

## Waverley Borough Council

### Personal Details:

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**Organisation Name:** Wonersh Parish Council

### Comment text:

Waverley Borough Council Boundary Review – Comments from Wonersh Parish Council. Wonersh Parish Council discussed the proposed the draft proposals at their council meeting on 14 October 2021. They expressed concerns generally in an approach which values electoral equality over practicalities, had specific concerns about the proposal in relation to reflecting community interests, identities and links, and also the impact that this would have on providing effective local government. With respect to the focus on electoral equality, borough councillors at the parish council meeting noted that proposals were not as cohesive as one might have expected given the objectives of the review. More widely the proposals were viewed as ignorant to the geography of the rural areas and in practical terms might result in councillors serving disparate areas, drawn on electoral equality, less effectively than they might the existing wards, based on established communities. Wonersh Parish Council echoed the concerns of the Borough Council in that these larger areas might remove existing effective and convenient local government, where councillors in smaller areas work cohesively with neighbouring wards, by expecting the same level of service from wider areas, with fewer overall councillors. Exploring the other objectives of the review, Wonersh Parish Council, broadly agreed with the comments of Bramley Parish Council, that there were stronger transport, services and community links between Wonersh and Bramley than with Busbridge, which is orientated towards Godalming or the central villages in terms of transport links, identity and community. Should such a ward be accepted then the naming is appropriate but this does not seem inclusive of Busbridge. There was also agreement with Cllr Floyd-Douglass, who argued that the Council's proposed Eastern Villages ward was too large geographically and that it would be difficult for borough councillors to effectively represent so many parishes. Even if they were based on easily identifiable boundaries, the strength of these links was questioned.

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded