

Submission from Bracknell Labour Party to the review of the Ward Boundaries for Bracknell Forest Council.- Mary.Temperton@Bracknell-Forest.gov.uk

The Bracknell Labour Party supports the proposals submitted by the Bracknell Forest Council and seconded by the Labour Councillor, Mary Temperton on March 11th, 2020. We support the reduction to 40 Councillors, given the technology that now supports Members communicating with their residents. We do recognise, however, that residents have greater expectations and demand more support, more action and a quicker response, than in the past. Further reduction in numbers would therefore be opposed.

We support the proposals because the proposed boundaries respect the established communities and the hubs that serve them.

The boundaries chosen are usually significant physical landmarks, main roads, railway lines, well-used public footpaths. None of these wards would be represented by one Member, but by either two or three. We think this is much better for the representation of the residents by the elected members.

We particularly like the inclusion of the area near Wellington College into Crowthorne and out of Sandhurst. The residents here associate with Crowthorne now, not Sandhurst.

The addition of Wykery Copse into Great Hollands North is very logical as the boundary is now the major A329M and not Peacock Lane. The Section 106 money from this development was included with that of Jennett's Park to build the Jennett's Park school and the Jennett's Park Community Centre. Residents from Wykery Copse use both facilities and the new shop next to the Community Centre. They already vote at the Jennett's Park Community Centre to prevent their need to cross the A329M dual carriage way to vote in Binfield

Their inclusion has meant that Great Hollands North has had to lose the group of roads with names beginning with A into Great Hollands South. The retention of the names Great Hollands North and Great Hollands South help retain their identity with this very strong community.

The inclusion of some of the Town Centre into Priestwood and Garth is also supported. The boundary of the Warfield Road makes a very strong division between the houses built as part of the creation of Bracknell Town in the 1960s and newer developments. The residents to the east of this boundary associate with Warfield and Bullbrook, as the proposed boundaries reflect. Residents in the newer blocks of apartments in the town centre do not yet have such allegiance so their inclusion in Priestwood and Garth is very logical.

The railway line makes a good boundary for the north of Harmans Water.

The major roads that are now used for the boundaries of Hanworth are also logical.

The community of Wildridings and Easthampstead already share a Community Centre and a shopping area.

In conclusion, having had one of our Members on the working party that drew up the Council proposals, we support their recommendations. The recommended Council of 40 members, with the numbers for each ward defined in this proposal, would provide good governance for our Borough and enable our communities to be well served, whilst delivering electoral equality.

Councillor Mary Temperton – Leader of Labour Group Bracknell Forest Council
Roy Bailey – Chair of Bracknell Labour Party

