

Viewpoint Residents' Association and Neighbourhood Watch

[REDACTED]

The Review Officer (Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
1st Floor
Windsor House
50, Victoria Street
London
SW1H 07L

1st August 2018

Dear Sir/Madam,

Proposed Changes to Parkstone Ward Boundary

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the Viewpoint Residents' Association and Neighbourhood Watch which was founded in 2004, and is registered with Poole Borough Council. We are alarmed at the proposal to transfer the following roads to Oakdale ward:

- **Harbour View Road**
- **Harbour View Close**
- **Constitution Hill Road**
- **Danecourt Road**
- **Hatherden Avenue**
- **North Road (NW side)**

Our objections are on the following grounds:

- 1. Dividing a Natural Community** The above roads have been part of Parkstone since the original Parish Council was formed in the late Nineteenth Century. Our natural focus is Ashley Cross, and most houses in this area are deemed to have a chancel repair liability to St Peter's Parkstone Church. Oakdale is nearly two miles away, and transport links either by bus or car are difficult. There is no direct bus service to Oakdale from our area. This would make it difficult to access Councillor surgeries in Oakdale. Viewpoint Residents' Association and Neighbourhood Watch has members in all the roads, and they express an affinity with the geographical segment coming down from the View Point at Sea View – hence the name of the association (see attached map). We have chosen to live here because of the amenities provided, including larger detached houses on spacious plots, a leafy environment with lots of green space, and access to shops, certain schools, GP practices, and other services. Therefore, the current proposals will divide our community.
- 2. Disregard of natural boundaries** North Road and Danecourt Road will be artificial boundaries. Rather Ringwood Road and Fernside Road provide the natural boundaries to our

area. Furthermore, your proposals will result in splitting the upper and lower ends of both North Road and Danecourt Road.

3. Erosion of the quality of democratic representation The effect of the proposed changes would make it very difficult for Viewpoint Residents' Association and Neighbourhood Watch to continue to represent our area effectively to the new Council and other agencies. If we continue, we would, in effect, have to make representation through two teams of local councillors, with a likely increase in effort required, and diminution of effectiveness. We know of no other area within Poole where proposals for new ward boundaries cut across the geographical area served by an established residents' association. We have leafleted all residents (some 200 households) in the roads affected, and are aware that there is considerable concern, and that several residents will also be responding individually to this consultation. Severing residents from where their interests and concerns lie, is very likely to aggravate the decline in electoral turn-out, and erode involvement in local democracy.

4. Giving due weight to electoral numbers I have scrutinised the proposed changes to electoral numbers for Parkstone and adjacent wards. These are:

	Current	Forecast	Future Councillor Nos
Parkstone	6884	7742	2
Oakdale	13090	13076	3
Penn Hill	8121	8617	2
Poole Town	6730	8430	2

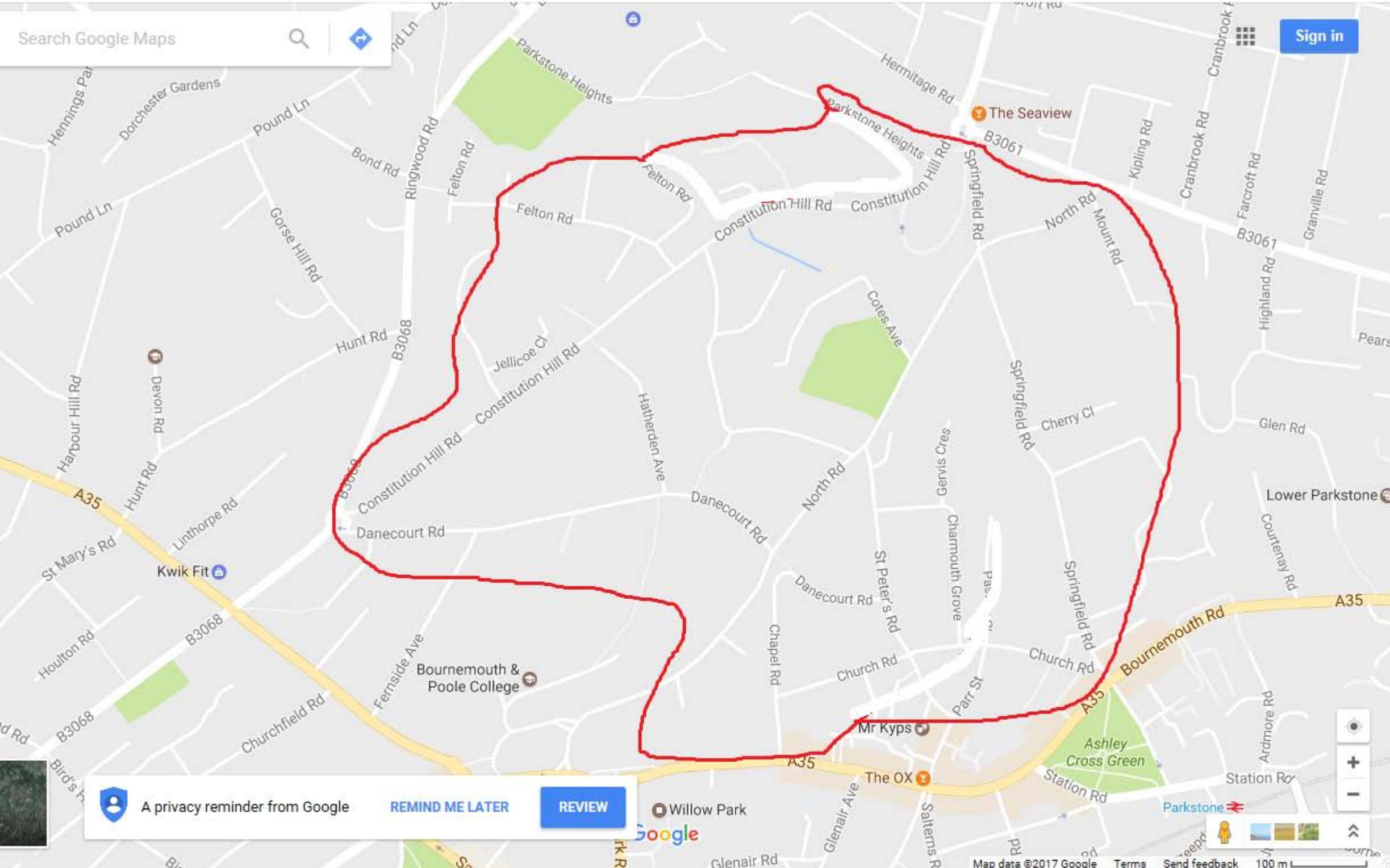
From the above it can be seen that the proposed changes would result in Parkstone having the lowest ratio of electorate to councillors under the new proposals. By leaving the above listed roads within Parkstone ward, it is unlikely that total electorate numbers would be increase by much more than 400-500, which would bring it into line with other wards.

Yours sincerely,

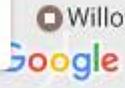
Professor Jean Woodall

Chair

Viewpoint Residents' Association and Neighbourhood Watch



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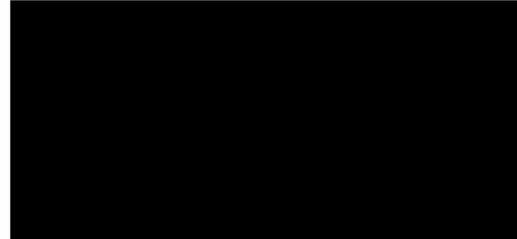


The Society For Poole

Founded 1924



The Review Officer (BCP),
Local Government Boundary
Commission for England,
1st Floor, Windsor House,
50 Victoria Street,
London, SW1H 0TL.



21st August 2018

Dear Sirs / Madams,

COMMENTS on PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS to WARD BOUNDARIES

On behalf of our Society, I am instructed to comment on your current proposed modifications to existing Ward Boundaries as follows :-

- 1 : We understand that our urban area is preparing proposals for revising its methods of governance with a view to ensuring adequate transparency and accountability and notwithstanding the 'democratic deficit' being created by the proposed loss of so many elected representatives.
- 2 : It was understood that the existing number of elected representatives could be substantiated because, unlike the rest of Dorset, the relevant urban areas had no parish or town councils to harness public opinion.
- 3 : It is noted that the 'rest of Dorset' will be losing its District Councils but retaining its town and parish councils.
- 4 : In view of the above, it is suggested that wholesale reconfiguring of ward boundaries in our significant urban area would be relatively damaging to public confidence and particularly so if the use of population data (likely to be historical) disrupts established community ties and their interests in specific conservation areas and other community matters.
- 5 : After receipt of information about the expected proposals for open and accountable governance, it may be possible to see how your proposals (suitably adjusted) could work but in the meantime it is suggested that a definitive decision, without further relevant discussions, would be premature.
- 6 : Whilst we in Poole await some idea of '1' above, we understand that Christchurch will be requiring two parish councils to help harnessing public support / understanding.
- 7 : It is noted that not all Parliamentary Constituencies are of the same population size and so it is trusted that the need to preserve community ties and confidence levels will be respected and not undermined.

COMMENTS on PROPOSED MODIFICATIONS to WARD BOUNDARIES (Cont'd)

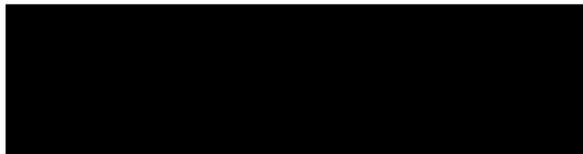
As you will no doubt appreciate, our civic society is very concerned to see that relevant action is taken (will be taken) to avoid the risks arising from divided, and therefore weakened, responsibilities (particularly with regard to our conservation areas and to evolving community groups) that may occur as a result of the current work being undertaken by yourselves.

For effectiveness, each ward needs to reflect the underlying community group and moves that disrupt such group opinions (eg the Broadstone Neighbourhood Forum being disrupted by requiring people to vote in areas and on matters that do not concern them and prohibited from voting in the area and on matters that do concern them) could suggest gerrymandering.

With regard to '1' above, it seems relevant to stress that an informed electorate is more likely if parish councils exist (as will be the case in rural Dorset). It is understood that Neighbourhood Forums could convert to parish councils.

Some say that education is expensive but, it is remembered, ignorance is even more so. The risks to the success of the proposed new system of governance and that are associated with the above-mentioned 'democratic deficit' (at a time of fundamental change) will not disappear simply by ignoring them. Wards need to be generally acceptable and not the result of any bull-dozing of public opinion : an objective we trust you are seeking to achieve.

Yours faithfully,



Gerald Rigler : Chairman of Planning Sub-Group

Owen, David

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 27 August 2018 17:01
To: reviews
Subject: Council Ward reviews in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you as Chair of the North Bournemouth Area Forum (NBAF).

The NBAF is an organisation that acts as a consulting and communication route with Bournemouth Council. It has been in existence for over 15 years and covers the three wards of Kinson North, Kinson South and Redhill and Northbourne. The Area Forum holds public meetings six times a year and at the last meeting one of the areas for discussion and comment were the proposals for council ward boundary changes planned for Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole.

The meeting heard the proposals as outlined in the Boundary Commission's document. The consensus of the meeting was that the amalgamation of Kinson South with Bearwood would not be popular and requested that a formal response be made to these proposals.

This proposal was not perceived as a sensible grouping and that Kinson North and Kinson South have more in common; they form a single community in most people's eyes. Bearwood is divided from Kinson South by Ringwood Road and, in fact, a subject of much discussion over the past two to three years has been the difficulty of those living in Bearwood being able to travel by public transport easily into Kinson. A preferred solution would be to combine Kinson North with Kinson South as a 3 councillor ward and have Bearwood as a separate 2 councillor ward. This retains the equality of representation and matches more closely with the communities that already exist. It reflects the natural barrier of Ringwood Road.

Yours faithfully,

Lesley Edwards

Chair, North Bournemouth Area Forum

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council

Personal Details:

Name: Geoffrey Moy
E-mail: pooleflagtrust@gmail.com
Postcode: XXXXXXXXXX
Organisation Name: Poole Flag Trust

Comment text:

We believe that a councillor should represent a community. By creating wards of equal population, communities are being split up. Local authorities have recognised the presence of communities of different populations by the location of libraries. It is more important that a single councillor represents a community rather than ensuring that each councillor represents the same number of voters. An example is the centre of Broadstone split by the southern part being transferred to Creekmoor. The revised boundaries are splitting up conservation areas etc. It could confuse residents if the whole of conservation areas etc are not included in a ward, a single councillor should be aware of and control matters. If a councillor represents several small detached areas confusion will be created. Geoffrey Moy Hon President Poole Flag Trust

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded

Owen, David

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 30 July 2018 10:06
To: reviews
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Upton House / Upton Coutry Park - Poole review

Hi,

Following my conversation with David this morning, it was a great surprise to hear the above is now supposed to be in Oakdale Ward.

Upton House etc. has a natural physical link and location next to Creekmoor and we have a path, the Castleman Trailway, which links the 2 together. Historically, the Llewelyn family, who lived at Upton House, dedicated land to the residents of Creekmoor due to its proximity.

It doesn't seem to make any sense for it to be allocated anywhere else, let alone Oakdale, to which it has no link whatsoever.

I am very happy to discuss further.

Thanks and regards.

Andy Pedrick
Chairman
Creekmoor Community Association
[REDACTED]

Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council

Personal Details:

Name: Stephen Coltman

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Talbot & Branksome Woods Residents Association

Comment text:

Dear Sir/Madam At the time of the previous Ward Boundary Review, the Boundary Commission approached the Talbot & Branksome Woods Residents Association to request the use of the Association's name for the Ward. They said they had discovered that the Talbot & Branksome Woods Residents Association was the largest, most active and most representative organization of the Ward. The Association has now been running for over 50 years. However, the continued use of our Residents Association's name for a greatly extended Ward would be totally inappropriate. Therefore, if the present Ward were to be greatly extended as proposed, then the Talbot & Branksome Residents Association, of which I am Chairman, requests that the extended Ward should be renamed. Thank you. Yours sincerely. Stephen Coltman OBE Chairman

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded