

Easthampstead and Wildridings Community Association

Registered Charity Number 300125

Local Government Boundary Commission for England

e-mail:- reviews@lgbce.org.uk

3rd September 2020

Dear Sir

Submission on Future Warding of Bracknell Forest Council

We were approached by local residents of both Old Bracknell and Wildridings Wards to hold a public meeting to discuss the proposed changes to both of these Wards. It is particularly important as many residents did not receive any notification of the Boundary Review and proposals. This was issued by Bracknell Forest Council on 21st August 2020 but only on line. We do not know how many people were affected by this communication failure.

We wish to comment on the following issues-

Old Bracknell Ward

- 1) Proposed transfer of 3 roads - Finmere, Gainsborough and Greenham Wood into Birch Hill
 - 2) Transfer of North Lake and recreation area into Birch Hill
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- 1) Finmere, Gainsborough and Greenham Wood are an integral part of Old Bracknell and the residents are fully involved in all local Community and leisure activities as well as regular users of the shopping and other facilities within the Ward. The roads are off Ringmead which has long been the recognised boundary between the Wards of Birch Hill and Hanworth with Old Bracknell. The residents do not wish to be part of Birch Hill.
 - 2) Although no proposal exists in respect North Lake and Recreation ground which are an integral part of Old Bracknell (Easthampstead), there is a move by Hanworth and Birch Hill Cllrs for this to be also included in the transfer of the 3 roads above.

North Lake is seen as an integral part of the community, there are no houses in that area so it makes zero difference in elector numbers and our residents see this as meddling. Hanworth and Birch Hill already have 7 play areas. This

recreational field and lake is integral to Easthampstead which only has 1 play area and this area contains the Easthampstead Play Area and much of the green space in the Ward. If this transfer is allowed to take place, and with Easthampstead joining up with most of Wildridings, this will seriously create a significant imbalance of green space, leaving Old Bracknell with just 22.7 acres plus 35.64 in Wildridings, whilst Birch Hill will have 50.345 acres and Hanworth 33.82. Easthampstead already has one of the lowest green space, and play areas in Bracknell Forest Borough.

In making a general comment, the transfer of the 3 roads and North Lake, it is being claimed by Birch Hill and Hanworth Cllrs that their residents are saying that these areas should be part of Birch Hill especially as they consider it to be part of South Hill Park complex. It appears that they are dictating to Old Bracknell residents on which Ward they should be in and ignoring their wishes! Much comment is being related to the South Hill Arts Centre that is in the Borough Ward of Hanworth & Birch Hill.

Historically, the whole area was known as South Hill Park Mansion and Parkland in the Parish of Easthampstead. The Mansion which houses the Arts Centre and Theatre, plus the estates of Birch Hill and Hanworth are built within the Parish of Easthampstead, an area in existence for hundreds of years but abolished in 1974 and broken up with parts going to Bracknell, Crowthorne and Wokingham.

At this meeting 56% of the public were from Old Bracknell, and came from the aforementioned roads in North Lake and they feel that their wishes and concerns are being ignored.

We have taken great care to ensure that the following points were taken into account:-

Reflect community and local authority

Effective and convenient local Government Governance

Deliver equality of representation

Isabel Mattick (Mrs)

Chairman

Margaret Camp (Mrs)

Treasurer

John Camp

Centre Manager