

**Local Government
Boundary Commission
For England
Report No.282**

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 282

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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To the Rt Hon Merlyn Rees, MP
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS
FOR THE DISTRICT OF WOKINGHAM IN BERKSHIRE

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the District of Wokingham in accordance with the requirements of section 63 of, and Schedule 9 to, the Local Government Act 1972, present our proposals for the future electoral arrangements for that district.

2. In accordance with the procedure laid down in section 60(1) and (2) of the 1972 Act, notice was given on 12 August 1974 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the Wokingham District Council, copies of which were circulated to the Berkshire County Council, the parish councils in the district, the Members of Parliament for the constituencies concerned and the headquarters of the main political parties. Copies were also sent to the editors of local newspapers circulating in the area and of the local government press. Notices inserted in the local press announced the start of the review and invited comments from members of the public and from interested bodies.

3. Wokingham District Council were invited to prepare a draft scheme of representation for our consideration. In doing so, they were asked to observe the rules laid down in Schedule 11 to the Local Government Act 1972, and the guidelines which we set out in our Report No 6 about the proposed size of the council and the proposed number of councillors for each ward. They were asked also to take into account views expressed to them following their consultation with local interests. We therefore asked that they should publish details of their provisional proposals about one month before they submitted their draft

scheme to us, thus allowing an opportunity for local comment.

4. The Council have passed a resolution under section 7(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, requesting a system of elections by thirds.

5. On 6 March 1975 the Wokingham District Council submitted their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area of the district into 21 wards, each returning 1, 2 or 3 members to form a council of 53.

6. We considered the draft scheme together with the large number of comments which had been made upon it. We noted that, although the draft scheme offered a reasonable standard of representation, there was dissatisfaction with the Council's proposals for three of the parished areas. In order to satisfy some of the local objections, and without upsetting the numerical balance of the draft scheme, we decided to modify the Council's proposals by regrouping the parishes in the eastern part of the district, thereby forming 24 wards in place of the 21 wards proposed by the District Council and increasing the proposed size of the council by 1 member. Subject to these modifications, we adopted the Council's draft scheme as our draft proposals.

7. On 16 July 1975 we issued our draft proposals and these were sent to all who had received our consultation letter or had commented on the Council's draft scheme. The Council were asked to make these draft proposals and the accompanying map which illustrated the proposed ward boundaries available for inspection at their main offices. Representations on our draft proposals were invited from those to whom they were circulated and, by public notices, from other members of the public and interested bodies. We asked for comments to reach us by 19 September 1975.

8. Comments on the draft proposals were received from the District Council, three parish councils, two town councils, a local political party and a local village society. The District Council, two of the parish councils and the village

Society supported the draft proposals. The third parish council, one of the town councils and the local political party suggested modifications to the draft proposals. Earley Town Council, the other town council referred to, objected both to the District Council's proposal to allocate 18 town councillors to their parish, as opposed to the 21 councillors they desired, and to the proposed boundaries of some of the parish wards, as incorporated in the draft proposals. They requested the Commission to review the electoral arrangements for their parish under the provisions of section 50(5) of the Local Government Act 1972.

9. We considered that we needed more information regarding the basis on which the District Council had allocated the town councillors amongst the proposed parish wards and accordingly we deferred consideration on the district electoral review until the question of the parish electoral arrangements was settled. After several meetings between the District Council and Earley Town Council, the District Council informed us of their intention to concede the Town Council's request for 21 councillors but not to alter the new parish ward boundaries. The Town Council, after further consideration, accepted this and withdrew their request to the Commission for a parish electoral review.

10. Apart from the representations by Earley Town Council we received three further proposals from a local political party relating to the boundaries in the parish. One involved an alteration in the district boundary, another an alteration to a parish boundary and the third an amendment to parish warding orders and a departure from our normal practice of running boundaries along the middle of roads. The first two of these proposals were not feasible and we decided not to adopt the third.

11. We received four other proposals, three from one parish council and one from another. All four proposals would have involved parish warding orders, which the District Council were unwilling to make, and we decided to reject them.

12. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedules 1, 2 and 3 to this report. Schedule 1 gives the names of the wards and the number of councillors to be returned by each. Schedule 2 shows our proposals for the order of retirement of councillors. Schedule 3 is a description of the areas of the new wards. The boundaries of the new wards are shown on the attached map.

PUBLICATION

13. In accordance with section 60(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, a copy of this report and a copy of the map are being sent to Wokingham District Council and will be available for inspection at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report (without map) are being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments.

L.S.

Signed

EDMUND COMPTON (CHAIRMAN)

JOHN M RANKIN (DEPUTY CHAIRMAN)

PHYLLIS BOWDEN

J T BROCKBANK

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

R R THORNTON

D P HARRISON

N DIGNEY (Secretary)

1 December 1977

SCHEDULE 1

WOKINGHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL : NAMES OF PROPOSED
WARDS AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO OF COUNCILLORS</u>
ARBORFIELD	1
BARKHAM	1
BULMERSHE	2
CALIFORNIA	2
CHARVIL	1
CORONATION	3
EMMEROOK	3
EVENDONS	3
FINCHAMPSTEAD	2
HURST	1
LITTLE HUNGERFORD	3
LODDON	3
NORREYS	3
REDHATCH	3
REMENHAM AND WARGRAVE	2
ST SEBASTIANS	3
SHINFIELD	3
SONNING	1
SOUTH LAKE	3
SWALLOWFIELD	1
TWYFORD AND RUSCOMBE	3
WESCOTT	2
WHITEGATES	2
WINNERSH	3

WOKINGHAM DISTRICT

ELECTIONS BY THIRDS - ORDER OF RETIREMENT

	NO. OF COUNCILLORS REPRESENTING WARD	1ST YEAR 1980	2ND YEAR 1982	3RD YEAR 1983
ARBORFIELD	1	1 PE	-	-
BARKHAM	1	-	1 PE	-
BULMERSHE	2	1 1	1 PE	1 PE
CALIFORNIA	2	1	-	1 PE
CHARVIL	1	-	-	1 PE
CORONATION	3	1	1	1 PE
EMMBROOK	3	1	1	1 PE
EVENDONS	3	1	1	1 PE
FINCHAMPSTEAD	2	1	1 PE	1 PE
HURST	1	1 PE	-	1 PE
LITTLE HUNGERFORD	3	1	1	1 PE
LODDON	3	1	1	1 PE
NORREYS	3	1	1	1 PE
REDHATCH	3	1	1	1 PE
HEMENHAM AND WARGRAVE	2	1	1 PE	-
ST SEBASTIANS	3	1	1	1 PE
SHINFIELD	3	1	1	1 PE
SONNING	1	-	1 PE	-
SOUTH LAKE	3	1	1	1 PE
SWALLOWFIELD	1	1 PE	-	1 PE
TWYFORD AND RUSCOMBE	3	1	1	1 PE
WESCOTT	2	-	1	1 PE
WHITEGATES	2	-	1	1 PE
WINGERSH	3	1	1	1 PE
	54	18	18	18
		18	18	

PE = Parish Elections

WOKINGHAM DISTRICT

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES

ARBORFIELD WARD

The Parish of Arborfield and Newland.

BARKHAM WARD

The Parish of Barkham

BULMERSHE WARD

The Bulmershe Ward of the parish of Woodley.

CALIFORNIA WARD

The California Ward of the parish of Wokingham Without

CHARVIL WARD

The Parish of Charvil.

CORONATION WARD

The Coronation West

Coronation East Wards of the parish of Woodley.

EMMBROOK WARD

The Emmbrook North

Emmbrook South Wards of the parish of Wokingham.

EVEDONS WARD

The Evendons West

Evendons East Wards of the parish of Wokingham.

FINCHAMPSTEAD WARD

The Parish of Finchampstead.

HURST WARD

The Parish of St Nicholas Hurst.

The North Ward of the parish of Wokingham Without.

LITTLE HUNGERFORD WARD

The Little Hungerford Ward of the parish of Earley.

The South Ward of the parish of Woodley.

LODDON WARD

The Loddon West

Loddon East Wards of the parish of Woodley.

NORREYS WARD

The Norreys West

Norreys East Wards of the parish of Wokingham.

REDHATCH WARD

The Redhatch North

Redhatch South Wards of the parish of Earley.

REMENHAM AND WARGRAVE WARD

The parishes of Remenham

Wargrave

ST SEBASTIAN'S WARD

The St Sebastian's Ward of the parish of Wokingham Without.

SHINFIELD WARD

The Parish of Shinfield.

SONNING WARD

The Parish of Sonning

SOUTH LAKE WARD

The South Lake North

South Lake South Wards of the parish of Woodley.

SWALLOWFIELD WARD

The Parish of Swallowfield.

TWYFORD AND RUSCOMBE WARD

The Parishes of Twyford

Ruscombe

WESCOTT WARD

The Wescott West

Wescott East Wards of the parish of Wokingham.

WHITEGATES WARD

The Whitegates North

Whitegates South Wards of the parish of Earley.

WINNERSH WARD

The Parish of Winnersh.

