



Mole Valley
Conservatives

212 Barnett Wood Lane
Ashtead
Surrey
KT21 2DB

Local Government Boundary Commission for England

5 December 2021

Dear Sirs,

Consultation Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England regarding the electoral arrangements of Mole Valley District Council, specifically regarding the current Ward of Brockham, Betchworth & Buckland ('the 3Bs').

I am writing in my capacity as Chairman of the 3Bs branch (**'the Branch'**) of Mole Valley Conservative Association (**'the Association'**) and am also writing in support of a submission on this subject made by Roger Jones, in his capacity as Chairman of the Association.

Having consulted the Branch's Committee members, a consensus has emerged which falls strongly in favour of maintaining the current 3Bs Ward boundary and not merging with any neighbouring Wards.

Before discussing this stance, I would like to emphasise that this position does not reflect any ill feelings towards any of our neighbouring Wards, with whom we have very cordial relations.

Regarding our stance then, our first objection to changing the current 3Bs boundary relates to size and aligns with the Commission's first of three legal factors (**'the Factors'**) used to consider the drawing of new boundaries.

We feel that any enlargement of the current 3Bs Ward would render the newly created area far too unwieldy for even three Councillors to sufficiently serve, leaving residents without adequate support and representation at District level.

Our second objection relates to merging with neighbouring Wards, especially to the west of the 3Bs where the Dorking Wards represent vastly different community interests and identities, as outlined in the second of the Factors. A potential merger with Wards to the south of the 3Bs would be opposed on grounds related to transport links, or the lack thereof, again reducing the ability of Councillors to properly serve their residents.

Our third objection relates to the possibility of removing one of the villages of which the 3Bs are comprised. The current 3Bs Ward excellently reflects community interests and identities and the

boundaries are clearly identifiable, and as the Commission will be aware, this forms the basis of the second of the Factors.

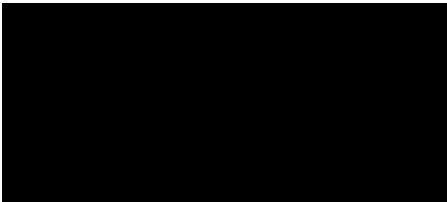
Our fourth and last objection to enlarging the current 3Bs Ward is based around the third of the Factors, namely the need for Wards to promote effective and convenient local government. As outlined above, we believe the current number of Councillors ideally suits the current geographical size of the 3Bs and that the Ward is currently easily navigable, and able to be supported, by two Councillors.

We believe therefore that enlarging the current 3Bs Ward will inhibit, as opposed to promote, effective and convenient government and is contrary to the spirit of the third of the Factors.

To conclude, whilst the Branch is adamant in its opposition to the current 3Bs Ward being enlarged (or, naturally, being split up) our favoured option, should three-member wards be foisted upon us, is that we merge with the current Ward of Headley and Boxhill.

I look forward to receiving your feedback.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Austin.

Chairman
3Bs Branch, Mole Valley Conservative Association.

