

From: Town Clerk <Town.Clerk@farnham.gov.uk>
Sent: 09 December 2021 17:17
To: reviews
Subject: ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL: DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS. [REDACTED]
Attachments: Boundary Commission Response of Farnham Town Council to WBC - 2-11-2021.docx
Categories: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Farnham Town Council formally considered the Electoral Review recommendations and submits the attached as its response. Concern was expressed over the fact that the desk based exercise had thrown up some surprising anomalies and that a review based on a physical attendance where the geography would have been more apparent may have resulted in a different result.

The Town Council supports the view of Godalming Town Council (previously advised to you) that the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act allows the Boundary Commission to determine the warding pattern of the Town Council without the need for a Community Governance Review but has added a separate resolution on this point as a back up.

The Town Council is further aware that, since its last meeting, the Borough Council has come to a conclusion on its preference for a new warding pattern which has some synergy with the formal response of Farnham Town Council.

The Town Council may well wish to add a further comment after the next Town Council meeting on 16th December. I trust this will be acceptable as a supplement to this response.

With all good wishes

[REDACTED]
Iain Lynch
Farnham Town Clerk



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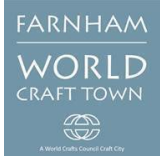
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Mayor's Charity supports Farnham Assist and the Waverley Abbey Trust

Deputy Mayor: Cllr Michaela Wicks



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Boundary Commission Review of Waverley Borough Council

Response by Farnham Town Council

Introduction

Farnham Town Council (FTC) considered its position regarding the Boundary Commission's proposals "New Electoral Arrangements for Waverley Borough Council, Draft Recommendations, October 2021" during its Council meeting of 28th October 2021.

FTC includes here its current recommendations for consideration by the WBC Ward Pattern Working Group.

Whilst the Boundary Commission consultation is primarily focussed on borough wards, the proposals also impact on town and parish warding. Both borough and town wards are of interest to the town council, since FTC seeks alignment of Town wards within the Borough wards. FTC will be making a direct submission to the Boundary Commission.

FTC is aware of the information circulated by Godalming Town Council and its interpretation of s59 (2) (a) of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act, Part 3 Local Government Boundary and Electoral Change and will pursue a similar approach.

In its discussions FTC noted the following:

Considerations

1. FTC would like the borough wards to match the town wards.
2. Assuming the intention to reduce the borough's councillors to 50 members, and the consequent reduction of Farnham's councillors to 16, FTC would seek to define 8 wards, each with 2-councillor representation. This 2-councillor arrangement works well currently.
3. Geographically, Farnham has a notional north-south split caused by the A31 Bypass that, broadly, defines neighbourhoods north and south of the road. This is recognised by the BC proposals and is agreed by FTC. However, solely using the A31 delineator generates the need for 9 councillors in the north and 7 in the south. There is a similar imbalance with the current wards which leads to Moor Park ward having some electors in the town centre.
4. FTC has considered a number of options to balance the north-south situation, whilst at the same time seeking to avoid the Moor Park split ward dilemma. From these options, most, inevitably, do not lead to the preferred 8 ward / 16 councillor outcome. FTC has used the predicted elector numbers for 2027 (see attached calculations based on the BC's Electoral Forecasting Proforma) in its deliberations and there was a difference of opinion on some suggestions of dividing existing communities (such as Weybourne and Badshot Lea) or making arbitrary divisions (eg in Shortheath and Boundstone). What is clear is that the desk based virtual review exercise by the Boundary Commission has not delivered the optimal outcome.

Resolutions of Farnham Town Council

- 1. Alignment of Town wards within the Borough wards is a requirement;**
- 2. A reduction of Town Council members from 18 to 16 should be investigated;**
- 3. Where possible a pattern of 2 member wards is preferred;**
- 4. The merging of the Bourne and Runfold is not supported and the Moor Park name should be retained as a preference;**
- 5. A balance of 8 representatives south and north of the A31 would be preferred if achievable;**
- 6. The Borough Council is requested to undertake a Community Governance Review to determine the best pattern of options**

Resolution 6 may not be required if the Godalming Town Council interpretation of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act is accepted by the Boundary Commission (and the Borough Council).

Iain Lynch
Town Clerk
Farnham Town Council

2nd November 2021