

**Hanworth and Birch Hill Councillors
Bracknell Forest Council
Bracknell Town Council**

6th September 2020
The Review Officer (Bracknell Forest)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0TL

Hanworth Councillors' boundary review submission

Dear Sir

The Hanworth Councillors are pleased to present evidence in support of their submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England which requests the boundary between Hanworth and the new ward of Easthampstead and Wildridings be redrawn to include the area of South Hill Park known as North Lake and North Lake field within the new Hanworth ward. We are also supportive of the Borough Councils draft proposals.

We have been mindful of the commission's criteria covering electoral equality, community identity and efficient and convenient local government:

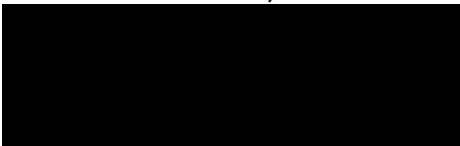
There are at this time no electors in the area for our proposed changes so there is no effect on electoral equality.

The proposals we make clearly reflect the interests and identity of our local community.

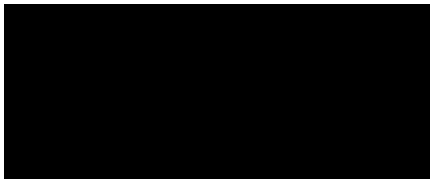
The proposed changes provide for improved and more effective and convenient local government.

We look forward to receiving the final decision of the commission on the 1st December.

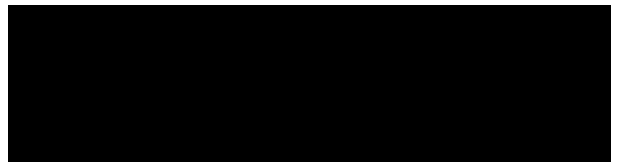
Yours sincerely



Cllr Gill Birch
Hanworth Borough Councillor
Birch Hill Town Councillor



Cllr Anna Kempster
Hanworth Town Councillor



Cllr Mike Gibson
Hanworth Borough Councillor
Birch Hill Town Councillor



Cllr Michael Skinner
Hanworth Borough Councillor
Hanworth Town Councillor

September 2020

Proposal for the adjustment of Hanworth Ward boundary.

This proposal is made by the Hanworth Ward Councillors of Bracknell Forest Borough Council and the Hanworth and Birch Hill Ward Councillors of Bracknell Town Council.

The Local Government Boundary Commissions draft recommendations for Bracknell Forest has adjusted the boundary for the Hanworth Ward to include the roads of Greenham Wood, Gainsborough and Finmere, which had previously been within the Old Bracknell Ward. The Commission's recommendation for this change has been fully supported by Bracknell Forest Council and Bracknell Town Council's own Working Groups. It is also fully supported by the Hanworth Borough and Town Councillors.

The purpose of the following evidence is to seek the further adjustment of the boundary line for the Hanworth Ward to include the area of South Hill Park called North Lake, North field, and the surrounding park area Appendix A shows the requested new boundary line. This is the area comprising the actual lake and surrounding park land and play area to the east of the additional area added by the Commission to the Hanworth Ward and identified in the Commission's recommendations for the Town Council wards as "North Lake Ward" also shown as area M. Paragraph 116 of the Commissions draft recommendations refers. Hanworth Councillors feel that given all the criteria listed below there is also a basic logic to joining South Hill Park's North Lake and surrounding park area with the new North Lake Ward.

We note the commissions comments in paragraph 67 of their draft recommendations and this proposal specifically excludes the communities in Heathmoors, Manston Drive, Longwater Road, Canon Hill, and Lingwood, all of which are accessed from the north and we agree that these communities should remain in the new Easthampstead and Wildridings Ward.

In considering this request for the boundary adjustment we are mindful of the three principles used by the Commission in assessing ward boundaries:

- Equality of representation
- Community interest
- Effective and convenient local government

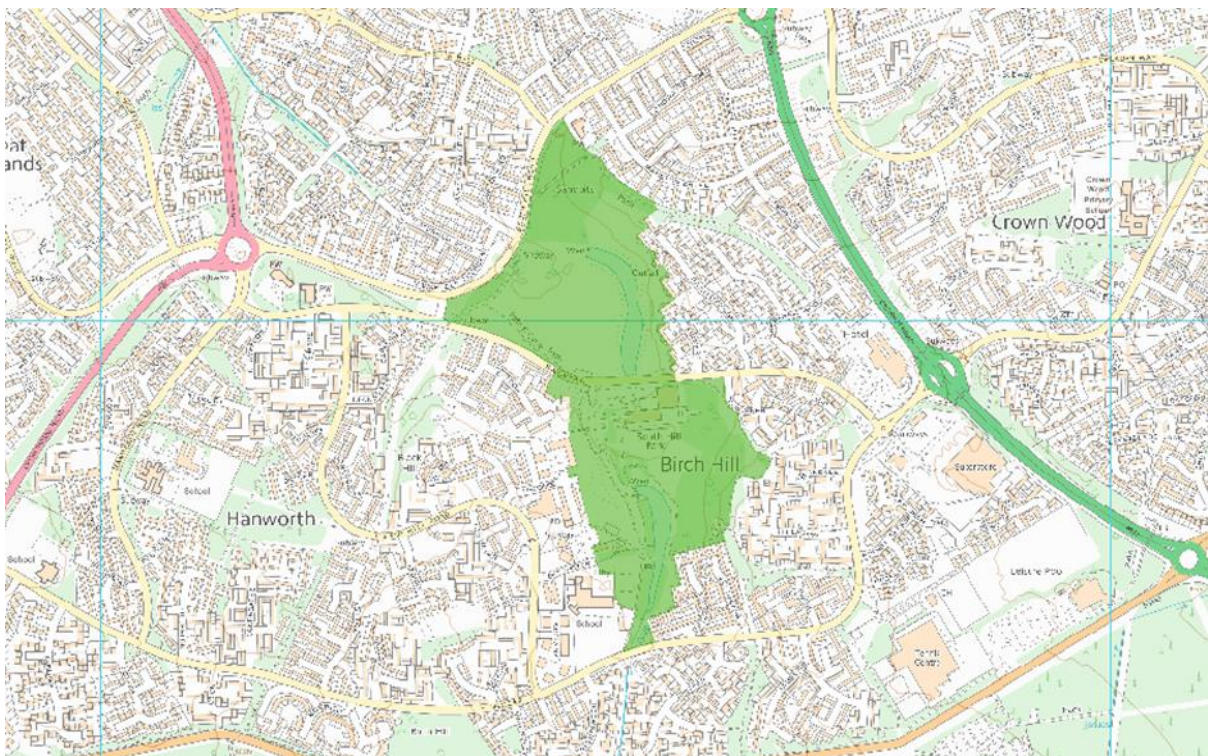
Equality of representation.

The proposed adjustment makes no change to the number of electors currently in both Hanworth and Easthampstead and Wildridings Ward presented in the Commissions draft recommendations, so it complies with the first main criteria of requiring no change to voter equality. The area of North Lake has at this time no voters within it.

However, there is an outstanding planning application lodged with the BFC Planning Department to develop the site known as the Former St Margaret Clitherow Roman Catholic Church, Ringmead, Hanworth. Application No. 20/00077/FUL is for the development of 15No. 1 bed (6) and 2 bed (9) apartments. It is due for determination by the 31st August 2020 and will when approved be built out before the end of 2025. The site is actually just outside the Hanworth boundary and sits in the current Old Bracknell ward. In the event of the site being given permission, which is highly likely, it would produce approximately 30 voters. This is not sufficient to cause any significant imbalance in electoral equality.

Community interest

The proposed adjustment has no adverse impact on the community of Easthampstead and Wildridings as there is no change to their access to the area and they are not being deprived of any amenity value. Local residents around the North Lake area and beyond call the whole area South Hill Park and see it as part of the grounds of the South Hill Park arts centre on the other side of Ringmead. It is often used for events in which South Hill Park arts partners are involved and their car park is used a lot for such activities and the entrance to the park is marked by two road side white stone columns that clearly state that one is entering South Hill Park and South Hill Park lies in Hanworth. The imposing Grade II listed building is also the predominant feature and therefore a point of identity in the area. Evidence is included that shows this point clearly. Google Earth clearly shows the relationship of the Arts Centre to the North Lake field and is particularly apparent when a street view is taken from the South Hill Park entrance pillars. It can be clearly seen that both sides of the road are identified as being South Hill Park. Likewise, Historic England shows the full extent of South Hill Park as below:



A clearer version of this map is available on the Historic England website the link to which is given at Appendix E.

In the event of the aforementioned new development being built at the former St Margaret Clitherow Church the current draft recommendation boundary line would mean this site would be in the new Easthampstead and Wildridings ward. Clearly all community association and identity for this site is with the Hanworth Ward where the shops are just up Birch Hill Road, and The Pines School and Birch Hill School, Library and community centre are a short walk away.

Evidence is also presented at Appendix F to demonstrate that the play area known as South Hill Road play area in the North Lake area is not the only open space, play area or exercise facility available to residents of Easthampstead and Wildridings Ward. Evidence in the form of a link to the South Hill Park leaflet is also presented at Appendix F to show that the South Hill Road play area is an important part of South Hill Park.

Effective and convenient local government

The proposed adjustment will improve effective and convenient local government because it will allow elected members from Hanworth, where the majority of issues, complaints and case work regarding the North Lake area comes from. Bracknell Town Council complaints log supports this point. The Hanworth Councillors own case work shows a significant level of activity generated by residents about activities on the North Lake field.

In particular there is the twice yearly Fair, there is also anti-social behaviour, dog fouling, and swan/wildlife harassment, parking, and tree issues.

Councillors from Hanworth have historically had to deal with complaints from their residents over fairground noise etc. emanating from activities on the North Lake field when in fact the location is in the neighbouring ward. The Councillors in Hanworth have devised a resident notification system whereby they hand-deliver notices to residents advising them when the Fairs are due. Likewise, it was Hanworth Councillors who requested the fair be set up in different locations on the North Lake field each time so that it was not the same residents each time that were adversely impacted.

When a Hanworth Councillor is dealing with a Hanworth resident's complaint about the fair or other matters they have to meet with the fair owners or residents on the North Lake field which requires that they inform/involve the members for Old Bracknell of what is happening and this can add to the time taken to deal with issues. Thus, if the North Lake area were included within the Hanworth Ward then such matters would be dealt with more efficiently and more conveniently for residents, who would only need to deal with one councillor, and members who would not have to include other members in their handling of the issue.

An analysis of resident complaints was provided by the Bracknell Town Council to the Hanworth Councillors and shows the fact that it is often a Hanworth Councillor that is contacted to deal with the issues outlined above and many more. This analysis is of complaints directed predominantly to the Town Council list of complaints although some complaints go directly to the Hanworth Ward Councillors as they are active and well known locally. There were few complaints listed on the Bracknell Town Council complaints list from the Old Bracknell Ward about activities on North Lake.

As the longest serving councillor in Hanworth Cllr Mrs Gill Birch has analysed some of her case work files for case work that has originated from Hanworth residents about issues to do with the North Lake area over the last few years. Individuals are not identified, just the issue raised.

"When are Bracknell Town Council going to do something about rats on North Lake. Yesterday I saw a rat attack and kill a mallard chick on the bank of the lake"

"In the past couple of weeks, I have come across people, locally, openly smoking cannabis in public areas and today two men sitting on a bench at the North lake."

"I enjoy a walk round the North and South lake at SHP on a sunny day like today but was disgusted by litter which seemed to have been left by a young angler and his friends who were not fishing."

"Please note that the unauthorised encampment is in the process of moving from Sandhurst Memorial Park to North Lake at South Hill Park, Bracknell Town Council are currently awaiting the attendance from Thames Valley."

"The issue myself and neighbours are having with the car park over on north lake being used as a meeting point for teenagers to meet and play loud music until late at night."

“Over the course of the last few days I have noticed the generators over at the fair on north lake are running all night until at least when I go to bed (which tends to be 11:30pm). I spoke to a neighbour today and she said they are running all night bothering her as well. Without doubt the generators are noisier and more disturbing than ever before and running a lot later into the night.”

“I thought you should know that the female Swan on North Lake was killed by a dog yesterday”

These are just a few of the many approaches made to just one Hanworth councillor taken from over 190 contacts with Hanworth residents and everyone has had to, and does, receive some form of action and response.

The redrawing of the boundary of Hanworth Ward around the whole of the North Lake area will greatly improve the response to Hanworth residents from their councillors as there will only be one ward responsible for the majority of calls and complaints and deciding who should deal with a matter. This will lead to a more effective and convenient service to local residents and allow Council officers to direct a resident to the most appropriate Councillor to help them.

Summary

In summary, the redrawing of the boundary of Hanworth Ward to include the North Lake area of South Hill Park will have no effect on the Commissions current equality of representation figures. In the event of the planning application at the site of the former St Margaret Clitherow Church going ahead the change to the voter numbers will be minimal. With regards to community interest the evidence presented clearly shows that North Lake area is already regarded as being part of the grounds of South Hill Park arts centre which is in the Hanworth Ward, and if the St Margaret Clitherow site is approved then the voters in that location will identify directly with Hanworth and its local community facilities. The redrawing of the line will not deprive any user of the North Lake facilities, such as the South Hill Road play area to the east as there will be no restriction of access and the Easthampstead and Wildridings Ward has extensive parkland and open spaces as well as well-maintained play areas of their own provided by both the Borough and Town Councils. The redrawing of the line to include the North Lake area in Hanworth will mean a significant improvement in the management of issues emanating from the North Lake field by local Hanworth Councillors who will be able to deal quickly and efficiently with issues without having to liaise with Councillors in another ward first.

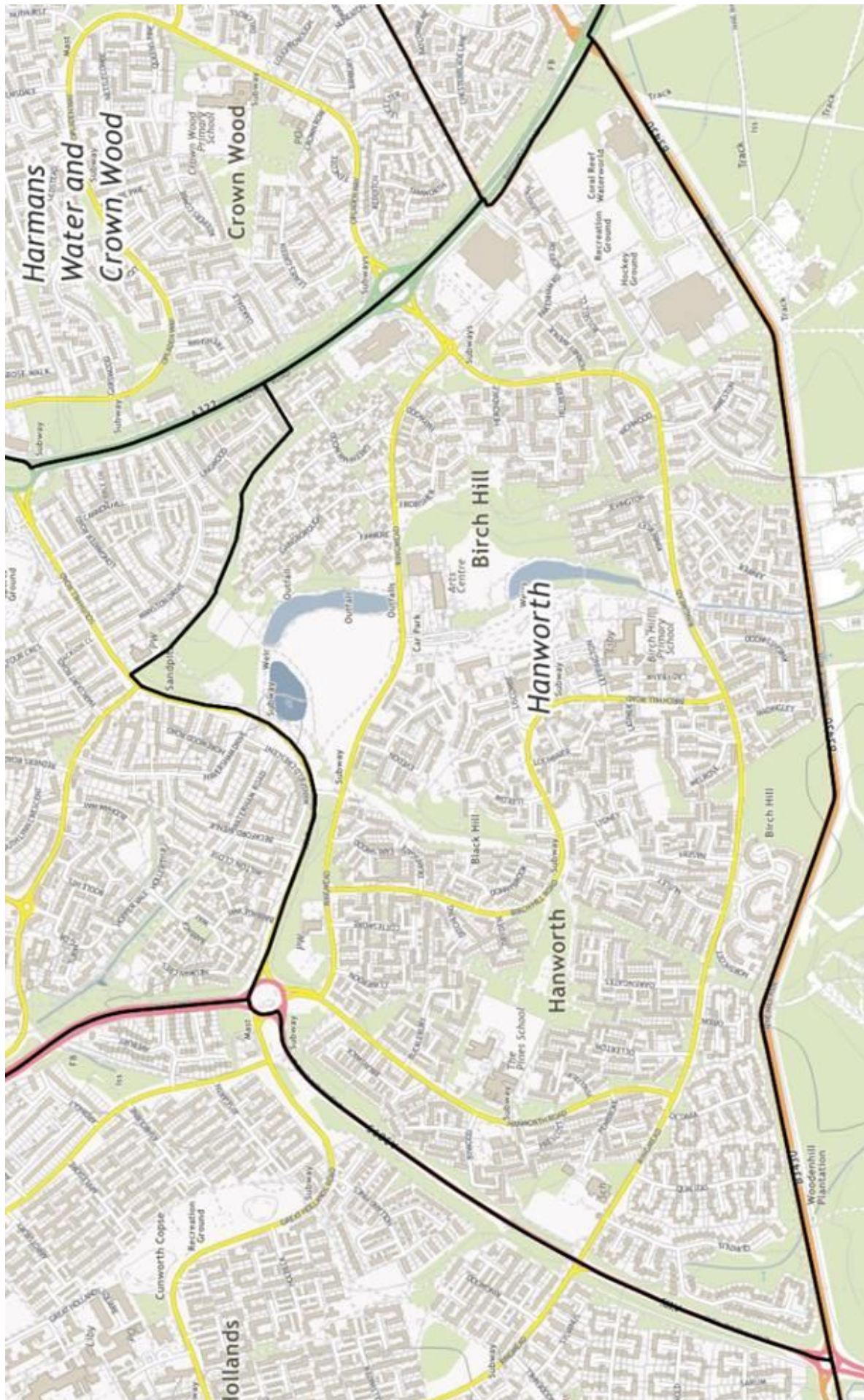
This request by the Hanworth Borough and Town Councillors is supported by the Bracknell Forest Borough Council draft submission as well as local residents.

In support of this request the following appendices are provided.

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|------------|--|
| Appendix A | Plan showing requested change |
| Appendix B | Google Earth picture of North Lake with a fair present. |
| Appendix C | Google Earth picture street view from the entrance to South Hill Park. |
| Appendix D | Google Earth picture of street view from the South Hill Park Arts Centre building towards North Lake. |
| Appendix E | Link to former St Margaret Clitherow Church application. Link to Historic England site with South Hill Park defined. |
| Appendix F | List of available open spaces and play areas within the new Easthampstead and Wildridings ward. Description of the play area hierarchy in South Hill Park. |

Note: All references to Google Earth recognises all copyright.

Appendix A



Appendix B



Appendix C



Appendix D

North Lake from SHP main entrance

Write a description for your map.

Legend
North L



Appendix E

Links to evidence:

St Margaret Clitherow Application.

https://planapp.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/online-applications/files/ADA28392ABC83BC85C8FA3EA3AEF9AC3/pdf/20_00077_FUL-LOCATION_PLAN-3198673.pdf

Historic England website

<https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1000591>

South Hill Park leaflet

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/south-hill-park-leaflet.pdf>

South Hill Park Nature Trail leaflet

<https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/south-hill-park-nature-trail.pdf>

Appendix F

Open spaces available in Easthampstead and Wildridings.

It was stated during a boundary review workshop that there are no play areas or open spaces available in Easthampstead and Wildridings (formerly Old Bracknell and Wildridings and Central wards) which is why they use the play area identified by Bracknell Town Council as South Hill Road Play area. The fact is that the residents of the new Easthampstead and Wildridings ward have the following leisure, open spaces, and play areas available to them and are in no way deprived of first class play and leisure spaces in their ward provided by both the Borough and Town Councils:

Mill Pond – Wildridings Road

Accessible Toilet, Fishing, Parking, Play Equipment, Skateboard Ramp, Teenage Meeting Place, Toilet Facilities.

Large open space and play area at Keldholme.

Threshfields play area and park.

Point Royal conservation area open space and Play Area

Bracknell Sports and leisure centre.

John Nike athletics ground.

Budham Way open space.

Church Hill Park play area at Neuman Crescent park, Easthampstead.

There is one safe access across South Hill Road via an underpass off Mansfield Crescent to and from North Lake. To access the play area on the North Lake side of South Hill Road requires residents from Easthampstead and Wildridings to cross South Hill Road. Residents in the Manston Drive area can access the play area via footpaths off Manston Drive. Changing the boundary as requested will not prevent anyone from accessing the play area.

The play areas within South Hill Park have been designed to provide for all age groups. In the South there is a play area and skate park for children and young teenagers, close to the mansion is a toddlers play area with soft play facilities and on the north of South Hill Park is the South Hill Road play area which is predominantly for older children and teenagers and has a youth hangout seating area that is visible from the road.