

HAMBLEDON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Councillor John Anderson

Email: clerkofhpc@outlook.com

19th July 2021

Review Officer (WAVERLEY)
LGBCE
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE

Dear Sir,

Re: Council ward boundaries consultation – Waverley Borough Council, Surrey.

Hambledon Parish Council submits the following comments as part of the public consultation on proposals by the Boundary Commission to change Waverley Borough Council ward boundaries.

The parish council notes that the purpose behind this exercise is to ensure that councillors represent approximately the same number of electors across the borough. It also notes that the Commission is minded to recommend that Waverley should have 50 councillors in future, down from the current 57.

The parish council has no access to the number of electors in each ward. Nor is it aware that any revised boundary proposals are available for inspection.

In the absence of this information therefore, the following comments are made in the context that the Commission wishes to ensure that any proposals “reflect community ties and identities”.

Hambledon, a small rural parish, is currently contained within the Witley and Hambledon Ward of Waverley Borough Council, and this is represented by two councillors. The ward encompasses the rural area around our village and neighbouring Witley, Wormley and several small hamlets.

Traditionally, Hambledon as a community has close ties with Witley and its environs, and the existing ward boundary encompasses an area to which its villagers relate. The council observes that the current ward boundary appears to work well for Hambledon and there has been no pressure for change.

If, however, the Commission decides on changes, Hambledon Parish Council would suggest that its community also has close ties with neighbouring Chiddingfold, where convenience shops and pubs are used by Hambledon villagers, as are those in Witley and Milford.

Our village church has ties with Busbridge and many parents from the Busbridge area use our village nursery school. However, despite being a parish, Busbridge is more of a suburb of Godalming and has no village centre, pub or shop.

Our nursery school children, in the main, go on to junior schools in Busbridge, Chiddingfold, Witley and Milford. The nearest state senior school is Rodborough, on the boundary of Witley and Milford. There are no doctor or dentist surgeries in Hambledon, so many residents use Witley, Milford or Chiddingfold surgeries.

Recycling is carried out at Witley.

Our cricket and football teams receive players from much of the surrounding area and no one place in particular, as well as from the village itself.

Hambledon is visited by many from the above-named areas; for our popular community-run village shop, our pub The Merry Harriers, for the thriving small businesses in the Old Coal Yard and for country walks.

In conclusion, Hambledon Parish Council does not feel that there is any discernible desire for change to the current ward boundary, but would ask for the above comments to be taken into consideration if change is to take place.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Flenley
Clerk to Hambledon Parish Council