



# WINCHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

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Submission by Winchfield Parish Council

*Which areas do you identify as your local community?*

Before becoming part of the Odiham ward in 2002, the parish of Winchfield was previously in the Hartley Wintney ward.

The parish looks to both Odiham and Hartley Wintney for local shopping and health facilities. However, Hartley Wintney is closer, and the north-west area of the parish of Winchfield, where the Vista Hospital and Winkworth Business Park are located, is mistakenly thought by many people actually to be part of Hartley Wintney parish. The ecclesiastical parish of Winchfield is served by the Vicar who is based in Hartley Wintney.

However, the arrangement since 2002 whereby Winchfield is in the Odiham ward of Hart, has worked well. Much of the parish of Winchfield is in the secondary school catchment area of Robert May's School in Odiham, and Odiham Common is on the shared boundary.

*Do you have specific suggestions about where your ward boundaries should be?*

Winchfield Parish Council believes it should be part of either the Odiham ward, as at present, or the Hartley Wintney ward. This was the decision of the parish council at its meeting on March 7, 2011, when the council was informed of Hart's proposals.

Historically, and through shared interests, Winchfield should be with Hartley Wintney, but

Winchfield Parish Council understands that the electorate figures may mean that Winchfield should most likely continue with Odiham.

Under Hart's proposals, Odiham has a variance from mean ward size of -394, giving it the biggest variance of -6%. With Winchfield's approximate electorate of 490 added, Odiham (Ward K) would have a positive variance from mean size, but it would not be the biggest variance of all the proposed wards.

*Are there any areas nearby that you don't identify with?*

Winchfield does not identify with the existing urban area of Zebon Copse or the newer edge of town housing estates of Queen Elizabeth Barracks and Hitches Lane, with which Hart Council now proposes it should belong in a new ward.

Hart's proposal to put Winchfield in Ward E is a contrivance of arithmetical convenience. It takes no account of Winchfield's affinities and its situation as a totally rural area.

Representatives of Hart elected mainly by the urban areas would not be expected to have an interest in the issues of a distant, rural parish.

Winchfield Parish Council asks the Commission to give serious consideration to its views, and would welcome the opportunity to provide further detail.

Andrew Renshaw

Chairman, Winchfield Parish Council