

To:

Democratic Services and Elections Manager,

Community Governance Review (Shere),

Guildford Borough Council,

Millmead House, Millmead,

Guildford GU2. 4 BB.

Date:

**Letter of Objection to any Change of the current position:**

Dear Sirs,

Here are some reason of why I think the current position should remain in place:

**Democracy:** Any boundary change will result in Shere being twice the size of the remaining ward ie Holmbury, as it is now, with Peaslake, there are 7 councillors for these 2 wards combined, with 6 in Shere. So there is a balance between the largest ward now , and the 2 other wards, so if this change came in Shere would become unrepresentative, and democracy and balanced representation would be weakened.

**Identity and Cohesion:** The existing parish has been defined for over 130 years, and has managed in that time to retain separate identities, but at the same time blended with the joint identity of a parish as a whole, for the greater good. Many examples of this exist- eg: Peaslake Players, who draw members from the whole parish, and beyond: Shere Swimming Pool Club, members from all over the parish: Drop in Centre, based in Gomshall, for all in the whole parish: Shere Surgery serves the whole parish. There are many more examples. So we have cohesiveness, and we have parish identities as a whole, while retaining our own village fairs, and affairs, in balance. The fact that it is named Shere Parish Council, is irrelevant, but it is the largest ward for historic reasons. For 131 years it has served the needs of the **whole community**, well.

**Efficiency:** Any split would mean less resource to go around, for all, because many services, contracts, costs, would be duplicated. So less revenue all around, for the same thing. Its wasteful, un-necessary, and makes little sense for Peaslake to go on its own.

**Viability:** Peaslake would be small, and be less able to raise grants, loans, funding for projects, ( eg housing) on its own. The council would be maybe 5, so all councillors would have to sit on all committees, making the job of councillor quite onerous, and also limits special knowledge and experience that can be drawn on by a bigger council. Balance and perspective could be lost, while a small clique could be in charge.

**Finances:** Any split would mean less for all. The precept has not yet been determined, and there is little, if any, external revenue currently generated by Peaslake. Whereas Shere ward does have these opportunities, being larger, and with many more tourists too, the benefits of which currently are shared by all. Ownership and liability of assets would have to be divided, and some of these, especially the farm in Peaslake, at this time it is not clear as to who would own it.

Thank you.

Signed:

Address:

Date: