

Bracknell Forest Borough Council

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Comment text:

To whom it may concern I had occasion to put in an earlier submission, in relation to the proposed boundary changes relating to the Old Bracknell Ward, within the Bracknell Forest Council (BFC) area, as one of the elected Councillors for that Ward. Although, on that occasion, my fellow Ward Councillor, Peter Heydon and I 'reluctantly' accepted that the three roads, Finmere, Gainsborough and Greenham Wood, needed to be transferred to the Hanworth Ward, to increase their voter representation, the Commission agreed with both of us that the remaining roads in the ancient area of Easthampstead, which had also been highlighted for transfer, should be left alone and kept within the newly proposed Ward of Easthampstead and Wildridings. It is with great dismay, therefore, that I note a late proposal (i.e. post the initial representation by BFC and during the extended consultation period, for BFC), from the Hanworth Ward Councillors, for the 'green' area (i.e. no representation issues, whatsoever) called North Lake to be transferred to the Hanworth Ward. This is, 'ostensibly', on the basis that it (i.e. the 'green' space) is a 'community asset' of South Hill Park (SHP), which is already contained within the Hanworth Ward boundary. However, this is a spurious argument that has nothing to do with any of the Commission's three stated review criteria, especially as the Easthampstead community has been in existence for hundreds of years, even before 'Bracknell (i.e. not BFC) itself. In fact, it was only when the new housing around SHP was built that the then new Ward of Hanworth was created, on the other side of the now 'hard' boundary (road) of Ringmead and prior to that SHP (i.e. both the original farm building / Manor House and 'all' of the land surrounding it) was actually part of the Easthampstead community, in any event. It is now being suggested, by Hanworth Councillors, that the Hanworth Ward should incorporate all of the 'green' space, on the basis that this is 'collectively' known as SHP, whereas, in fact, it is now just the building, being the Arts Centre and (Wilde) Theatre, also called SHP, which is more widely 'known' as SHP (as identified by the building signage). Furthermore, it is also being suggested, belatedly and without 'any' supporting evidence, whatsoever (i.e. there is none), that Hanworth Councillors are being called upon to deal with resident's issues arising in and around the North Lake fields and children's play area (i.e. currently all within the Old Bracknell Ward), which is both completely without foundation and in my view, insulting to residents on both sides of the 'green' space (i.e. Old Bracknell and Hanworth), who currently share the space, along with all other residents of the Borough. Accordingly, I would argue, very strongly, that this is simply an opportunistic and blatant 'land grab', which has nothing to do with the Commission's review ideology and which should be dismissed, without further consideration. In all other respects, in relation to the Commission's recommendations for the newly proposed Ward of Easthampstead and Wildridings, I support them in their entirety, notwithstanding that, as a resident of Gainsborough (i.e. one of the roads being transferred), I can say that neither I nor any of my neighbours have any affinity with Birch Hill (i.e. the Northern part of the Hanworth Ward). Kind regards Malcolm Tullett

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded