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Review Officer
Hart Review
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London
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12th September 2011

ELECTORAL REVIEW

Fleet Town Council has reviewed the boundary changes for Hart District Council as proposed by the Boundary Commission. Although generally in agreement, Fleet Town Council would recommend that the Western Boundary be moved to Reading Rd North, with a corresponding adjustment in the Merrivale and Lea Wood Road areas to the Fleet West Ward to equalise numbers across the wards. The area known collectively as the blue triangle lying between Elvetham Road and Fleet Road, is split under the proposal into Fleet West and Fleet Central Wards. Fleet Town Council believes that this area is not best represented across two wards, being primarily constituted of large housing of low density. The Hart District Council Urban Characterisation Study points out that in areas defined as high quality with a low degree of access to public transport, such as this area, it is recommended that there is no intensification of use, or demolition of buildings. Therefore the area is best preserved as a whole within one Ward, both from a Parish and District Boundary perspective.

Fleet Town Council also wish to point out that the residents of Velmead Road strongly identified with Fleet in the poll wherein residents voted on the establishment of parish wards in the area. It is therefore suggested that both sides of this road and Velmead Close be included in the Fleet Central Ward, but that the Wickham Road area and the Courtmoor Avenue and Little Copse areas be moved into the Church Crookham Ward to account for appropriate electoral equality of numbers.

Concerns have also been raised by Fleet Town Council about the number of Parish Councillors allocated to the severely reduced Courtmoor Ward, as 4 councillors appear to be too many for this area. It is proposed that 1 or 2 councillors be moved to Central Ward to accommodate the larger numbers that now appear in that ward.



Shar Roselman
Town Clerk Fleet Town Council