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I am gratified that there have been a reasonable number of submissions received.

I will limit my response to the 3 options provided, all of which suggest an increase from 10 to 11 Councillors. Personally, I'd have reduced the number to 7 or 9 but the time for that discussion seems to have passed.

If the Boroondara Council wants single member wards, then that is the most compelling reason for having multi-member wards.

While I have met many State and Federal Parliamentarians in my 25 years in Kew, I have never met my local Councillor. Any claims that 12,000 person wards enable local representation better than 35,000 person wards with 3 representatives are completely fatuous nonsense.

With so many small single person wards, it is entirely conceivable that people on the edge of a ward boundary would be shifted into a new ward and back again based on relatively small changes in population caused by redevelopments. This is undesirable from any community of interest perspective. Larger wards are more resilient to these changes.

I would much rather have multi-member wards where there is a slight chance of the occasional maverick or minority view being expressed at Council rather than the self-congratulatory monoculture now present.

Option A is preferable to Option B but I'd prefer to go further and have 3 wards of 4, 4 and 3 representatives. I do acknowledge that the Option A (4 ward) boundaries are quite well drawn with the use of Burke Road and Barkers Road which are main thoroughfares.

Option C would require constant tinkering with the boundaries on a stop-gap basis and has small local streets as boundaries because no other choice allows for the principal of equal sized wards.

Ward names are meaningless to most locals. There is a lot to be said for the wards to be geographic - so with four wards they could be called North West, North East, South West and South East.

Regards

Giuseppe De Simone
Kew (currently in Cotham Ward and to be in Studley Ward under Options A & B and Cotham Ward under Option C).

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