

Meredeen, Ben

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 07 August 2020 16:19
To: reviews
Subject: Electoral Review of Bracknell Forest Borough Council - Draft Recommendations
Attachments: Boundary Review comments 6th Aug fnl.docx
Categories: Submissions

For the attention of Alexandra Jones Review Officer

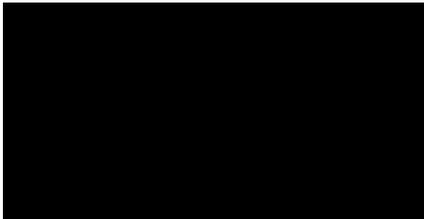
Dear Alexandra Jones,

Please find attached our representation and proposed change to one of the recommendations in the above draft report.

If you require any further information or clarification please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

[REDACTED]



6th August 2020

Dear Sirs,

**Local Government Boundary Commission
Electoral Review of Bracknell Forest Council
Draft Recommendations**

Thank you for letter dated 30th June advising 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 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 was also applied in moving nearby electors from Byron Drive, Chaucer Road, and the Wellington College area into the Crowthorne Ward to avoid splitting communities.

However, this same criteria has not been applied to Edgbarrow Cottage which is still shown located just outside the Crowthorne Boundary in the Wildmoor & Owlsmoor Ward.

Paragraph 36 of the “Report” states that restrictions due to Covid 19 meant the Commission had to rely on a detailed “virtual tour” in determining draft boundary recommendation. Edgbarrow Cottage is hard to spot on maps and this may have led to the omission.

We propose that the Crowthorne Ward boundary is now moved 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 it is therefore a mystery why it does not sit within the Crowthorne Electoral Ward. This seems to be the ideal opportunity to address this anomaly.
- 2) The property 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 much further away. Sandhurst Council Offices are over a mile and a half away by road and Owlsmoor is further away still.
- 3) Our family closely identifies with Crowthorne, we have many friends living there and shared interests. We use the local facilities and actively serve the Crowthorne community through which we are known to Parish Councillors members. Geographical separation means that we have no equivalent connection with Sandhurst or our elected representatives.
- 4) Our address has an RG45 postcode which aligns with Crowthorne Parish whereas the rest of Sandhurst has a GU postcode. It would therefore make sense for the Ward Boundary to be brought into line with the postcode boundary. While we realise that the Report relates to electoral Ward rather than parish boundaries, we believe the same reasoning applies.
- 5).Edgbarrow Cottage 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, so moving the Crowthorne Ward boundary slightly south to include Edgbarrow Cottage would not impact other householders.

Yours Sincerely,

