

Waverley Borough Council

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: Witley Parish Council

Comment text:

Dear Sirs, Please find attached Witley Parish Council's response to this consultation. Yours faithfully,
Sarah Nash Parish Clerk

Uploaded Documents:

https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1636973768_Boundary+Commission+Review+Response+15.11.21.pdf



The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
By email

15 November 2021

Dear Sirs

Waverley Borough Council Boundary Review Consultation

Witley Parish Council considered the draft recommendations set out in the Local Government Boundary Commission report on new electoral arrangements for Waverley Borough Council at a meeting of Full Council on 28th October.

Members wholeheartedly agreed to the proposal within the review to have three ward members covering the existing Witley parish boundary, however they would request that the boundary extends slightly further. Owing to existing links between the two parishes, Witley Parish Council sees merit in extending the proposed Witley boundary to encompass the parish of Hambledon, resulting in three ward members covering a slightly larger area.

Hambledon Parish Council has shared its response to this consultation, which is supported by Witley Parish Council, I have attached it for information.

I trust you will take these comments into consideration when reviewing your draft proposals.

Yours faithfully


Sarah Nash
Clerk to Witley Parish Council

Hambledon Parish Council's Response

Hambledon Parish Council has already submitted to the Local Government Boundary Commission its response to the proposed changes to Waverley Borough Council Ward boundaries, as part of the public consultation.

In essence, it objects, on behalf of its residents, to the proposal to remove Hambledon from a Ward that combines it with local settlements to which it has considerable links, to others with which it has little day-to-day connection.

It feels that our Borough Council representation would be diminished if its Ward councillors were not also involved in those nearby areas with which Hambledon has close ties, especially Witley and Milford.

Hambledon has no state schools, junior or senior, no dentist or doctor surgeries, and its residents largely go to Milford and Witley for these services. Although Hambledon does have a good community-run village shop, most residents go to Milford to use mini-supermarkets and a farm shop as well as to refuel vehicles.

The nearest railway stations are Witley and Milford. Hambledon has limited bus provision, but the service that runs from the village three times a week goes to Milford and on to Godalming and Guildford. A more regular service on the nearby Petworth Road connects to the same area via Witley.

It is for these reasons that Hambledon Parish Council has stated robustly that it wishes to remain within a borough council Ward with which it has affinity.

The Local Government Boundary Commission seems to have paid no regard to Hambledon Parish Council's submission to date, and is continuing with the proposal to place Hambledon in a Ward that includes distant Alfold, Dunsfold and Chiddingfold.

This may meet the requirements of a statistical exercise based on numbers of electors but it makes no sense in terms of democratic representation and would clearly be to the detriment of Hambledon residents.

Hambledon villagers may make some limited use of services in Chiddingfold, but almost none in Dunsfold and Alfold.

Currently, our Ward councillors are local to us, living in the Witley and Milford areas, and are frequently present at our monthly parish council meetings and other parish activities. If we were represented by a Ward councillor living in, say, Alfold, it would take 20/30 minutes to reach our village hall and with no public transport option.

Hambledon Parish Council is grateful that this issue has been taken up by local Waverley councillors and several have indicated to us that they are sympathetic to the idea of Hambledon remaining in a Waverley Ward that includes Witley and Milford.

Additionally, Hambledon Parish Council has established close links with Witley Parish Council (but very limited ones with Dunsfold, Alfold and Chiddingfold) and is grateful that Witley Parish Council has indicated its support to Hambledon remaining in a shared Ward.

Stewart Payne, chairman, Hambledon Parish Council (November 13, 2021)