

Bracknell Forest Borough Council

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Organisation Name:

Comment text:

Thank you for advising us the "Report" on Local Government's Draft Recommendations on new Electoral Arrangements for Bracknell Forest Council had been published. In general, we support the proposed Ward Boundary changes contained in the "Report" which recognises the importance of avoiding splitting local communities. This principle was followed through in the following statements and changes - "We do not consider that placing the area south of Lower Broadmoor Road within a Wildmoor & Owlsmoor ward reflects the interests of local communities or provides for effective and convenient local government, particularly given the geographic composition of the area and Crowthorne's separation from surrounding towns in Bracknell Forest." The same principle of avoiding splitting communities was also followed in moving nearby electors from Byron Drive, Chaucer Road, and the Wellington College area into the Crowthorne Ward. However, the principle was not applied to Edgbarrow Cottage which is still shown located just outside the Crowthorne Boundary. This may have been due to the Commission having to rely on a detailed "virtual tour" in determining draft boundary recommendation and Edgbarrow Cottage being hard to spot on maps We now propose that the principle of avoiding splitting communities is followed by moving the Crowthorne Ward boundary south by a small distance in this area to include Edgbarrow Cottage. Reasons for the Proposed Change:- 1) Edgbarrow Cottage is the oldest property in Crowthorne and is located within comfortable walking distance of Crowthorne village and Parish Council office. The closest neighbours are in Crowthorne, whereas the nearest properties and facilities in Sandhurst are further away. Sandhurst Council Offices are over a mile and a half away by road and Owlsmoor is further away still. 2). The property is located at the southern edge of Crowthorne close to Wildmoor Heath. The space between Crowthorne and Sandhurst is a Strategic Green Gap of woodland and protected heathland. There are no properties located on Wildmoor Heath. 3) Our family closely identifies with Crowthorne, we have many connections and shared interests there. We use the local facilities and actively serve the Crowthorne community through which we are known to Parish Councillors members. Geographical separation means that there is no equivalent connection with Sandhurst or our elected representatives. 4) The property has an RG45 postcode which aligns with Crowthorne Parish whereas the rest of Sandhurst has a GU postcode. A sensible change would be for the southern Ward Boundary to be aligned with the postcode boundary. While we realise that the Report relates to electoral Ward rather than parish boundaries, we believe the same reasoning applies.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded