

Bracknell Forest Council

a ceremonial shire's unitary district
15-xi-2019

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FER in (a Berkshire district unitary) BFC: stage.1 council's future SIZE

BRACKNELL-CP, a constituent CP within BFC, is a “**new town peculiar**”. Why a peculiar? As is known, after ‘WW2’ a ring of ‘new towns’ were created around Greater London: each one designed by a ‘development corporation’.

BFC's BRACKNELL created by the 'Bracknell Development Corporation (BDC)'. BFC has three (3) distinct areas: there are towns, villages, & hamlet of Warfield. BFC's size is 42-members since 2003: respecting peculiar rather than CIPFA. .

The New-Town-of-BRACKNELL was developed by BDC: Their New Town's scheme design - self-contained urban villages – neighbourhoods: each area with their own clear identity is enclosed by distribution roads. In each nine (9) neighbourhoods there is a primary school, branch library, & shopping zone: each has its own distinct character and that has created a clear identity eg Priestwood, Wildridings in 1967, Hanworth in early 1970s, and Crown Wood.

Since BDC's dissolution, the post BDC estates have spilled over into the BFC “northern parishes” eg Forest Park and Martin Heron next to the Swinley Forest.

My own experience of Bracknell New Town started in 1972-3: the RBNW (New Windsor) urgently needed to re-develop the town centre so to complete its slum clearance project. The choice, either internal as Slough or, external 24/7 open. An officer/member ‘working group visited BDC: their Chief Architect explained New Town's peculiar design - self-contained urban villages - neighbourhoods. RBNW group next visited Camberley: we liked its merit a 24/7 open precinct. BFC's recently completed ‘the-Lexicon centre’ is an open 24/7 precinct.

BFC's extant council, since 2003, is 42-members: the same size as Slough-BC. For effective administration there should be a critical mass of members. Of the recent FER in RBWM, next door, is viewed as driven by ego so to be smallest.

BFC's extant size is 42-members since 2003. Bracknell New Town's peculiar character – distinct neighbourhoods that are enclosed by distribution roads – must determine future size needs: respected peculiar neighbourhoods rather than CIPFA's formula. Forecast'25 electorate – respecting neighbourhoods – would guide a size – 40/45 members - respecting self-contained urban villages.

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