

# **Surrey County Council boundary changes 2025 - WOKING**

## **Summary**

Surrey County Council boundaries are being reviewed for the election in 2025, after 12 years using the current boundaries.

In 2013, the previous County division of Horsell was split and a new division of Goldsworth East and Horsell Village was formed, and Woking North was formed from Horsell East, Woodham and the then Maybury and Sheerwater ward.

In 2016, Woking Borough Council boundaries were changed to 10 three-member wards. This left significant diversity between the county divisions based on the old borough wards and the new borough wards.

An assessment of the current divisions shows Woking South West undersized. This cannot simply be remedied by moving nearby voters from other division into the division – doing so in any case would not address the issue of lack of coterminosity that pervades the borough as things stand.

The solution proposed takes on board a number of different requirements as stated by the boundary commission:

- 1 Coterminosity with borough council wards
- 2 Equity of voter distribution
- 3 Respect for areas of established identity

## **1 Knaphill and Hermitage**

In order to mitigate the deficit in Woking South West, it is proposed to swap Goldsworth West (C1 & C4) out of the existing division and instead replace it with The Hermitage (K1). There would be no change to any other part of the current Knaphill division and Percheron Drive (G2) would remain in Woking South West as at the moment.

There is significant coherence between these two areas and Knaphill South and Hermitage was a borough ward from 2000-2016 that linked the current K1 polling district proposed to be moved. While it is true that Hermitage also associates itself with St Johns, either area has been found acceptable in the past when determining boundaries.

The change also places the new division within 400 voters of complete equity and allows some surrounding areas to be made more coterminous as a result.

Knaphill and Hermitage G1, G3, G4, K1 – 11,957 electors.

## **Goldsworth Park and Horsell Village**

On the last occasion, Horsell was split into two divisions and the decision was made on that occasion that its identity as a village was not sufficiently important to overcome the problem of it remaining significantly undersized as a county division. Those problems still remain and would require significant changes - a combination with the town centre wards would be needed in order to overcome these issues.

There is, however, an opportunity to create a coterminous and equitable Goldsworth Park division that maintains Goldsworth Park's identity and is an evolution of the current division. The entire borough ward of Goldsworth Park combined with the village of Horsell is within 100 electors of complete equity and retains the connection between Goldsworth Park and Horsell that respects the historic links between the two.

Goldsworth Park and Horsell Village C1, C2, C3, C4, F1 – 11,638 electors.

### **Woking North**

Woking North was created from the old Woking Central ward plus the then borough ward of Horsell East and Woodham. There is an opportunity to vary this ward slightly and make it coterminous with the new borough ward of Canalside, combined with parts of Horsell as it is at the moment. That would mean part of the current Woking North division joining another division, with which it would also be coterminous in terms of current borough ward boundaries. To compensate for this, a slightly smaller part of the current Goldsworth East and Horsell Village division moves across to join Horsell East in the division.

Bringing Canalside together would respect the natural division of the railway line while also creating a division functionally very similar to the present one but within 150 electors of complete equity.

Woking North B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, F2, F3 – 11,449 electors.

### **Heathlands and St John's**

The current Woking South West ward is undersized and contains no complete borough wards within it. Under these proposals, the current Heathlands ward would be completely contained within it, along with the retention of the Percheron Drive area of Knaphill (G2) and St John's Village (K2). The Goldsworth East polling district (K3), also part of the current St John's borough ward, would join the division. This would create a division that runs along the Basingstoke Canal from the town centre to Brookwood and it is one that brings together villages already linked by borough wards.

The nature of this rural part of Woking is one of different villages, often slightly separated geographically, but the Heathlands ward has worked very well and this proposal would also be within 500 electors of complete equity.

Woking South West D1, D2, D3, D4, D5, D6, K2, K3, G2 – 12,033 electors.

### **Woking South**

By moving Mayford and Sutton Green (D3 and D6) into Woking South West (combined these were a former single-member ward of Woking BC from 2000-2016), there is the opportunity to make the Woking South division coterminous with the Woking BC Hoe Valley ward. This is achieved by moving in Old Woking (E4) from the current Woking South East division.

In order to accommodate this, Woking South would lose around 66% of the old Mount Hermon West Woking BC ward; Mount Hermon is currently split between two divisions anyway and keeping the new Mount Hermon ward together within a division could not be achieved without significant changes. The result is a ward within 500 electors of complete equity and within a 5% range.

Woking South E1, E2, E3, E4, E5, H1, H3 (part) – 11,059 electors.

## **Pyrford and Heathside**

The reconfiguration of both Woking North and Woking South allows the South East division to become more coterminous with the Pyrford ward of Woking Borough Council. This involves the transfer of the Maybury Estate (J1) into the division along with the removal of Old Woking (E4).

While ideally the J4 polling district – or that part of it south of the Old Woking Road – would also be included in the division, such a move would impact the equity of both wards and is not possible to achieve. So the proposal is that J4 should remain in The Byfleets.

As now, Woking South East retains the former Mount Hermon East Woking BC ward, along with around 1,000 voters from the old Mount Hermon West ward from the area to the east of the Guildford Road.

This new division provides greater coterminosity and is within 150 voters of complete equity.

Woking South East J1, J2, J3, H2, H4, H3 (part) – 11,424 electors.

## **The Byfleets**

There are no changes proposed in this division, which contains within it the new Byfleet and West Byfleet ward of Woking BC along with the J4 polling district in Pyrford. A considerable part of the J4 area is in West Byfleet in any case, so the number of voters who would consider themselves in Pyrford village but in the Byfleets division is small. The borough ward alone is insufficiently large to create equity but the current ward is only 350 voters fewer than complete equity so this remains the proposal.

The Byfleets A1, A2 J4 (part) – 11,131 electors.

## **Conclusion**

Dividing 10 borough council wards into seven county council divisions is never going to be an easy calculation. This proposal attempts to embrace the new borough wards to the maximum extent, putting wards together in Goldsworth Park, Heathlands, Hoe Valley, Canalside and keeping them together in Byfleet and West Byfleet and Knaphill. The ward of Pyrford cannot be contained entirely within one council division but is more faithfully incorporated than the present arrangement. Where wards are divided, as in Horsell, Mount Hermon and St John's, they are divisions that exist already.

In terms of equity, all seven divisions are comfortably within a 5% margin and three of them are within one or two percent. We feel strongly that these new arrangements not only work within the voters numbers but maintain community cohesion and provide superior coterminosity with new council wards that allow for more direct democratic accountability.

	G1	G3	G4	K1	
Knaphill and Hermitage	5054	3216	35	3652	
	C1	C2	C3	C4	
Goldsworth Park and Horsell Village	3131	1336	2182	748	
	B1	B2	B3	B4	
Woking North	936	469	1404	2602	
	D1	D2	D3	D4	
Heathlands and St Johns	1269	457	1569	2365	
	E1	E2	E3	E4	
Woking South	2666	2322	142	2560	
	J1	J2	J3	H3 (part)	
Pyrford and Heathside	1978	198	4275	1000	
	A1	A2	J4		
Byfleets	3077	6310	1744		

A1	West Byfleet	3077		8735
A2	Byfleet	6310	9387	
B1	Town Centre	936		7283
B2	The Grove	469	7957	
B3	Maybury Rd	1404		
B4	Sheerwater	2602		
B5	Board Sch	1428		
B6	Woodham	1118		
C1	Goldsworth W	3131		6852
C2	Goldsworth Cen	1336	7397	
C3	Goldsworth E	2182		
C4	Knightswood	748		
D1	Brookwood	1269		7044
D2	Bridley	457	7614	
D3	Mayford	1569		
D4	Hook Heath	2365		
D5	Barnsbury	1600		
D6	Sutton Green	354		
E1	Westfield	2666		7176
E2	Kingfield	2322	7762	
E3	Shackleford Rd	142		
E4	Old Woking	2560		
E5	Gresham Pk	72		
F1	Horsell W	4241		7149
F2	Horsell Vale	1094	7733	
F3	Horsell E	2398		
G1	Knaphill W	5054		8012
G2	Percheron	409	8714	
G3	Knaphill E	3216		
G4	Carthouse Lane	35		

H1	York Road	2800		7633
H2	MH East	3493	8270	
H3	Hill View	1497		
H4	Copper Beech	480		
J1	Maybury Est	1978		7543
J2	East hill	198	8195	
J3	Pyrford	4275		
J4	West Byfleet Village	1744		
K1	Hermitage	3652		7104
K2	St Johns	1969	7662	
K3	Goldsworth Vale	2041		
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