

HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL

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The Review Officer (Reigate and Banstead)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th floor, Millbank Tower
London SW1P 4QP

By Email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

31 July 2018

Dear Sir / Madam

LGBCE Consultation: Reigate & Banstead Boundary Review - Draft Recommendations Report

Horley Town Council welcomes the opportunity to make further comments on the above consultation by the Commission on the proposed ward boundaries, as part of the review of the electoral arrangements for Reigate and Banstead.

Our members have considered the proposed new warding arrangements contained in the Commission's Draft Recommendations Report and we now outline below our comments in respect of the southern part of the Borough.

Borough Wards:

We are pleased that the Commission is minded to keep Horley Town Council and Salfords & Sidlow Parish Council together, representing the southern parishes and the only parished areas within in the Borough.

We are in agreement that the Salfords & Sidlow Parish boundary becomes the ward boundary between the Central and Southern wards. We also support the proposal for the East / West divide between Salfords and Sidlow and echo the comments made by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council in that this would maintain community identity along the main transport corridors within this part of the Borough.

We further support the Borough Council's recommendation that Benhams Drive be moved into the Meath Green Ward and for the boundary to continue North along the A23, before following the boundary between Horley Town Council and Salfords & Sidlow Parish Council. We suggest that these changes would better achieve electoral equality than the Commission's existing proposal.

Naming of Borough Wards:

After considering the proposed naming of the Borough Wards, the Town Council suggests the following:

Draft Recommendations proposed by LGBCE	Suggested changes by Horley Town Council
Meath Green & Sidlow	Horley West & Sidlow
Langshott & Salfords	Horley East & Salfords
Horley Town	Horley South & Central

Town Wards:

Our members consider the Commission’s proposals for the Town Wards to be coterminous with the Borough Wards to be of primary importance and this is fully supported, however, we are concerned about the disproportionate number of Councillors in some of the proposed town wards. It is felt that the suggested arrangements for the wards are not fit for purpose, in particular the proposed one-member wards would be unable to function effectively, should the ward member become indisposed and be unable to fulfil their duties as a Councillor. We also consider it extremely important for residents to have small localised wards with local members that are known to them.

Furthermore, the proposed Town Ward arrangements do not appear to achieve the objectives of clear, identifiable ward boundaries and the proposed ward names may be confusing for some residents. It is therefore suggested that the Town Wards be coterminous with the Borough wards, with two Town Council wards within each Borough ward, with each Town Council ward electing three Town Councillors.

Naming of Town Wards:

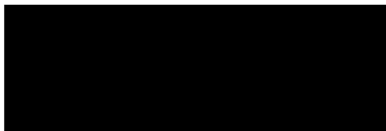
After considering the proposed naming of the Town Wards, the Town Council would suggest that the following changes be considered by the Commission:

Draft Recommendations proposed by LGCBE	Suggested changes by Horley Town Council
Ward C (to be divided at Lee Street)	Horley North West & Horley West
Ward A and Ward B (to be divided at Smallfield Road)	Horley North East & Horley East
Ward E and Ward D (divided by Railway Line)	Horley South West & Horley South East

Conclusion:

In summary, we do hope that our proposals for the Borough and Town Wards within the Southern Parishes will be of assistance and will be given due consideration in producing your Final Recommendations for publication in October and implementation by the May 2019 elections.

Yours faithfully



Joan Walsh
Town Clerk
Horley Town Council

cc (By Email): Borough Cllr Tony Schofield
Borough Cllr Andy Lynch
Claire Minter, Clerk to Salfords & Sidlow Parish Council