

Ashby, Jonathan

From: Horton Parish Council [REDACTED]
Sent: 04 December 2017 09:37
To: reviews; [REDACTED]
Subject: Fwd: Electoral Review

Dear Sirs

Please find below an email that I have sent to RBWM regarding the boundary reviews. Please be aware of our complaint and please advise what action can be taken

I am writing regarding the proposed changes to the ward boundaries. It seems pointless to ask people to comment with the assumption that their comments will be taken into account when the Borough has made a recommendation that will carry far more weight, and, what's more, leave it to the last few days to advise us.

My Councillor who attended the recent Parish Conference reported that it looked as if RBWM would be pushing for Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury to merged. This seemed to us to be a logical action.

There are cultural, geographical and historical reasons to merge Datchet, Horton and Wraysbury. They share probably the highest proportion of settled GRT (gypsy Roma traveller) residents, share a two school system (most of the rest of the borough is a three school system) and I believe were previously one ward (the three villages). They are in walking distance of each other and share the doctors' surgery and the designated secondary school, and share the same issues (the cessation of the 10 bus route will have a serious impact on all three). Horton and Wraysbury have been working on their Neighbourhood Plan for 4 years, as have Datchet. These were written on the basis that the wards remain the same and the NPs cannot now be changed - what was the point of writing NPs as wards if this was due to be changed?

On Thursday 30/11 we were advised in person by Alison Alexander that the new ward would be Datchet, Horton, Wraysbury and the Etons. This, we felt, made no sense as three eastern villages have no shared resources, no history and nothing in common with the Etons - and are separated by most of the length of Pockocks Lane, so not within walking distance of each other.

On Friday

I

was sent an email by Suzanne which shows that actually RBWM proposes Wraysbury be merged with Old Windsor, and the Etons merge with Horton and Datchet - which was not the information given to the Clerk and the Chair of Horton Parish Council the previous evening. The Horton, Datchet and the Etons merge still raises the above issue, and we consider that similarly Wraysbury and Old Windsor have no physical connection other than by boat or by road through other villages/wards - combining these as one ward is totally illogical

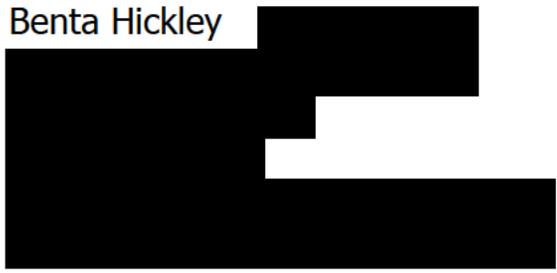
In view of the changing information from RBWM we ask that the consultation period be extended to allow us to inform our residents that our previously shared information was as a result of us being mislead or misguided and they should be making comments referring to their views on RBWM's plans, as advised on Friday 1st December, to recommend that Horton merge with Datchet and the Etons

Thanking you in anticipation of your reply

Kind regards

Benta

Benta Hickley



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Windsor and Maidenhead

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Organisation Name: Horton Parish Council

Comment text:

Further to our earlier comments: "We members of Horton Parish Council wish to express our concern at the proposal to separate Horton and Wraysbury borough wards. At present, Horton and Wraysbury share a large number of common interests beyond their two ward councillors. Councillors Rayner and Lenton. We share a boundary. We share a railway line. We share the Local Neighbourhood plan which the two parish have just finished, putting many thousands of man-hours into. Frequently the interests of the two parish are shared. Issues with flood alleviation, traffic control, population dispersal and aircraft noise. We feel that the natural boundary of the river Thames between Wraysbury and Old Windsor differentiates those two communities significantly, not to mention the 800 year old argument they share over the location of the signing of the Magna Carta. The interests of Horton, Datchet and Wraysbury are already significantly inter-twined and we feel that joining the three parish together, with three ward councillors between them is by far the better option. This would provide a Borough representative for every 2,509 electors which is in line with the original figures suggested by the RBWN staff. Conversely, Old Windsor is in very many ways a very different parish with many different issues and challenges. The same is true of Eton and Eton Wick. For example all three areas have significant large shopping areas with all the challenges they bring, as opposed to Horton, Wraysbury and Datchet who all have small rural shopping areas.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded