



The Review Officer (Surrey)
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

28th March 2011

Dear Sirs,

Re: The Local Government Boundary Commission for England Review for Surrey, with particular reference to the District of Tandridge.

I am writing to you on behalf of the Woldingham Association, which forms a part of the consultative fabric of the Parish of Woldingham in the District of Tandridge in the County of Surrey. It is a matter of regret that we were not invited to comment by Surrey County Council.

The Woldingham Association, which was formed in 1900, is a Resident's Association representing the interests of those living in the Parish. Unlike many such associations it also owns land and administers covenants that control development in key areas of the Parish. Following the creation of the Parish Council in 2000 the Association has continued to both monitor and represent the interests of its members, on a wide range of subjects, to statutory and other bodies. It is in this respect that I write to you now,

We have noted with alarm that in the Commission's review into the Electoral Boundaries for Surrey there is a proposal from Surrey County Council to change the boundary of the 'Caterham Valley Division' such that our Parish of Woldingham is removed from its current Division and placed into the Division of Warlingham. The Woldingham Association strongly objects to such a change.

The key reasons for our objecting can be summarized as follows - Historic, Topographical, Economic & Spiritual:

1. **Historic:** Over the past 100 years the Parish has been allied to first Godstone to the South , then in the 1930's to the then Caterham Urban District giving rise to the current very satisfactory representation by elected persons for the Caterham Valley Division. There has never been any alliance with Warlingham in local, district or county government.
2. **Topographical:** Warlingham itself is a largely urban area and retains this feature as it lies on the edge of, and is contiguous with, the London conurbation. A large and deep valley, which is within the Green Belt area, separates the Warlingham built up area from the village of Woldingham. This forms a clear physical division from Warlingham. Our similarity with our Caterham neighbours has recently been demonstrated by the fact that both Caterham Valley Parish Council and our own Parish Council each have a particular area that has been given special planning status. Recently both Parish Councils have worked on a review of the special nature of these similar areas which have now been accepted by the District Council for its Planning Guidance policies. The Association also worked on the consultation related to these important local documents.
3. **Economic:** Woldingham's residents gravitate either southwards or south-westwards to the rural town of Caterham. Most residents of Woldingham tend to use the Doctors' surgeries in Caterham and use the local community hospital in Caterham. Our village residents also tend to use the wide range of shops and supermarkets in Caterham.

Leisure activities in the area are concentrated in either Caterham or further south. Many residents use the swimming pools in both Caterham and Oxted as well as various fitness centres. The small theatre in Caterham has many supporters and members from Woldingham.

4. **Spiritual:** Whilst perhaps of limited impact it is interesting to note that our flourishing Parish Church and its Vicar fall under the control of the

Caterham Team Ministry centred on Caterham. Warlingham Parish Church is not part of this structure.

For these, and other reasons, including local school catchment areas, it is our contention that our community has no affinity with the Warlingham Division and that to move the boundaries to join the two would be an arbitrary decision based on mere numbers of voters and not natural community cohesion.

We understand that the Woldingham Parish Council has expressed similar views and reached the same conclusion. We support their stance in the matter.

In summary we consider that the electorate of our Parish is best served by electing representatives who, as at present, will also be serving the common interests that we hold with the Caterham Valley Division.

Yours faithfully

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Geoffrey King.

Geoffrey King

Chairman

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