

Mrs Samantha Rayner

4th December 2017

By email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

FAO The Review Officer (Windsor and Maidenhead)

Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing on behalf of the Windsor Conservative Association ('the Association') to respond to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's ('the Commission') consultation on the warding arrangements for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead ('the Borough'). The authority was given by the Executive Council of the Association for such a submission to be submitted on behalf of the Windsor Conservative Association.

1. Methodology

1.1 Scope of submission

This response covers only the area of the Association (the parliamentary constituency of Windsor) falling within the Borough. That area consists of just under half of the population of the Borough and consists of Windsor, Eton, Eton Wick, Datchet, Horton, Wraysbury, Old Windsor, Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale.

The Association considers it sound to submit a partial submission. The western extent of the constituency (in the Borough) mirrors the built extent of Windsor in the West and is a natural point to divide the Borough.

This area encompasses 57,094 electors of 118,838 in our projected 2023 electorate. Therefore, using this boundary allows for a submission encompassing 21 councillors.

1.2 Communities

This submission covers Windsor, Eton, Eton Wick, Datchet, Horton, Wraysbury, Old Windsor, Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale.

The Association recognises that this area spans many communities. Specifically it notes that it covers six parishes (Datchet, Horton, Old Windsor, Sunningdale, Sunninghill and Ascot, and Wraysbury), one town council (Eton), one unparished area (Windsor), and encompasses the extreme east of Bray Parish.

It is considered that there are three wider community groupings in this submission area: (1) Windsor, (2) the villages surrounding Windsor and (3) Ascot & the Sunnings.

1.3 River Thames

It is recognised that the greatest barrier in the submission area is the River Thames, except where there are good link roads and continuous communities.

The River Thames is a historic county boundary and natural barrier. It continues to represent a community divide.

The Association considered three areas where boundaries could reasonably cross the River Thames: Eton Bridge, Albert Bridge (between Datchet and Old Windsor) and the bridge between Datchet and Windsor.

2. Warding Patterns

The submission deals with the three wider community groups in turn: (1) Windsor, (2) the villages surrounding Windsor and (3) Ascot & the Sunnings.

2.1 Windsor

Windsor is a historic market town. The town has grown from the castle and has expanded south and significantly west. Windsor now encompasses the historic village of Clewer and Dedworth.

It is proposed 9 councillors cover Windsor.

2.1.1 Windsor - Central

The centre of the town (defined as north of Osborne Road and Goslar Way and west of Royal Windsor Way) is a defined and separate community to the west (and to a lesser extent, south) of the town. Royal Windsor Way is a significant barrier. Osborne Road is a less significant barrier.

2.1.2 Windsor - West

In the west of the town, the community is based around Dedworth Road. In the east, Clewer Village, Parsonage Lane and Hatch Lane. In the west, Ruddlesway, Broom Farm Estate and Tinkers Lane. Windsor is most sensibly warded East to West (rather than North to South). This best reflects existing communities.

Clewer Village, Parsonage Lane and Hatch Lane, and, Ruddlesway and Tinkers Lane have more in common than wards split North / South. Dedworth Road operates as a hub the community builds around, rather than a community division.

2.1.3 Windsor – South

The division of Central / West of Windsor by the Royal Windsor Way is continued South by Imperial Road. This separates South from West Windsor meaningfully.

2.1.4. Windsor – Proposal

Imperial Road and Osborne Road are less significant community divisions than Royal Windsor Way. As such, despite there being three distinct areas of Windsor; Central, West and South, if necessary wards should spill over Osborne Road and Imperial Way rather than over Royal Windsor Way.

It is proposed that there is a '**Central Windsor**' ward consisting of Windsor (1) south of the River Thames, including the Castle, Home Park and town centre, (2) West of Royal Windsor Way, and (3) north of Goslar Way and Osborne Road. This is a two member ward.

It is proposed that there is a '**Combermere**' ward consisting of Windsor (1) south of Goslar Way and Osborne Road, (2) east of Imperial Road, and (3) all land south of St Leonard's Road. This is a two member ward. The name Combermere comes from the Army Barracks based on St. Leonards Raod.

It is recognised that the proposed Central Windsor has a greater electorate than Combermere. To balance the electorate, it is advised that homes in the west (on Alma Road and Queens Road) are transferred over to Combermere before homes in the east (Frances Road and Kings Road). Homes in the east are closest in community and feel to the town centre, but in the west are more in keeping with the proposed Combermere ward and hence more appropriate to transfer.

The West of the town in split East to West into two further wards aligning with the communities.

A '**Clewer East**' ward is proposed consisting of Windsor (1) west of Royal Windsor Way and Imperial Road, (2) east of Smiths Lane and Wolf Lane, and (3) north of Winkfield Road. This is a three member ward.

A '**Clewer West**' ward is proposed consisting of Windsor (1) west of Smiths Lane and Wolf Lane, (2) north of Hemwood Road and its tributaries (inclusive), and (3) east of the current parliamentary boundary. It is noted that this ward includes the HA11 designated site in the Borough Local Plan. This is a two member ward.

2.2 Villages (and town) surrounding Windsor

The villages of Eton Wick, Datchet, Horton, Wraysbury and Old Windsor, and the town of Eton, are considered to all similar communities and lie outside the main town of Windsor. Separated from Windsor by either fields or the River Thames.

It is proposed 6 councillors cover the villages (and town) surrounding Windsor.

2.2.1 Distinct and Linked Communities

Eton and Eton Wick are distinct communities, but are parished together and maintain historic links. They both have representatives on the Eton Town Council and both share common ties with Eton College, which not only owns land in both but many people in both Eton and Eton Wick work for the college. It is considered appropriate that they are in the same ward.

Datchet is a distinct community and parish, but has good links with its neighbouring villages and Town of Eton, Old Windsor, Wraysbury and Horton. It is not considered inappropriate for it to be in the same ward as any of these villages.

Old Windsor is a distinct community and parish. It has good links with Datchet, including by road. With the Thames river flooding issues, it shares the same challenges. It is not considered inappropriate to be warded with Datchet and that the River Thames can be most sensibly 'bridged' here. There are excellent road connections over Albert Bridge between the two. Crown land is also in both villages. It is considered inappropriate to ward Old Windsor with Wraysbury due to the lack of road / bridge links over the river.

Horton and Wraysbury are distinct, but closely linked, communities. They are appropriately currently grouped. Further these two have good connections with Datchet. It would not be considered inappropriate to ward Horton and Wraysbury with Datchet. They all lie along the same road from Windsor. The residents of Horton and Wraysbury use the doctor surgery and chemist in Datchet amongst other services.

2.2.2 Large vs Small wards

It is recognised that larger wards allow residents more resilient representation.

However it is thought that three member wards would cover too wide an area and number of parishes / communities and so would not be in the interest of the residents when considering rural communities to have large wards.

As such, we propose three, two member wards.

2.2.3 Villages - Proposal

It is proposed that there is an '**Eton, Eton Wick and Agars**' ward consisting of (1) the parish of Eton (inc. Eton and Eton Wick), and (2) houses along the Eton Road towards Datchet. This is well connected by road to Eton and shares a historic identity. It is suggested the Commission take sufficient amount of Datchet down the Eton and Slough Roads to make a quorate ward. This is a two member ward. Or could consider the current Eton and Castle ward and some of Datchet along Eton Road. The name Agars being the well-known playing fields along this road.

It is proposed that there is a '**Horton, Wraysbury and Datchet**' ward consisting of (1) the parish of Wraysbury, (2) the parish of Horton, and (3) the west of Datchet. It is suggested the Commission take sufficient amount of Datchet down the Horton and London Roads to make a quorate ward. This is a two member ward.

It is proposed that there is an '**Old Windsor and Datchet South**' ward consisting of (1) the parish of Old Windsor, and (2) the south of Datchet. It is proposed that the railway would make an appropriate boundary in Datchet. This is a two member ward.

It is appreciated that this warding structure is not ideal, especially concerning Datchet. However, in the Association's view, coupling the Eton's with Datchet makes more sense than crossing the River Thames with Windsor, where there is no road crossing. This is the inevitable choice. Taking the historic centre of Windsor from Central Windsor is viewed as less-natural than a link-up with well-connected Datchet. Further, the subsequent option to keep Datchet 'together' requires a 'super-' ward covering multiple parishes. This is rejected due to its remoteness, and further requires a bridging of the River Thames where there is no physical crossing.

2.3 Ascot and the Sunnings

Ascot and the Sunnings consists of two parishes: Sunningdale, Sunninghill and Ascot. Currently, the Sunningdale ward is coterminous with the Sunningdale parish. The Sunninghill and Ascot parish has two Borough wards self-contained. Preferably these parishes would maintain their integrity as with the current arrangements. However, it is reluctantly recognised that number of electors does not allow this post-review.

As such, two, three member wards are proposed, splitting Ascot and the Sunnings North / South.

It is proposed that there is a '**Ascot and Sunninghill**' ward consisting of (1) north of the railway, up to St Mary's Hill down to Brockenhurst Road, following a boundary line encompassing Cavendish Meads and following Larch Avenue, (2) the remainder in bound by the Old Windsor parish and the Borough boundaries. This is a three member ward.

It is proposed that there is a '**Sunningdale and South Ascot**' ward containing Sunningdale and areas of South Ascot necessarily transferred to be quorate as above. This is a three member ward.

As it is necessitated by the numbers that the parish boundaries in the south of the Borough are not respected, the Commission should consult seriously the community to best understand the most natural division.

3. Summary

The Association submits that the Windsor half of the Borough should consist of nine wards: 3x three member wards, and 6x two member wards, the breakdown of which is given in the appendices attached.

We thank you for your consideration and time, you do not have an easy task!

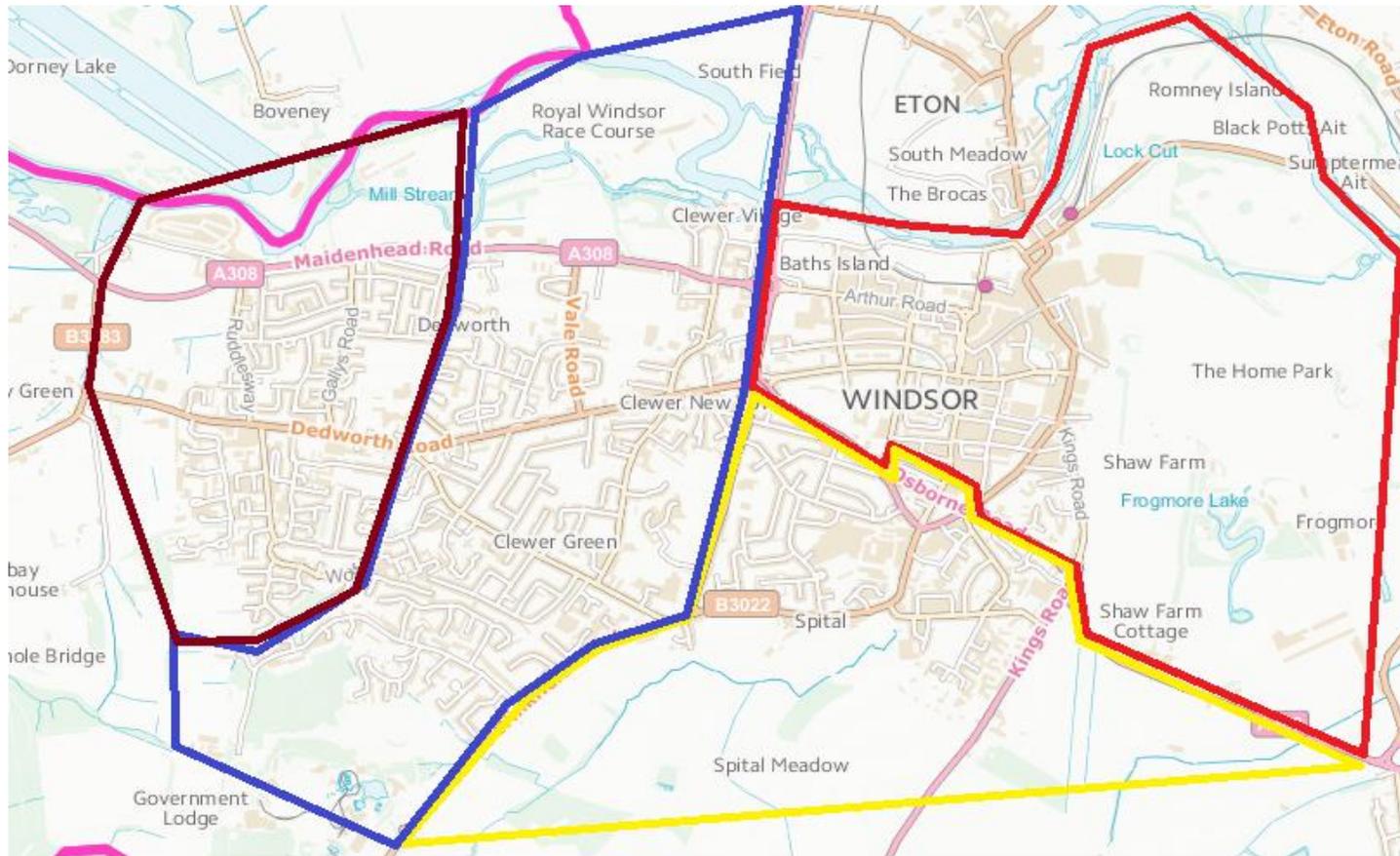
Yours faithfully

Mrs Samantha Rayner
Chairman
Windsor Conservative Association

Appendix A – Ward Names and Number of Councillors

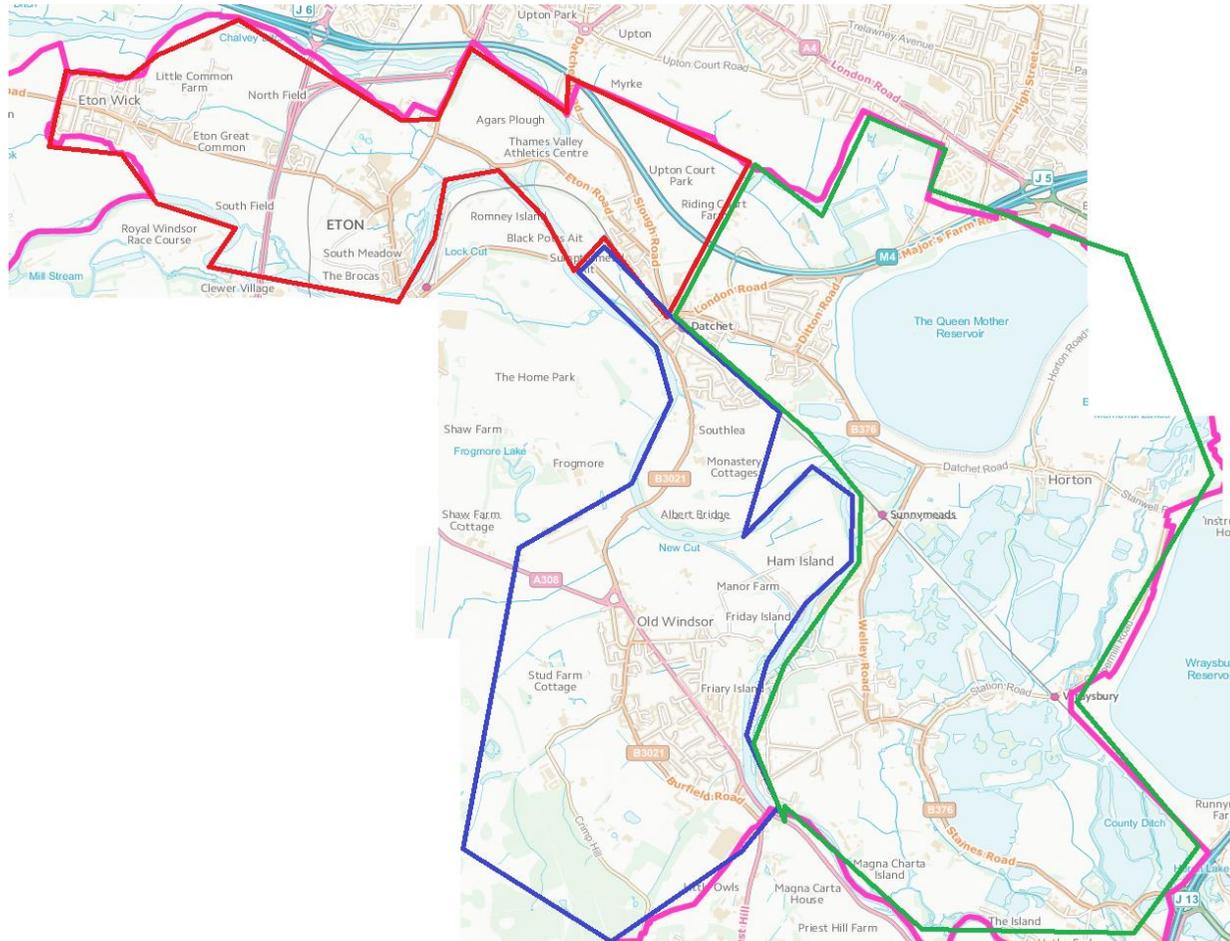
Ward Name	No of Councillors
Central Windsor	2
Combermere	2
Clewer East	3
Clewer West	2
Eton, Eton Wick and Agars	2
Horton, Wraysbury and Datchet	2
Old Windsor and Datchet South	2
Ascot & Sunninghill	3
South Ascot & Sunningdale	3
TOTAL	21

Appendix B – Warding Pattern (Windsor)



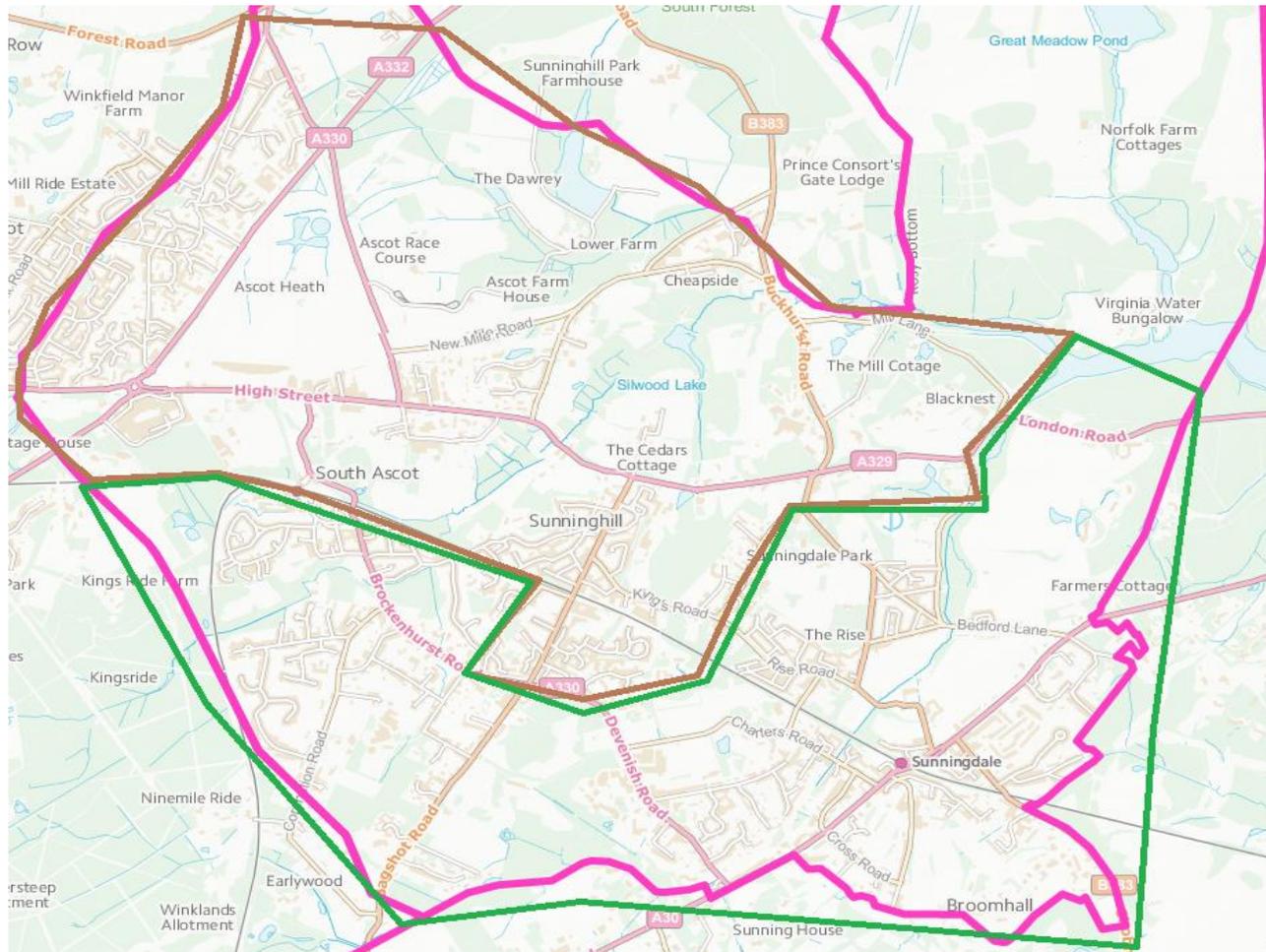
- Red – Central Windsor
- Yellow – Combermere
- Blue – Clewer East
- Brown – Clewer West

Appendix C – Warding Patterns (Villages)



Red – Eton, Eton Wick and Agars
Green – Horton, Wraysbury and Datchet
Blue – Old Windsor and Datchet South

Appendix D – Warding Patterns (Ascot and the Sunnings)



Brown – Ascot and Sunninghill
Green – Sunningdale and South Ascot

