

Bracknell Forest Borough Council

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Organisation Name: Warfield Parish Council

Comment text:

Please see our attached submission

Uploaded Documents:

https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1599481329_consultation+submission+070920.pdf



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Alexandra Jones
Review Officer (Bracknell Forest)
LGBCE c/o Cleardata
Innovation House
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7 September 2020

Dear Alexandra,

This is Warfield Parish Council's response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) draft warding arrangements. The council thanks the LGBCE for their work in compiling the draft recommendations.

The parish council will only be providing comments on the ward proposals that affect the area of the parish.

Warfield Parish Council are disappointed the commission felt it could not accept the full submission the council made at the initial stage. In drawing up the draft proposals We feel the commission has not taken in account certain factors, particularly those on the ground, which we draw to the attention of the commission in our response.

Binfield North & Warfield West and Priestwood & Garth

The council is concerned with the proposal to move the area of Quelm Park into the ward of Priestwood & Garth and would suggest this area be incorporated into Binfield North & Warfield West for the following reasons.

The residents of Quelm Park have close community links with Warfield, these include the use of schools and community facilities, situated in the Binfield North & Warfield West ward and doctor's surgeries and retail units in the proposed Warfield East.

Quelm Park was built as part of Warfield and the area and its residents are integrated into the community of Warfield.

Quelm Park can only be accessed by road from Harvest Ride (the proposed northern boundary of Priestwood & Garth) there is no direct vehicle access into the proposed Priestwood & Garth ward. We note the commission looks to avoid such physical barriers when making its considerations.

Residents in Quelm Park have expressed their own concerns regarding these proposals along similar lines to those highlighted by the council and we are concerned how this move would affect other changes that could result to parliamentary and parish boundaries.

The council trust the commission will take these factors into account and take the opportunity to move Quelm Park into the proposed Binfield North & Warfield West ward.

We welcome the proposal to incorporate Elen Place and the area north of Kennel Lane into the Priestwood & Garth ward and hope a future Community Governance Review will revise the Parish boundary in this area.

Warfield East

The parish council is disappointed that the commission is unable to address the electoral concerns the parish has regarding split representation in Warfield Park between Warfield East and Winkfield North.

We have noted that in the submission response of Bracknell Forest Council, the council has proposed conducting a Community Governance Review to tidy up boundaries in this area along with those around Priory Lane, as proposed in our initial submission to the commission.

Parish electoral arrangements

The council has noted the comments made by the commission regarding electoral arrangements for parishes.

The council asks the commission to look again at its proposal to increase the number of parish wards and the split of parish councillors. We are concerned that the allocation of 4 single members may be detrimental to democratic representation in the event of a vacancy or incapacity of the single member.

We hope that the commission will review its proposals and consider merging the Warfield and Warfield Park to become a two-member ward, and to amalgamate the Quelm ward, should the commission review its borough warding arrangements.

The council therefore proposes that the allocation of parish wards be:

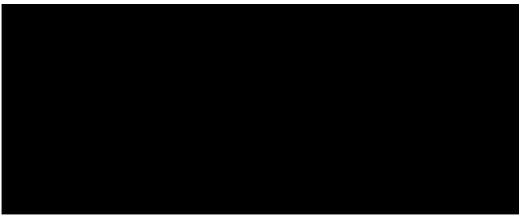
| Parish ward | Number of parish councillors |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Priory & Quelm | 2 |
| St Michaels | 3 |
| Warfield & Warfield Park | 2 |
| Whitegrove | 6 |

Conclusion

The council hopes that the minor adjustments contained in this submission can be accommodated to deliver improved democratic representation locally. Quelm Park is an integral part of the Warfield community.

We have noted that this consultation period ends on 7 September and that the LGBCE can decide to extend or carry out further consultation should it be felt necessary. We hope the commission will carry out further consultation following the responses from this period so that the residents of Warfield and Bracknell Forest can review the proposed arrangements before the commission makes its final recommendations.

Yours sincerely



Jason Mawer

Parish Clerk