

Bracknell Forest Borough Council

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Comment text:

This submission has been written by Councillors Marc Brunel-Walker, Colin Dudley, and Suki Hayes, who are the 3 existing Ward Councillors for Crown Wood and Forest Park on behalf of the residents of Crown Wood and Forest Park. We have extensively consulted with residents on multiple occasions via online drop-in sessions. One meeting had engagement with over 540 people. This submission has therefore, has been written, informed and influenced by the views of 138 Residents that specifically gave us feedback and by the sentiment and opinions expressed by others who on the online meetings and door-to-door conversations since this phase of the Process. This submission is the summary of ALL the updates that we have received from our residents and we ask that in considering its content, you take into account the number of residents that we have engaged with and who have provide updates.

Uploaded Documents:

[Download \(https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1599487612_Response+to+LGBCE+Review.pdf\)](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1599487612_Response+to+LGBCE+Review.pdf)

**Written by Cllr Marc Brunel-Walker, Cllr Suki Hayes, Cllr Colin Dudley – Ward
Councillors for Crown Wood and Forest Park**

On behalf of the Residents of Crown Wood and Forest Park Ward

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

7th September 2020

Dear Sir,

This submission has been written by Councillors Marc Brunel-Walker, Colin Dudley, and Suki Hayes, who are the 3 existing Ward Councillors for Crown Wood and Forest Park on behalf of the residents of Crown Wood and Forest Park.

The evidence, information, views, and proposals are the direct result of feedback gathered from residents. In as much as we have written the final version – the views expressed are firmly the view of residents that we, as their elected representatives are submitting to you on their behalf

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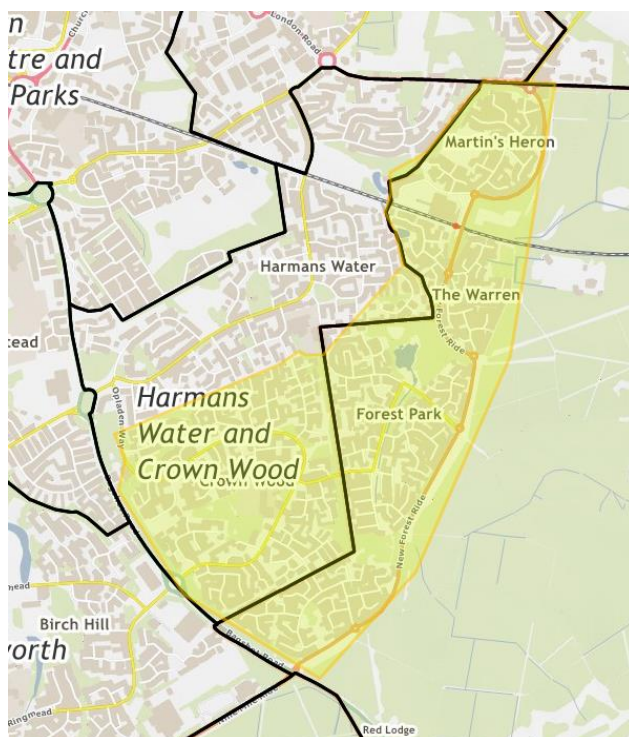
Views of the Residents:

- 1. Majority of residents do NOT support the proposal to merge Crown Wood and Harmans Water and Forest Park, Martins Heron, and the Warren – only 2 supported it**
- 2. Residents of Crown Wood and Forest Park identify themselves as ONE neighbourhood with one identity**
- 3. Residents of Crown Wood do NOT identify as a Neighbourhood or Community with Harmans Water**
- 4. There is no socio-economic or geographic connection with the proposed area of the ward alongside Swinley Road**
- 5. Residents supported the original Council recommendation which retained Crown Wood and Forest Park but added The Warren to the Ward**
- 6. As a Counter proposal – Residents backs the principal of making the Ward Crown Wood, Forest Park, Martins Heron, and The Warren as the grouping – and calling it Swinley Park This would**

give 8800 resident and 2700 voters per member based on 3 members. Residents actively supported this view. You could balance the numbers by reducing Harmans Water to a 2 member ward, and by incorporating the area adjacent to Swinley Road into Winkfield and Cranbourne {the ward you have named as Winkfield North]

The Current proposal for Winkfield South gives a figure per elector of 2593 so the difference democratically is very small

a. The ward would like this:



b.

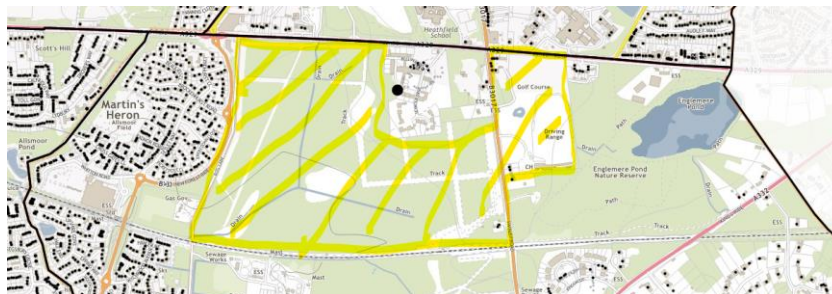
7. Residents expressed major concerns over a reduction in the number of Councillors from 3 to 2. As an area with relatively high deprivation – there were concerns, supported by Borough Councillors, that there would simply be too much casework for 2 Councillors to manage.
8. **If the commission is minded adopting its proposed area, we urge them to consider making the ward 3 members rather than 2 to better serve residents.** Whilst the Commission is obviously working to the metrics of representation we strongly believe, and this is backed up by the extensive case work that we receive [where the majority actually comes from Forest Park rather than Crown Wood] the for **equality of representation and democracy**, AND because of the **high volume of case work**, that the commission should look to maintain this as a 3 Member ward.
 - i) The challenge is further complicated by a change in government policy that will see Bracknell Forest Council increase its housing delivery by 30% in excess of 200-2500 new homes
 - ii) The Impact, and its relevance to the 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. **Which would mean that during the period for this review, there would be a significant increase in the disparity of electoral equality**

- iii) These sites had previously not been included in the local plan, but IF our Current draft plan fails – or if Jeallot’s Hill Garden Village is rejected then we would likely have to find more spaces and the first 3 are on this list which would form part of the proposed new Ward are likely to be included – which would increase the housing number by 900-1300 Homes post 2023

(1) Site Ref WINK22	713-1100 Dwellings and 60 Bed Care Home
(2) Site Ref WINK23	80-100 Dwellings
(3) Site Ref WINK24	100+ Dwellings
(4) Site Ref WINK25	5-10 Dwellings
(5) Site Ref WINK26	17 Dwellings and 60 bed care homes
(6) Site Ref WINK27	20 Dwellings

7) Residents also do not like the proposed name which they considered “insulting”. It further shows that Winkfield Parish Council do not understand the area. If the change happens as proposed – then they prefer the ward be called **SWINLEY PARK** rather than Winkfield South. Winkfield South is a meaningless description and residents suggested it sounded more like a Motorway Service Station! Swinley Park is the name of the area on Google Maps and is very appropriate for the area. Further it was suggested that WINKFIELD NORTH be renamed as WINKFIELD & CRANBOURNE more closely reflecting the community identity

- i) The area in hatched yellow would be a possible new housing area that would form part of the Ward you are proposing at Winkfield South



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Marc Brunel-Walker,

Suki Hayes,

Colin Dudley

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Ward Councillors for Crown Wood and Forest Park

Headline callouts – Claims by Winkfield Parish Council in previous submissions from them.

Whilst many of these points do not specifically relate to the proposed Warding , it is important nonetheless that we address many of the spurious claims of the Parish Council, in previous submissions and we ask that you take this into account when considering their submission.

1. It appears that your proposed grouping for the Ward considered great weight of the Winkfield Parish Council submission which was contained misleading and incorrect information.
2. Residents that we have consulted do not accept in any way the unfounded and unevidenced claims by Winkfield Parish Council that “residents of Forest Park are not well served by Parish Councillors” and we consider this is further evidence that Winkfield Parish Council simply does not understand the area it claims it represents so well
3. The Borough Councillors have attempted repeatedly to engage with both the Parish Council and the local Parish Councillors during this process and attempted to arrange a public live stream meeting with the Parish Councillors for Forest Park.
4. The last response from the Clerk of Winkfield Parish Council indicated that Ward Councillors are not allowed to talk “on behalf” of the Parish Council, would not be able to talk about the WPC Submission and would not be able to participate in planned meeting with residents if we, as normal for our meetings, wanted to livestream the meeting and invite questions from the Public –
5. There have been NO elections for Winkfield Parish Council for many election cycles and we have been unable to find any instances of case work being dealt with solely by the Parish Council - The Parish Council currently has 5 vacancies which is a vacancy rate of 31%
6. Winkfield Parish Council has one vacancy for the Ward since 2019 and attempts to advertise the vacancy where poor. The Chairman of the Council and a ward member for part of the new ward, who has not responded to ANY of our emails since 2019 has now resigned leaving another vacancy
7. We have tried on more than 35 occasions over the last 10 years to get Parish Councillors involved. They prefer to do their own thing and not engage with us.
8. The only public engagement they offer is via the AGM of the Council once per year.
9. We have furthermore requested a full governance review of Winkfield Parish Council as the proposed area would be represented by 7-8 Parish Councillors and only 2 Borough Councillors
10. We are also currently dealing with multiple complaints from residents about the way that Winkfield Parish Council has managed its affairs during the Pandemic – with an “executive” being appointed to manage the finances, meetings cancelled, incorrect times of meetings being published, times change without notification etc. These complaints have been passed to the Borough Solicitor for investigation.
11. At our final residents meetings with Parish Councillors, there were attempts to change the meeting times, and a statement from the Clerk telling us that they couldn’t speak on behalf

of the Council, and would not be able to make any comments about the Parish Councils Submission or its contents. And it “wasn’t appropriate” to livestream the meeting to residents. On the Call – Councillors has clearly been briefed to NOT give ANY comments or views.

12. Councillors and Consulted residents do not accept understand the claims by Winkfield Parish Council, who by their own admission are concerned over the potential loss of Precept - Residents where in fact angry at the false claims and believe they are very well represented. The did however state they are NOT well served by Winkfield Parish Council and are poorly represented by both Winkfield Parish Council and its Councillors.
13. 20% of the Precept for WPC comes from Forest Park, 35% in comes from Martins Heron, The Warren and Forest Park - Winkfield Parish Council is unable or unwilling to demonstrate to residents HOW their precept is spent in Forest Park – of the Residents consulted none could name any financial spend by the Parish in the Ward, apart from a Christmas Tree. We, on behalf of residents, have been repeatedly denied a summary on how much of the precept is spent in the Ward
14. The claims by WPC that residents are “well served” because of bike ride, arts week and gardens tours are spurious at best – as these are open to all residents of Bracknell Forest and beyond.
15. Many of the comments have been the presumption that they were part of Bracknell Town Council and not Winkfield Parish Council
16. Forest Park Community Centre is extremely well run keeping its fees low for the benefit of the community. The Borough Councillors do NOT support the Transfer of either Forest Park Community Centre or Savernake Park to Winkfield Parish Council
17. WPC have implied that any review to remove residents from WPC would exclude them from taking part in WPC activities – this claim is false and without merit.

Marc Brunel-Walker.

Suki Hayes.

Colin Dudley

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