

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND
BRACKNELL FOREST BOROUGH COUNCIL REVIEW 2020

Submission on Draft Recommendations from:



I am a Bracknell resident and elector who has lived in Bullbrook ward since 1988 and would like to make the following comments on the June 2020 report that contains your draft proposals for the review.

I support the draft proposals for the following wards:

Crowthorne

Owlsmoor & College Town

Sandhurst

Hanworth

Great Hollands

I also support the draft proposals for the following wards, except for a suggested change of name as stated below:

Binfield South with Jennett's Hill

Easthampstead & Wildridings

I should like to suggest alternative proposals for the remaining areas.

I particularly support the proposed Crowthorne ward which would become coterminous with the Crowthorne Parish boundaries; and also the unification of the two Great Hollands wards and the separation of the established Great Hollands community from the newer development of Jennett's Park.

I also support the proposals for Binfield South with Jennett's Hill, except feel strongly that this should be named Binfield South with Jennett's Park, as Jennett's Park is the established name for the area. A ward that crosses the A329M approach road is not ideal, but this seems to be the best way of combining Jennett's Park with the adjoining Wykery Copse area south of the motorway link, and also separating the distinctive Jennett's Park and Great Hollands estates whilst still retaining electoral equality.

I also support the proposal for Easthampstead & Wildridings but would suggest that a better name would be Old Bracknell & Wildridings, as this retains two existing ward names for the area.

Easthampstead is an historic name that no longer has much recognition in terms of area identity, whereas Old Bracknell is a better known description and indeed is retained in your proposals for the Bracknell Town Council wards (p28).

My three alternative warding proposals relate to the proposed Central Bracknell, Bullbrook and The Parks, and Harmanswater & Crown Wood wards; to Priestwood & Garth and the two Warfield wards; and to the arrangement of the two proposed Winkfield wards.

I appreciate the idea of treating the town centre area as a single community, particularly as there is much ongoing new residential development there. But I also consider that a single member ward would not help good governance in a unitary authority like Bracknell Forest and therefore would support the proposal to combine the town centre area with The Parks estate, which is adjacent to the town centre and is a relatively self-contained new estate. This would be a 2 member ward with the suggested name of Town Centre and The Parks, again utilising the names you suggest for the equivalent Bracknell Town Council wards (polling districts BLP and BT). Bullbrook ward, with other less major amendments mentioned below would also become a 2 member ward and retain its existing name.

I think the draft proposal to include the western part of Quelm Park in the Priestwood & Garth ward emphasises electoral equality over community interests. I would argue that Quelm Park has no connection or mutual interest with Priestwood & Garth; whereas Priestwood & Garth looks naturally towards the town centre, as one of the first estates of the New Town, the newer Quelm Park is more strongly associated with Warfield (primary schools and the local Tesco supermarket) and has no road connection with Priestwood & Garth – the ancient Quelm Lane which runs northwards from Garth is only a footpath these days.

To achieve electoral equality within the 10% variance I would propose:

1) Quelm Park west of Warfield Road (retaining the boundary you suggest to split Quelm) should be part of a 3 member Binfield North & Warfield ward, which would include the area of Binfield as proposed in your draft plus the rest of Warfield Parish, including Warfield Park, but excluding the eastern remainder of the Quelm Park polling district (WQ) and the rest of the existing Warfield Harvest Ride ward (polling districts WE and WG), which together I would propose should form a new compact 2 member Warfield Whitegrove ward.

2) To compensate for the loss of part of Quelm, Priestwood & Garth would acquire most of the 3 'triangles' currently in Bullbrook, which the draft proposals would transfer to Warfield East (the proposed Lynwood & Priory Bracknell Town Council ward). I would propose however that the southern third triangle, around The Elms recreation ground, be split, the boundary running eastward from Warfield Road along the northern boundary of The Elms recreation ground and south of the houses in the roads to the south off Holly Spring Lane. So Holly Spring Lane itself and the existing Bullbrook roads to the north (Lynwood Chase, Priory Lane, etc), plus Westbrook Gardens, Kenilworth Close, Flint Grove and Spring Meadow to the south would transfer to Priestwood & Garth, whilst the whole of Park Road, Ellenborough Close and Dashwood Close would remain in Bullbrook. Although some residents in roads to the south of Holly Spring Lane have expressed a preference for being in a Warfield ward, these and the roads in the Lynwood Chase area are well established areas within Bracknell Town and I think have more in common with the roads to the west of Warfield Road in eastern Garth around Folders Lane than they do with the newer developments of

Quelm and Whitegrove. Similarly, Park Road and the roads off it look more towards Bullbrook and the town centre and have no connection with either Warfield or Garth.

3) My final proposal involving Bullbrook concerns the small area you identify as Scott's Hill, which I consider is best kept in the Harmanwater ward as at present, as it has more in common with the Drovers Way/Calfridus Way area and the London Road forms a natural boundary here. This is my only proposed amendment to the new Harmanwater & Crown Wood ward, which I otherwise support.

My final proposed amendment concerns the two Winkfield wards. Whilst I support the draft recommendations to separate the estates of Martins Heron, The Warren and Forest Park from the Bracknell Town areas and include them within one of two Winkfield Parish wards, I would merely suggest that a simpler solution would be to combine these three 1980s estates on the fringes of Bracknell, which have much in common with each other, in a compact suburban 2 member ward, named Martins Heron & Forest Park (polling districts WV and WW). The remainder of Winkfield Parish (polling districts WS, WX, WY and WZ) would combine in a mostly rural 3 councillor 'Winkfield' ward, with the more urban area of North Ascot and Chavey Down in its centre. This would not only be administratively simpler but would unite areas with a communal interest more satisfactorily.

The electoral forecasts for 2025, as far as I can estimate them from published figures, for my proposed revised wards would be as follows:

Priestwood & Garth, 3 councillors, 6902, -8.11%

Binfield North and Warfield, 3 councillors, 8046, +7.11%

Warfield Whitegrove, 2 councillors, 5215, +4.03%

Bullbrook, 2 councillors, 5385, +7.55%

Harmanwater & Crown Wood, 3 councillors, 6970, -7.23%

Town Centre and The Parks, 2 councillors, 4816, -3.83%

Martins Heron & Forest Park, 2 councillors, 4775, -4.63%

Winkfield, 3 councillors, 7832, +4.27%

Total: 15 wards, 11 x 3 councillors, 4 x 2 councillors = 41 councillors