

Bracknell Forest Borough Council

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Comment text:

Dear Sirs, Please find attached the response from the Bracknell Conservative Association to the Commissioner's proposal. Yours faithfully Chairman Bracknell Conservative Association

Uploaded Documents:

https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1599316808_BCA+LGBC+Response+-+04092020.pdf



10 Milbanke Court, Milbanke Way, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1RP

Review Officer for Bracknell Forest
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London. SW1H 0TL

6th September 2020

Dear Sir,

The Bracknell Conservative Association [BCA] endorses and supports the proposals and comments of the Bracknell Forest Council in response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England [LGBCE] Draft Consultation published on 30th June 2020, which is due to be approved by Bracknell Forest Council on the 9th September 2020.

The working group of the Bracknell Conservative Association is drawn from the officers and members of the association and represents over 500 residents and has met on numerous occasions to consider a response to the consultation on behalf of its membership and the wider community. The BCA working group has carefully examined the original proposal from Bracknell Forest Council and the subsequent draft proposals from the LGBCE. BCA has worked to ensure that the principles for the review as laid down by LGBCE were considered at all stages.

In considering how the ward pattern has been proposed, BCA has worked to ensure that:

- Where it is possible, there is electoral equality.
- The pattern of wards does, as far as possible, reflect the interests and identities of local communities.
- The electoral arrangements provide for effective and convenient local government.

Having undertaken a detailed review of the LGBCE draft recommendations it was decided to fully endorse the proposals made by Bracknell Forest Council. In so doing BCA does wish to draw the attention of the LGBCE to four small, but nonetheless important change requests.

1. BCA, working with Ward Councillors for the current Crown Wood and Forest Park Ward, and taking into account the extensive residents' feedback they have received, is recommending that the ward be called "Swinley Park" rather than "Winkfield South" (as proposed in the LGBCE draft of the 30th June) because this more closely identifies with both the geographic area and local identity.
2. That "Winkfield North" should be named "Winkfield and Cranbourne" as this also closely identifies the geographic areas and most importantly the existing local naming of communities.
3. That the commission amend the proposed ward boundary of "Great Hollands" and "Binfield South and Jennetts Park" so that the whole of the playing field at Easthampstead Park Community School is in the proposed "Great Hollands" ward.

4. That the Commission make a final determination during its site visits as to the appropriate boundary between the wards of 'Hanworth' and 'Easthampstead and Wildridings' in respect of the park area within South Hill Park around North Lake and North Field up to South Hill Road.

BCA recognises that the LGBCE has considered the planned housing development in Bracknell Forest up to 2025. However, in finalising its response, BCA would like to draw the attention of the LGBCE to the current Government White Papers on Planning. If the government adopts the proposals on the October 2nd, it will mean a 31% increase in the proposed housing numbers for Bracknell Forest with immediate effect which equates to more than 2,000 additional homes NOT already included in the Draft Local Plan.

This would mean that in all likelihood Bracknell Forest Council would need to revisit sites that had been previously rejected by the Council for inclusion in its draft local plan, in order to achieve the significant increase in housing numbers required. The impact, and its relevance to this process, is that the current growth numbers as the base of this review, do NOT include this potential significant uplift and that there will be a significant acceleration in the number of electors across Bracknell Forest as a whole and in certain wards in particular. This would mean that during the period of this review, there would be a significant increase in the disparity of electoral equality.

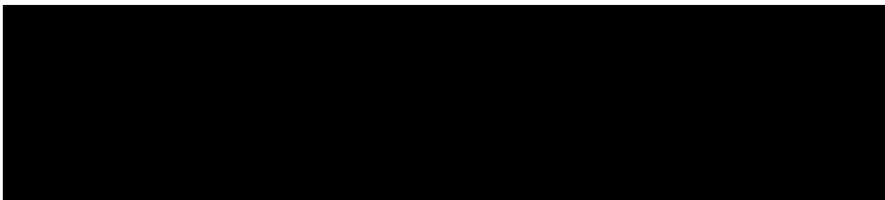
For example:

- Proposed Town Centre Ward: – 300+ extra homes
- Sandhurst: 5-600 extra homes
- Proposed Winkfield South / Swinley Park ward could see 900 - 1,200 additional homes and 1,800 - 2,400 electors added, which is not part of this review
- Winfield North / Winkfield and Cranbourne: – could see an additional 1,500 - 2,000 homes and 3,000 - 4,000 electors added.

There are a number of other sites around the borough that having been previously excluded, are likely to have to be included in the local plan if the council is to meet its suggested new housing numbers set by the government.

We look forward to receiving your considered final response on the 1st December 2020.

Yours faithfully



Gerard Barber

Chairman

Bracknell Conservative Association