.77	

The discrepancy is likely to be made worse in future if anticipated housing developments in Imberhorne ward are implemented: current provisional allocations allow for up to 200 houses near Crawley Down Road and for up to 550 houses at Imberhorne Farm.

2 Single Member Wards

The EGTC rationale for increasing East Grinstead South ward from 1 councillor to 2 is that "We do not favour 1 member wards as in their absence there is no elected representative to approach".

I suggest that this is not necessary; it should be possible to cover any temporary absence by one of the other council members in order to ensure *effective service delivery*. Making arrangements within the Council to cover temporary absences might also *enhance community cohesion* by making councillors from other wards aware of the local issues.

Adding an additional council member specifically for EG South ward would *reduce local democracy* by enhancing the over-representation of electors in this ward compared to others.

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 20 May 2022 17:13
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Fwd: Community Governance Review

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:Community Governance Review
Date:Fri, 20 May 2022 17:06:56 +0100
From:REDACTED
To:communitygovernancereviews@midussex.gov.uk

We are responding to the request from Mid Sussex District Council for views on the proposed Boundary Commission Review for East Grinstead and the Alternative plan proposed by East District District Council.

We Favour the Boundary Commission Proposals over the alternative Town Council Proposals for the following reasons:-

1. They are more democratic.
2. They improve the competitiveness for other parties in local elections. In recent years we have had rule by one political party with no alternative voice being elected. This is not a healthy state of affairs.
3. The alternative proposals by the Town Council would further entrench the position of the existing town councillors and denying change in areas where there is current population growth.

This is the view of both REDACTED

THEREFORE THAT IS 2 VOTES FOR THE BOUNDARY COMMISSIONS PROPOSALS

Thankyou.

REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 27 May 2022 20:10
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: COMMUNIITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW.

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Hello Tom Clark and Terry Stanley at Mid Sussex,

1. I did unsuccessfully try an make my comments via. www.midsusse.gov.uk/cgr-form – site unavailable.

2. As the chair of the Town's Local Action Team for the past 9 years submit the following brief responses re. the Sought after benefits – i.e.:

- **Improved Community Engagement:** MSDC have not defined how they want 'community' to be considered when replying : it is difficult to see what is being done to either recognise and/or 'grow' whatever community (spirit) currently exists : if there is a 'recognised' core community what has been/is being done by MSDC to grow this : efforts to contribute and/or create a community from what is a mix of individual 'disparate' groups with individual needs will be difficult to make into an 'esprit de corps' : therefore, I cannot see reducing the number of councillors from 19 to 16 would make any difference re. improving community engagement.
- **Enhances Community Cohesion:** again, is a similar way to the above, we've seen the police withdrawing their support from Neighbouring Policing Panels who invited the Town LAT to join them - gave us two A4 sheets describing their expectancy from the LAT in terms of self-financed tasks – then disbanded the Panels telling us to either 'fold' and/or join some other group great for Community Cohesion : fortunately Town, District and County Councillors had the good foresight to see how we could contribute towards cohesiveness : recently we have had the benefit of PCSO attendance, where sometimes the presence of an 'established' officer wouldn't go amiss to contributing to a broader coherency via. an intermediary;
- **Better Local Democracy:** not sure how the reduction in councillors would achieve by adding to their workload and work against their having an appropriate 'Life-work Balance' when some councillors are also in full-time employment : perhaps councillors could be made more accessible via. mobile 'Open Sessions' that would also contribute to information gathering;
- **More effective local services and government:** there may be opportunities to have more 'open sessions' by District Officers and Councillors in the library, at East Court, Saturday pro-motions in the High Street, in Chequer Mead 'meet and greet' sessions and the like, increasing grass-root public access that would 'physically quantify' and contribute to the above : there needs to be more discussion around this matter to better describe/define specific details – i.e., better package/define attributes through which people and MSDC staff and councillors can tangibly contribute to.

3. Some of the above sought-after features could benefit from tapping into how the following achieve these – i.e., AgeUK, MSVA, Scouts, Guides, Dementia, Clubs - i.e., Art/Bridge/Bowls/Tennis/Rambler/Morris/Dancing/Choral/Chess/Cricket/Rugby/Horticultural/Stamp Collecting/Target Shooting/Embroiders/et al.

I will add the above to the Agenda of our next meeting and give the outcome to Norman Webster and.or eMail to MSDC.

Yours sincerely,

REDACTED

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 18 May 2022 16:52
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Re: East Grinstead Community Governance Review

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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Dear Sir or Madam

I note the Boundary Commission's proposals for Town Council Wards in East Grinstead dated 01/02/22, and East Grinstead Town Council's (EGTC's) counter proposals dated 04/04/22, and have reviewed other information made available regarding ward boundaries, and numbers of councillors and electorate.

I support the Boundary Commission's original proposals and oppose EGTC's counter proposals.

Under the heading of **better Local Democracy** EGTC's counter proposals would merge Imberhorne and Sackville Wards making it one of the largest wards in the Town, but would reduce its representation from FIVE to TWO councillors, meaning it would be barely half as well represented in the Council as the average for Town Wards. In contrast, East Grinstead South Ward, which is easily the smallest ward in the Town in terms of electorate, has a proposal to increase its councillors from ONE to TWO, making it more than four times as well represented as the average for Wards in the Town - and nearly eight times as well represented as the merged Imberhorne Ward. These Counter Proposals by EGTC would seriously distort one of the key principles of democracy: equal representation of electors, which the Boundary Commission's original proposals uphold, as far as practicable.

If it were seen as necessary or desirable to reduce the number of councillors, then consideration ought to have been given to doing so across all wards, equitably.

Under the headings of **Improved community engagement, Enhanced community cohesion and Reflecting the identities and interests of the community**, EGTC's counter proposals would remove several small wards (Ashplats South, Town North and Sackville) and merge them with larger wards. These areas all have their own communities, distinct from their neighbouring wards, and merging them with larger wards would deprive them of distinct a voice in the Town Council, diluting effective engagement with them, and weakening community cohesion and identity, all of which are supported by the Boundary Commission's original proposals.

I urge Mid Sussex District Council to support the original Boundary Commission proposals for East Grinstead Town Wards and reject EGTC's counter proposal.

Regards

REDACTED
REDACTED
REDACTED

(Councillor and electorate numbers taken from the Boundary Commissions proposals, EGTC's counter proposals, and from ONS published statistical information on population and electorate numbers.)

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 20 May 2022 18:53
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Re: Further Information: East Grinstead Community Governance Review

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Sir,

I have lived in East Grinstead for over 20 years in my present G-Band home and never once been able to discuss any important local issue with Councillors, the Town Mayor, or, Deputy Mayor. The Councillors and Mayorial persons are invisible in my opinion and perform no useful functions to support the town's inhabitants.

The East Grinstead Town Council is professionally managed by a first-rate Town Clerk; Mrs Julie Holden, her Secretary and supporting staff. She took over management from Mr Chris Rolley who also set professional operating parameters in the late 1900s. He now runs his own independent country-wide Council Advisory Services business.

There is absolutely no reason for more than 16 Councillors - in my opinion, 12 should be quite adequate to be able to support a population of around 24,000 inhabitants.

Sincerely,

REDACTED

On Tuesday, 3 May 2022, 16:14:03 BST, Mid Sussex District Council
<mid.sussex.district.council@notifications.service.gov.uk> wrote:

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 11 April 2022 08:39
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: Review relating to East Grinstead Town Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

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Reply to Letter from REDACTED and REDACTED

We agree with the reduction in councillors for EGTC from 19 to 16. It should be in line with DC and other towns. There will be no impact on EGTC performance and there will be financial savings
REDACTED

From: REDACTED

Sent: 10 April 2022 11:34

To: communitygovernancereviews <communitygovernancereviews@midsussex.gov.uk>

Subject: East Grinstead Town Council

You don't often get email from REDACTED [Learn why this is important](#)

From REDACTED

This email address, phone REDACTED

I tried online but your Captcha (however spelt) messed up.

Before I make my proposition, a thought for those managing this aspect of the review. The directions given as to how this proposition should be framed reads more like the preamble to an examination question than respectful guidance to those who, in my case, pay council tax and elect councillors.

My proposition:

Community engagement and local democracy in East Grinstead are more likely to be enhanced by ensuring that each ward has more than one councillor (people aren't always available, as the past two years has shown), as argued by the Town Council.

As to how any councillors are needed and the organisation of wards, the current council should be in a position to advise on both for the town in it's current or likely size. If 16 councillors and six wards are sufficient, then both local democracy and the interests of the community are better served by more efficient use of human resources and the resultant reduction of costs to council tax payers, particularly in a time of reducing income for many families.

REDACTED

From: REDACTED
Sent: 19 May 2022 09:05
To: communitygovernancereviews
Subject: East Grinstead Proposed Boundary Cganges

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

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REDACTED
REDACTED
REDACTED

Dear Sir or Madam

I support the Boundary Commission's original proposals and oppose EGTC's counter proposals.

Under EGTC's counter proposals it would merge Imberhorne and Sackville Wards making it one of the largest wards in the Town, but would reduce its representation from FIVE to TWO councillors, meaning it would be one of the largest Wards

East Grinstead South Ward, which is the smallest ward in terms of electorate, has a proposal to increase its councillors from ONE to TWO, making it more than four times as well represented as the average for Wards in the Town - and nearly eight times as well represented as the merged Imberhorne Ward.

These Counter Proposals by EGTC would seriously undermine democracy: equal representation of electors, which the Boundary Commission's original proposals uphold, as far as practicable.

If it were seen as necessary or desirable to reduce the number of councillors, then consideration ought to have been given to doing so across all wards, equitably.

I ask Mid Sussex District Council to support the original Boundary Commission proposals for East Grinstead Town Wards and reject EGTC's counter proposal.

Regards

REDACTED

REDACTED

REDACTED

RECEIVED

25 APR 2022

18th April 2022

re: Community Governance Review and the Counter Proposal

Dear Mr. Stanley,

I want to convey my embarrassment at the reported challenge to the Community Governance Review put forward by East Grinstead Town Council. I have been a resident for nearly forty years and this is the first time that the Town Council has sought to curtail our local democracy on grounds of cheapness. For the purpose of my response, I infer that the terms Town and Parish are identical in East Grinstead in respect of boundary and residents.

Haywards Heath and Burgess Hill are distinct communities and irrelevant to any proposals internal for East Grinstead. This last is a mediaeval and Tudor settlement, under severe housing pressure because so many wish to come to live here; large scale post war development is now being followed by matching repeat expansion; and there has been considerable growth in housing in the middle of the town. Numbers are set to rise markedly overall; logically the number of Town Council wards must grow and at the very least the same number of Councillors must be retained as a minimum. This argument is commonsense.

District Council wards and their representatives may demand a distinct focus and logic, on the lines of parliamentary constituencies: if the overall number of District Councillors is capped, then ward boundaries follow population and population changes across the District area. If however the overall number is not capped but elastic, and intended to respond to population growth, then the number of District wards may not be reduced and the gross figure of **elected** representation must be maintained, NOT reduced under whatever pretext, financial or otherwise. I should welcome clarification

on which principle operates: is the number of District councillors capped or elastic?

Briefly to respond to your four points:

- population growth in East Grinstead demands more wards and maximum elected councillors for improved community engagement;
- the fullest elected representation enhances community cohesion because nobody is left without a Councillor, local, known and approachable;
- it likewise follows that local democracy has the full potential to improve;
- and there is then greater possibility that the quality of local services and local government actually will meet the needs and aspirations of a given but changing community.

I am copying this correspondence to the Chairman of East Grinstead Town Council because their objection and counter proposal do not address the town's real challenges, population growth and the integration of thousands of newcomers into our community.

Yours sincerely,

REDACTED

Dear Sir,

I am fully in support of cutting down
 the number of town cllrs from 19 to 16
 My chief reason for this is it will save
 taxpayers £3,300 a year, over £13,200
 over 4 yrs (a term) or about £1 for each
 taxpayer. I would especially like to see
 this passed on as a lower council tax
 bill, as at the moment I think residents
 should keep every penny they can

to improve community engagement
 It will allow other parties a chance to
 acquire power at the council, as at the
 moment one party (the Tories) gets a load
 of seats simply because the other parties
 can't join in candidates. By reducing
 down the number of cllrs it is more
 likely every position will be contested.

REDACTED

REDACTED
REDACTED
REDACTED

Community Governance Review

Ref: REDACTED

I support the counter proposal of East Grinstead Town Council to maintain 6 wards in the Town, aligned to those of the District Council. This provides consistency for electors and saves unnecessary expenditure. The development of Manor View and possible future development of ~~Zimberstone~~ village may require further changes.

Meanwhile I understand the Boundary Commission is exploring a link between East Grinstead and Uckfield in East Sussex which would be welcome.

REDACTED

RECEIVED

Mid Sussex District Council

12 APR 2022

Governance Review - East Grinstead Town Council

I have lived in East Grinstead for over 40 years and have always wanted our local viewpoint to be taken into account by the District Council and the County Council.

But this has rarely happened and local decisions are over ridden by District and County Councils. I have never thought that the councillors who make decision about East Grinstead even know what the local issues are or where the localities in questions are located.

With that in mind and the on going cost of representation I would like the numbers of councillors to be reduced significantly. In the past it was a suggestion that we only had two councils but there were strong views about which one should be removed. My view was always that we should retain strong local representation and one county council.

REDACTED REDACTED

REDACTED

East Grinstead Town Council
Community Governance
Review Consultation 1
Responses: Councillor
Submissions

Dear Sir,

REDACTED

In Support of
Reducing town Cllr
Number of town Cllrs
from 19 to 16

I fully support these proposals.

In addition to what you mention in
the letter, this will also save
taxpayers in excess of £3,300 in
Cllr allowances, each year.

There is simply no need for ~~18~~^{19!} Cllrs,
16, or fewer, with more than 60.

As a town councillor myself
I can say the workload is easy
to manage. Most Cllrs don't do
much prep work some

See overleaf

are simply not up to the job.

1. Community engagement

Since there will be fewer Cllrs citizens are more likely to know who their Cllr is. This will make it easier to remember who they are, and thus contact them

2. Enhance community cohesion

It will be no less than currently

3. Better local democracy

It will stop top-down election of the main parties, simply because minor parties or independents cannot join the candidates. Thus local views will be better reflected because representation will not rely on who can join the most candidates

4. More effective and convenient delivery of local services with government

This will lower the cost of cllrs per head of population and thus make the council more efficient (since I assume fewer cllrs will not reduce efficiency)

In fact, fewer cllrs may well make them more efficient (to the extent such a concept applies to local government) as there will be more potential for each cllr to get involved in debates.

I know for a fact a great many cllrs don't say anything at meetings and just follow their party's whip. These people will be pushed out (or be more likely to be pushed out), as the really keen wannabe cllrs are more likely to attain selection for local ^{political} party candidacies.

Interest of the community
However, the main reason I think
this measure will benefit the people
of East Grinstead is it will lower
the cost of politics, principally via
a reduction allowances of about
£3,300 a year, or £13,200 over
4 yrs. This is equal to more
than a £1 for each council
tax payer - something I'm sure
residents will rather have in
better/more services, or, as I would
want to see, lower taxes.

Yours faithfully,

Cllr Charles Amos
Leader of the Opposition
- East Grinstead
Town Council