

Bracknell Forest Borough Council

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Comment text:

The submission document from Crowthorne Parish Council is attached.

Uploaded Documents:

Download_(https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1597739777_BFC+Boundary+Review+-+CPC+submission+Aug+20.docx)

Crowthorne Parish Council's (CPC) submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) into the warding arrangements for Bracknell Forest Council (BFC) in Crowthorne

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The LGBCE aim of the electoral review is to recommend ward boundaries that mean each councillor represents approximately the same number of voters. Also, to ensure that the ward boundaries reflect the interests and identities of local communities, as well as promoting effective local government.

In March 2020, The LGBCE carried out the first electoral review consultation of Bracknell Forest Borough Council. CPC submitted their response to LGBCE for consideration.

In June 2020, the LGBCE has re-drawn ward boundaries across Bracknell Forest, reflecting inputs provided by all parties in Mar 2020 for final consultation.

Submissions are required by 07 September 2020.

This paper is intended to ensure that after 160 years as a Community, Crowthorne remains as a discrete, sustainable community, serving the disparate needs of all the Stakeholders, and not dominated by the two towns of Bracknell and Sandhurst that it sits between.

2 RECOMMENDATION:

Crowthorne Parish Council (CPC) resolves:

- **To endorse the LGBCE June 2020 draft recommendations for Crowthorne to be a “single ward” community served by 3 BFC Cllrs.**
- **That the inclusion of Derby Field (part of the Wellington estate) and Edgbarrow Cottage, Crowthorne RG45 7PP should be added to both the Crowthorne BFC and CPC ward as an integral part of the Crowthorne Community.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Having reviewed the latest LGBCE consultation document, it can be seen that the CPC recommendations of March 2020 were essentially fully endorsed with the exception of inclusion of Derby Field (part of the Wellington College estate), which is currently part of the new proposed Sandhurst Ward.

Derby Field should be included in the final CPC recommendations, since it forms part of ‘Crowthorne’ as a community rather than part of the Sandhurst ward, where the current ward boundary sits.

The argument is that ALL Wellington College grounds should be part of the Crowthorne ward and that includes Derby Field.

The draft Bracknell Forest Local Plan proposes some 216 homes on that land and, if approved, its inclusion in the Crowthorne ward would incorporate the new residents as part of the Crowthorne community.

CPC intend to request a Community Governance Review (CGR) to adjust the parish boundary to include Derby Field. That action would also address the anomaly of the railway station being divided between Crowthorne and Sandhurst wards.

Further, the need to provide adequate station parking could be accommodated on part the Derby Field proposed development, thereby alleviating the congestion of on street parking.

Also, Edgbarrow Cottage, Sandhurst Road, Crowthorne RG45 7PP is the only dwelling just south of the Parish/Borough boundary line not included as part of the Crowthorne Ward. As such, it is recommended that this property is included.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

All supporting information relating to the consultation can be found on the Local Government Boundary Commission website:

<https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/19640>

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

None – all information considered is set out on the Local Government Boundary Review website and draft submission attached – Appendix 1

7 IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The impact of the CPC recommendations, if accepted by the Boundary Review Commission, would ensure that the whole of Crowthorne ward incorporating the Derby Field (part of the Wellington estate) would be represented as a single ward.

The inclusion of Derby Field would require a small Parish Boundary change which would be negotiated with BFC through a Community Governance Review.

8. CONSULTATION

Comments from local organisations and BFC have been considered – all of which have been supportive of the proposed recommendations in this paper.

Appendix 1

LGBCE DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS

To quote:

“Crowthorne Parish Council, which argued for the ward boundary in this area to be coterminous with the parish ward. Both the Parish Council and other local residents argued that the arrangement proposed by the Council split a community and did not provide for a clear and identifiable boundary.

“On touring the area virtually, we agreed that the Council’s (BFC) proposed boundary divided a coherent community. 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.

“We have therefore concluded that local communities would be better reflected by a warding arrangement which does not split Crowthorne parish. Our draft recommendations are consequently based on the submissions received from Crowthorne Parish Council and local residents. We have included the entirety of Crowthorne parish in a three-councillor Crowthorne ward.”

CROWTHORNE WARD CONSIDERATIONS

Crowthorne has a significant build programme of 1,487 dwellings from ~2018 to 2030.

Therefore, any solution proposed must reflect this to provide a long-term solution.

Crowthorne Developments (to year 2036)

- **Bucklers’ Park:** 1,000 dwellings plus school, community centre, shops and leisure facilities work-in-progress.
Current occupation is circa 50 homes
- **Broadmoor:** 210 dwellings plus 60 retirement places
Awaiting Broadmoor hospital planning application and Natural England
- **Derby Field:** 217 dwellings
Included in the latest Site Allocation Plan to 2036
Not yet confirmed

Beyond 2036 there are no significant development sites

The LGBCE draft recommendation does not reflect the addition of Derby Field (part of the Wellington estate), which if, as and when developed, will “naturally” become part of the Crowthorne community rather than Sandhurst.

Conclusion:

Crowthorne Parish Council wholly endorses the LGBC’s draft recommendations, recognising that Crowthorne is a strong, discrete community, both geographically and socially. However we feel that it would make further sense to incorporate Derby Field (part of the Wellington College estate) and Edgbarrow Cottage, Sandhurst Road, Crowthorne RG45 7PP (the only Crowthorne dwelling outside the current Ward boundary) as part of the “new” BFC Crowthorne community ward served by 3 councillors - see attached maps.

Crowthorne and Sandhurst



Ward	Number of councillors	Variance 2025
Crowthorne plus Derby Field and Edgbarrow Cottage	3	-10%
Owismoor & College Town	3	9%
Sandhurst	3	9%

