

Bracknell Forest

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Comment text:

Submission from councillors of Harmans Water ward attached.

Uploaded Documents:

https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1584042448_Bfbdyshw20.pdf

Bracknell Forest ward boundaries review by Local Government Boundaries Commission for England

Local information submission from councillors of Harmans Water ward, Bracknell Forest Council

The Bracknell Forest ward of Harmans Water, Bracknell, covers an area to the south-east of Bracknell town centre. The information below is submitted to help in decisions regarding future warding of Bracknell Forest, the intention being to ensure any changes:

Deliver electoral equality for local voters

Minimise changes to existing ward boundaries

We are aware that the Commission is minded to recommend a Council size of 40 members, with each councillor representing 2537 electors. Forecast electorate for Harmans Water for 2025 is 7705 electors: 3×2537 is 7611, so a variance of 94 or +1.23 per cent for a 3-member ward.

Reflect the interests and identities of local communities

Promote convenient and effective local government

For both of these, full evidence is set out below.

We believe there are significant shared interests across the ward, but with strong individual identities for Harmans Water, Martin's Heron and The Warren, and the Parks.

Harmans Water

Harmans Water councillors

Cllr Isabel Mattick, first elected 1976, councillor for Harmans Water since 2015.

Cllr Ash Merry, first elected as councillor for Harmans Water 2015.

Cllr Chris Turrell, first elected for the previous Harmans water ward 2000, councillor for the present ward since 2003.

Harmans Water ward comprises Harmans Water, a new town neighbourhood built in the early 1960s; The Parks, built in 2007-19 (also pre-1950s housing north of The Parks, accessed from Broad Lane); Martin's Heron and The Warren, built 1980s. Harmans Water and The Parks are in the Bracknell Town Council area, Martin's Heron and The Warren are in that of Winkfield Parish Council.

The community hub in Harmans Water comprises Harmans Water shops (pharmacy, newsagent, food store, barbers, hairdressers, fish and chip shop, Chinese takeaway, Indian takeaway), St Paul's Church, and Harmans Water Library. The shops are used by residents for local shopping, the catering outlets get trade from a wider area. The pharmacy is used by people from all areas in the ward. St. Paul's Church is also used by community groups, and is the venue for our monthly surgeries, which have been taking place for many years, and are attended by residents from all parts of the ward.

Harmans Water Primary School is close to Harmans Water shops, and is attended by children from all areas in the ward. The library is used in conjunction with the school by some, and used by residents from all parts of the ward. There are a number of special interest groups from all parts of the ward who use and meet regularly in the library. On the

school site is the Swimarium, a swimming pool used by Harmans Water and other local primary schools. They also run swimming lessons for other local children. There is also a gym on the site.

The road and pavement under the railway (Ralphs Ride) is a well-used link to the Calfridus Way area of the ward.

The community hub in The Parks is The Parks Community Centre. Tennis courts and a multi-use games area adjoin it, and sports pitches are to be installed on the large green area to the south and south-east of The Parks Community Centre.

The community hub in Martin's Heron is Tesco Bracknell Martin's Heron, associated shops, Martin's Heron and The Warren Community Centre,. Nearby is Martin's Heron railway station, with trains to Reading and London Waterloo, and intervening stations. Tesco provides shopping facilities and employment for residents from all areas of the ward, many of whom walk or cycle across the ward. They also use these means to get to the station.

Buses: 4 to Bracknell bus station, Wokingham and Reading stops on Bagshot Road; 156 town circular serves Harmans Water and The Parks; 171/2 south Bracknell circular serves Harmans Water evenings and weed-ends; 194 to Bracknell and Camberley stops on Bagshot Road; 702 to Windsor and London stops on London Road; 703 to Windsor and Heathrow Terminal 5 stops on London Road. The X94, to Frimley Park Hospital and Heatherwood Hospital, stops on Harmans Water Road and Ralphs Ride. Residents will walk some distance to bus stops, and greater distances to railway stations.

Rail: Residents from The Parks and Broad Lane area tend to use Bracknell station. Residents from Harmans Water, Calfridus Way area and Martin's Heron and The Warren use Martin's Heron station. In both cases, they walk across the ward to the relevant station.

Doctors: Waterfield practice, Ralphs Ride. Used by residents from all parts of the ward, often in conjunction with the pharmacists at Harmans Water shops.

Green spaces: Harmans Water playing fields join up with The Parks playing fields, and are well used for recreation and a walking route for schoolchildren. Gledwood allotments are nearby. Calfridus Way playing fields. Allsmoor Field in Martin's Heron is used by residents from Harmans Water, Martin's Heron and The Warren, and further afield. It has a play area, outdoor gym equipment, and Saturday pre-school football training takes place there. Bog Lane play area, The Warren, is used by local residents.

Youth facilities: The Wayz in Calfridus Way comprises four youth clubs totalling approximately 150 members. They are for junior, intermediate and senior age groups, and one for learning disabilities. They cover all parts of the ward, and beyond.

In summary, there are strong links between Harmans Water, The Parks, Martin's Heron and The Warren for schools, employment, shopping, doctors/pharmacy, community groups and transport.

Isabel Mattick, Ash Merry, Chris Turrell
Councillors for Harmans Water, Bracknell Forest Council

13 March 2020