



Eton Community Association



The Review Officer (Windsor and Maidenhead)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor, Millbank Tower,
London SW1 4QP

31st March 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

At a meeting of Eton Community Association a few months ago, we talked about commenting on the proposed Ward Boundaries as they affect Eton Town Council, which includes the current wards of Eton and Castle, and Eton Wick. We expressed a worry that Option D was of significant concern on the basis that it was not aligned with the Eton Community nor indeed the Eton & Eton Wick Neighbourhood Plan, which is at the examination stage, having been out for consultation with the submission version (Regulation 16). We are aware that the Eton & Eton Wick Town Council was also opposed to option D.

We were delighted to report the decision of the Boundary commission at our Eton Community Association meeting two weeks ago! The recommendation that Eton & Eton Wick be combined with Windsor Castle within and additional Windsor electorate is excellent. This mitigates our concerns and fits extremely well with both the Borough Local plan, which has the support of our local bodies and also aligns with the Eton & Eton Wick Neighbourhood Plan.

We know that the work and lobbying of the reasons to achieve this will have been key. Thank you for listening and understanding.

For information, these are the reasons that the *former* proposal did not align with history or community realities and needs:

- 1 The proposal seems to be based on only one of the 3 criteria to be considered, namely numbers of voters. The criteria of relevance to the community seems to have been disregarded.
- 2 Eton with Eton Wick is a self-contained community with absolutely no relationship with Datchet and Horton.
- 3 The community has just completed a Neighbourhood Plan for Eton and Eton Wick combined, and a huge amount of time, hard work and money will go to waste by attaching two new whole communities to it. Having attended the adjoining Neighbourhood Plan local consultations, my colleagues and I have good knowledge of various NPs, including Windsor 2030, Outer Windsor, Horton & Wraysbury. It is clear that our alignment with and inter-relationship with Windsor is strong. We have no such relationship with Wraysbury or Datchet.

Eton Community is a thriving association of residents, businesses and visitors working together to improve Eton as a place to live in, work in, and visit.





- 4 Our two existing Ward Councillors have worked tirelessly for Eton and Eton Wick, each being responsible for one of the Wards. This system has served the community well and to change into a multi-dimensional system with several councillors looking after a conglomerate of diverse communities gives cause for concern.
- 5 In addition, we have worked closely with the borough regarding the BLP to strengthen the Windsor & Eton linkage. This is fully in place in the Tourism section, where Windsor & Eton are continuously aligned, not least because **2.4 Million people passed over the Windsor/Eton Bridge in the past 12 months.** This connection has been in place for very many hundreds of years. However, the link between Eton and Eton Wick (Wick, meaning “farm”) has been in place since the inception of Eton. We are two different and symbiotic communities.
- 6 Eton & Eton Wick share a Town Centre Manager and have similar connections with Windsor in other ways with RBWM. Our stations are called Windsor & Eton Riverside, in no means by coincidence.
- 7 The parish connection is as such (with no relationship to Datchet or Horton), as are the schools, town and parish facilities and even our Baldwin’s Bridge Trust, which has a constitution that supports both Eton & Eton Wick. We share a Dr’s surgery.

We have always understood and supported the requirement to reduce the number of Wards but given where we are in the Borough, Eton and Eton Wick occupy a geographic island – one road in and out – and as such we believe a lot of damage would have been done attempting a linkage that is un-natural and has no basis. In fact, Eyot-ton means “island Town”, which is our derivation, with Eton Farm (Wick meaning farm), being the rural part of our total community, valued by residents, businesses and College alike.

We had stated that our proposal, if the “numbers” criteria is to take precedence would be to base a solution on Eton & Eton Wick. An option would be to consider extending this south into Windsor as existing (Eton and Castle Ward) and should the numbers of voters required need to be made up to accommodate two ward members, to take in Eton End which is due north. We support the proposed name ‘Eton Ward’ for this new arrangement.

To reiterate, we are delighted with the proposal to combine Eton & Eton Wick, Windsor Castle within and other Windsor areas.

Thank you

Yours faithfully,

Dr Ros C Rivaz
Chair, Eton Community Association
Deputy Chair, Eton & Eton Wick Neighbourhood Plan

Cc Cllr Dudley, Cllr Bateson, Cllr S. Rayner, Cllr Alexander

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