

**From:** Burgess, Bob [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 06 April 2018 11:46  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** Submission to the Boundary Commission  
**Attachments:** Submission to the Boundary Commission.docx

Dear Mr Cooper

I understand you are the Review Officer with specific responsibility for the day-to-day running of the review. Please find attached my submission to the review in my capacity as one of the ward Councillors on Crawley Borough Council representing the current Three Bridges Ward. I shall also be sending you a hard copy

Kindest regards

Bob Burgess  
Councillor  
Three Bridges Ward

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For the attention of Mark Cooper, Review Officer.

## Submission to the Boundary Commission for the Boundary Review affecting Crawley

When Crawley was first built as a New Town in the late 1940s, it was designed around a system of distinct neighbourhoods. These neighbourhoods formed the basis of the ward boundaries for electoral purposes. As the town grew the neighbourhood principle was maintained. People in Crawley identify very much with the neighbourhood where they reside.

At a meeting between the Boundary Commission and Crawley Borough Councillors there was overwhelming support of, as far as possible, 'the Neighbourhood Principle that has helped to shape the town should be retained'.

A proposal for 12x3 member wards was, in my opinion, rightly unanimously rejected by the Governance Committee of Crawley Borough Council as it would have caused major disruption to the existing Neighbourhood Principle.

In the scheme of electoral boundaries that was passed at a recent meeting of the Full Council it is proposed that Tinsley Lane and its associated closes should be split away from the rest of Three Bridges ward to be placed in a new ward of Langley Green and Manor Royal while at the same time adding the entire town centre to Three Bridges. Surely there can be no logic in removing a key part of the Three Bridges neighbourhood and replacing it with the town centre, especially when this is not required for electoral equality.

West Sussex County Council have submitted an alternative proposal which keeps the Tinsley Lane area within Three Bridges thus maintaining the link between Tinsley Lane and the rest of Three Bridges.

This proposal has strong support from Three Bridges residents, both the current Crawley Borough Council ward Councillors, of whom I am one, and the County Councillor for Three Bridges.

The Boundary Commission uses three statutory criteria when looking at any proposed changes to electoral ward boundaries and these criteria need to be considered and balanced.

In summary these are

- Delivering, as far as possible, electoral equality
- The pattern of wards should reflect, as far as possible, the interests and identities of local communities
- Electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government

You also say that any proposals should demonstrate how all three requirements are met.

The Council submission ignores the criterion for effective local government and it does not take into account the views of local residents. Instead it majors on the need for electoral quality. The proposal has not presented a balanced case.

The residents of the Tinsley Lane area of Three Bridges identify with the rest of Three Bridges. There are strong historical links. The Tinsley Lane residents shop in the rest of Three Bridges, children go to or went to schools there. They take advantage of local facilities found in the rest of Three Bridges such as, the doctor's surgery, community and youth

centres, the post office, local hostelrys. For Tinsley Lane residents, local amenities and facilities cannot be accessed easily in Langley Green.

Tinsley Lane residents have no relationship, no connection and no identity with the proposed Langley Green and Manor Royal ward. Langley Green is a major residential area and this is an area that the proposed Borough Council scheme wishes Tinsley Lane to be part of. Nor does it have an electoral relationship the few residences that are in Manor Royal. Indeed, the few that there are abut with Langley Green. There is no adjacency of any residences with Tinsley Lane.

I believe it is difficult to see how effective and convenient local government can be achieved under the proposal which splits Tinsley Lane from the rest of Three Bridges and places it in the proposed Langley Green and Manor Royal ward.

In order to access Langley Green from the Tinsley Lane area currently involves crossing two ward boundaries with no immediate pedestrian access.

There is easy access from Tinsley Lane to the rest of Three Bridges via a flyover if travelling by car or pedestrian access via a footbridge.

There is a strong physical separation between Tinsley Lane and Langley Green. This means good cohesion is unlikely to be achieved. It is likely to prove difficult for any ward councillor to balance the needs of two areas of the town which are separated considerably geographically and where the character and demographics of the areas are so totally different.

Cllr Bob Burgess

Three Bridges Ward Councillor

Crawley Borough Council