



Via email only - [reviews@lgbce.org.uk](mailto:reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
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6 April 2018

Dear Sirs

**Re: Salfords and Sidlow Parish Council – Boundary Commission Review Submission**

I am writing on behalf of Salfords and Sidlow Parish Council (S&SPC).

**Introduction**

S&SPC have reviewed all the documentation and note that the recommendation is that Reigate and Banstead Borough Council (R&BBC) should have 45 Borough Councillors from 2019 elections, creating 15 wards of electorate of approximately 7,800 per ward. The recommendation is that each ward will have three members.

The following comments and submission from S&SPC refers to the southern part of R&BBC only. S&SPC does not have the resources to consider the whole of the Borough therefore makes no recommendation for any of the existing wards north of Earlswood & Whitebushes and South Park.

**Recommendation**

S&SPC's recommendation is for the full parish of Salfords and Sidlow to be incorporated as one Ward i.e. SAS1, SAS2 & EWB4. Our proposed electorate in 2023, whilst only 2864 electors, clearly demonstrates an electoral equality with the expected ratio of electors to each Borough Councillor.

S&SPC make this recommendation for the following reasons: -

The Parish Council has historically been 2 members wards, SAS1 & SAS2 and EWB4

- We believe the efficiency and effectiveness of the Parish Council will be compromised through being split up into more wards.
- S&SPC represents a predominantly thinly populated rural area which is mainly in the metropolitan Green Belt with one identifiable built up area in the centre of Salfords. This is distinct from the largely built up neighbouring areas of Horley, Earlswood & Whitebushes and South Park & Woodhatch.
- By having one Borough Councillor in a single Borough Ward S&SPC's residents are able to benefit from their identity as a separate entity from the surrounding more urban areas and boundaries of R&BBC.

- The previous boundary review moved a small part of S&SPC into the neighbouring ward of Earlswood & Whitebushes. The Parish Council see this boundary review as an opportunity to reunite the whole of S&SPC in one ward again rather than leave it in two wards, or worse still, put us in three or more.
- S&SPC engages on a regular basis with our Borough Councillor and should the Boundary Commission consider various areas of Salfords and Sidlow to be split up i.e. between the west, central and eastern wards of Horley, with another part remaining in Earlswood & Whitebushes, this would mean S&SPC having to work with up to 12 Borough Councillors. This would be untenable, particularly given a forecast electorate of just 2864.
- We have a 'part time' Clerk who is pro-active and always working with the residents in the community to improve the local area. Indeed, residents approach S&SPC for their local issues and recognise us as their first port of call for Borough issues to be resolved. It would become intolerable should the work load escalate due to the proposed changes.
- We would find it time consuming and most inconvenient for the Clerk and Councillors to deal with local Borough issues within the Parish because there would be too many Borough Councillors to work with to resolve the various requests.
- We would not be able to demonstrate local democracy at our Parish level. The Parish Council is a defined, and elected, tier of local government and should not have its role and impact in the local community diluted by being conjoined with other large and more urban centres, and certainly not at their or others behest.
- Residents of Salfords and Sidlow use the community village hall in Salfords which is run by the Parish Council for its local community.
- Salfords and Sidlow pupils attend the local Salfords Primary School within our parish.
- Residents use the local shops, pharmacy, restaurants and industrial estate in the vicinity of Salfords.
- Residents recognise and identify with S&SPC as the conduit for the local ties with various community groups within our parish including the Salfords Youth Club (which is run by the Parish Council), Brownies, Salfords Cricket Club, Scouts, Sidlow Bridge WI, Salfords Monotype Bowls Club and Salfords Social Club. We also work closely with Norwood Hill Residents Association. Residents identify that we have one Borough Councillor who knows the local area and is able to work with S&SPC on local needs of the community.
- We have Christ the King church in Salfords which is attended by Salfords residents and who the Parish Council leases the village hall through. Emmanuel Church is located in Sidlow and is recognised as part of the Sidlow community and supported by the Parish Council for grounds maintenance and holding quarterly council meetings.
- S&SPC is made up of two villages and, in terms of electorate, fairly small. However, it incorporates part of Redhill Aerodrome and perhaps more importantly an industrial estate and proposed Minerals and Waste recycling centre as well as Horse Hill drilling site. These elements raise the issues and profile of the parish far above other areas of similar size within the Borough. In addition, we have large housing developments on our southern border with Horley and need Borough representation that understands and is empathetic as

regards the threat that these can have on our community. On these grounds it is essential that S&SPC has one clear representative at Borough level.

- The electorate is confused enough about which council provides which services and who represents them at the different tiers of local government. To include part of the parish into different Borough wards will not do anything to improve the electorate's engagement with local democracy.
- We recognise the electorate of S&SPC will be too small for a ward on our own however we believe S&SPC can and should all be in one ward whose name should include Salfords and Sidlow.

## **Option 2**

If the Boundary Commission is unable to accept our one-member ward proposal, S&SPC reluctantly propose that we are adjoined with the north west part of Horley. This would keep our Parish in one distinct ward, to include SAS1, SAS2 and EWB4. S&SPC make this proposal for the following reasons: -

- Horley Town Council and S&SPC are the only Parish Councils in the borough. No other areas in R&BBC are represented by a third tier of local government.
- Our residents have clear road & rail links to Horley. Traffic travelling north/south on the A23 and A217 main roads pass through our communities and use our lanes.
- A new link road to the new Horley North West housing development will emerge in Salfords in 2019. This will provide a guide to suitable northern ward boundary even if is not the actual line of the boundary.
- We have potential and existing and emerging issues with rat running and junction decision issues i.e. Cross Oak Lane/Meath Green Lane
- We are members of the Horley Regeneration Forum.
- We know Horley Town Council Councillors and share knowledge and both Clerks liaise on a regular basis and hold shared meetings with R&BBC. However, it is clear from joint discussions that their and our proposals for the new ward boundaries for our two councils do not always agree.
- Our residents use the shops in Horley, i.e. Sainsbury, Waitrose and Tesco (Hookwood)
- Some of our residents use Horley based doctors and dentists
- Horley residents use the village hall and our nearest sports centre is in Horley
- Families of Salfords and Sidlow pupils who attend the local Salfords Primary School see the Horley based Oakwood secondary school as a destination/ feeder school
- Gatwick is a shared concern on which we liaise. The Horley Town Council Chairman is a member of the noise and track monitoring advisory group (NATMAG)
- We would request this ward to be called Horley (North), Salfords and Sidlow Ward

S&SPC's proposal is for S&SPC to have as few Borough Councillors as possible so we can focus on matters of interest and concern to our residents with our preference to become a one member ward but should we have to amalgamate and become part of a larger three member ward our proposal is for the whole of S&SPC to be adjoined with a part of one Horley ward.

In summary S&SPC's proposal is for S&SPC to have as few Borough Councillors as possible with our preference for the whole of S&SPC to remain in one ward with one Borough Councillor.

Yours faithfully

Claire Minter  
Clerk to Salfords and Sidlow Parish Council

Cc: Borough Cllr Dorothy Ross Tomlin, Borough Councillor – email only  
Borough Cllr Barbara Thomson, Borough Councillor – email only  
County Councillor Kay Hammond – email only