

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BOUNDARY COMMISSION

FOR ENGLAND

REPORT NO. 40

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

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To the Rt Hon Roy Jenkins, MP  
Secretary of State for the Home Department

PROPOSALS FOR REVISED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BOROUGH OF  
SURREY HEATH IN THE COUNTY OF SURREY

1. We, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, having carried out our initial review of the electoral arrangements for the Borough of Surrey Heath 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 borough.

2. In accordance with the procedure laid down in section 60(1) and (2) of the 1972 Act, notice was given on 13 May 1974 that we were to undertake this review. This was incorporated in a consultation letter addressed to the Surrey Heath Borough Council, copies of which were circulated to the Surrey County Council, Parish Councils in the borough, the Member of Parliament for the constituency concerned and the headquarters of the main political parties. Copies were also sent to the editors of the local newspapers circulating in the area and to 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 any interested bodies.

3. Surrey Heath Borough 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 any views expressed to them following their consultations with local interests. We therefore asked that they should publish details of their provisional proposals about a month before they submitted their draft scheme to us, thus allowing an opportunity for local comment.

4. In accordance with section 7(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Council had exercised an option for a system of whole council elections.

5. On 1st November 1974 the Surrey Heath Borough Council presented their draft scheme of representation. The Council proposed to divide the area into 16 wards each returning 1, 2 or 3 members to form a council of 36, the same number as at present.

6. We received one letter commenting on the Borough Council's proposals. This came from a local political party and suggested alternative arrangements for the Frimley and Camberley areas of the borough. The Borough Council sent us copies of the comments made to them during the period when their draft scheme was being prepared. In a number of instances the comments related to the future electoral arrangements for the county council and were therefore outside the scope of the present review. Of the remainder the Borough Council had adopted the majority of the proposals made to them and they were embodied in their draft scheme. Only two comments remained for our consideration. One related to the proposed Bisley ward and suggested that an additional councillor should be allocated. The other expressed concern at the proposed reduction in the number of district councillors representing the parish of Chobham.

7. We studied the Borough Council's draft scheme and noted that they expected a fairly rapid increase in the electorate of certain parts of the district over

the next five years. We thought that the Council's forecasts might be rather optimistic and we examined the validity of the scheme should the rate of growth prove lower than the Council expected. We concluded that the growth factor was not critical to the suitability of the scheme and that no modification was necessary for this reason.

8. We considered the alternative proposals for the Frimley and Camberley areas. We noted that one of the wards suggested was at variance with the guideline, as set out in our Report No 6, that no district ward should return more than 3 members. We could see no reason to treat this suggested ward as an exception. Moreover, the alternative proposals generally offered a rather uneven standard of representation and we concluded that the Borough Council's proposals were more appropriate.

9. We reviewed the Council's decisions to reject the proposals made to them in relation to the proposed Bisley and Chobham wards. On the basis of the electorates of the proposed wards both now and as forecast for 1979/80 we agreed that these decisions were appropriate.

10. After consultation with the Ordnance Survey we decided to propose some minor modifications to improve a number of the boundaries proposed by the Borough Council. Subject only to these modifications we decided that the Borough Council's draft scheme provided a reasonable basis for the future electoral arrangements for the district in compliance with the rules in Schedule 11 to the 1972 Act and our guidelines, and we formulated our draft proposals accordingly.

11. On 13 February 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 maps which defined 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 that any comments should reach us by 14 April 1975.

12. Both the Surrey Heath Borough Council and the Surrey County Council informed us that they had no observations to offer on our proposals. However, the local political party which had written to us earlier objected to our proposals, suggesting that the proposed Old Dean ward should be allocated an additional councillor, that the proposed Frimley Green ward should be represented by only two councillors and that the area covered by the proposed St Michaels and Watchetts wards should be divided in a different manner from that proposed by the Borough Council. and adopted by the Commission.

13. In view of these comments we considered that we needed further information to enable us to reach a conclusion. Therefore, in accordance with section 65(2) of the 1972 Act and at our request, you appointed Mr J L Evans as an Assistant Commissioner to hold a local meeting and to report to us.

14. The Assistant Commissioner held a meeting at Bagshot on 23 June 1975. A copy of his report to us of the meeting is attached at Schedule 1 to this report.

15. The Assistant Commissioner recommended that our draft proposals should be confirmed.

16. We considered again our draft proposals in the light of the comments which we had received and of the Assistant Commissioner's report. We concluded that the Assistant Commissioner's recommendation to make no change should be adopted, and, accordingly, we decided to confirm our draft proposals as our final proposals.

17. Details of these final proposals are set out in Schedule 2 to this report and on the attached maps. Schedule 2 gives the names of the wards and the number of councillors to be returned by each. The boundaries of the new wards are defined on the maps.

#### PUBLICATION

18. In accordance with Section 60(5)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 a copy of this report and a copy of the maps are being sent to Surrey Heath Borough Council and will be available at the Council's main offices. Copies of this report are also being sent to those who received the consultation letter and to those who made comments. A detailed description of the boundaries of the proposed wards, as defined on the maps, is set out in Schedule 3 to this report.

Signed

EDMUND COMPTON (Chairman)

JOHN M RANKIN (Deputy Chairman)

DIANA ALBEMARLE

T C BENFIELD

MICHAEL CHISHOLM

ANDREW WHEATLEY

F B YOUNG

DAVID R SMITH (Secretary)

17 July 1975

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

## ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BOROUGH OF SURREY HEATH

Meeting at Bagshot Manor to hear objections to the  
Local Authority's proposals

23 June 1975

Report of Assistant Commissioner Mr J L Evans

1. There were present:

Mr D J L Horn	Chief Executive
Mr R C Churchouse	Personal Assistant to the Chief Executive
Mr W F Toynbee	Conservative Councillor, Frimley Green
Mr M Whybrow	Surrey County Council
Mrs J S Underwood	Chairman, St Michaels Ward Conservative Party
Mrs V Richards	Conservative, Frimley Ward
Mr J Walkley	Secretary, Labour Party
Mr T Wilshaw	Labour Party
Mr J Stanford	Labour Party
The Press	

2. The Commission's proposals have been agreed by the Surrey Heath Borough Council and by Surrey County Council. Statistics are set out in the attached Schedules headed "Numerical Analysis" and "Table showing Electoral Equality".

3. Objections thereto were lodged by the Frimley and Camberley Labour Party as follows:-

- a. that the number of Councillors allocated to the proposed Old Dean Ward should be increased from two to three.
- b. that the number of Councillors allocated to the proposed Frimley Green Ward should be reduced from three to two.
- c. that the area covered by the existing West Ward (ie the proposed St Michaels and Watchetts Wards) should be divided on a north/south line following Frimley Road, London Road and Roberts Road rather than on an east/west line as proposed by the Commission.

3. Objections (a) and (b) were dealt with first at the Meeting.
4. The Labour Party representatives submitted
  - a. the 1974 electoral population figures provided an unanswerable case for Old Dean Ward to have three Councillors and Frimley Green Ward two.
  - b. that while there was very little scope for an increase in the electorate in the Old Dean Ward in the next five years (indeed there are no plans for new buildings in that Ward in that time) there was great doubt about the accuracy of the forecast increase in the number of electors in the Borough generally and in the Frimley Green Ward in particular.

The financial state of the country would almost certainly cause cuts in Council Housing building programmes and in the building of accommodation for Army personnel; and a falling off in demand for private houses must be expected.

- c. a reasonable estimate of the increase in the electoral population in Frimley Green in the next five years would not justify the allocation of three Councillors to that Ward.
5. The Conservative Party representatives submitted
  - a. The Borough is in growth area Number 8 by the Strategic Plan for South East England and has a planned population figure of 90,000; it is an undoubted "boom" area, the electoral population having doubled in the past ten years; even if there is a national cut back in all types of development, this area will suffer less than others.

b. Frimley Green Ward is the only Ward in the Borough in which there is large building potential and the estimated 1979 figure could prove to be on the low side.

c. Within the Ward

1. Bovis (who never stopped building through last year's recession in the building industry) have planning permission for 500 houses on 100 acres, and work is in progress.
2. In Cross Lane and Hatches, there is an outstanding planning approval for 150 houses and work is in progress.
3. Bowling Green Cottage, where two electors formerly lived, is to be developed by a Housing Association for 82 electors.
4. Next to Manor Farm, the site of a house containing one elector is to be developed for 70 or more electors.
5. There is a military area of 30 acres to the east and the Council have been informed that the Army propose to build 300 units of married quarters thereon. If this plan does not materialise, the Borough Council and the County Council have let it be known that they are interested in purchase for development.
6. Manor Farm will accommodate 200 houses.
7. The Council have proposals for building Council houses in the Ward and there has so far been no Government cut in expenditure on the provision of Council houses (a Labour Party representative agreed such cuts were unlikely under the present Government).

d. In reply to a suggestion by a Labour Party representative that development could not proceed on such a scale in the absence of new schools, it was stated that the County Council have already noted the developments referred to at (c)(1) and (2) above and will be providing the necessary education facilities in Frimley Green Ward. Furthermore, two other sites in the Borough have been sterilised for schools as and when required.

6. It will be noted that the electoral population in Heatherside Ward is estimated to increase by approximately the same number as in Frimley Green Ward. There is apparently no doubt at all about this, as development is so far advanced that the figure is expected to be reached easily within the next two years.

7. The objection relating to the formation of Watchetts and St Michaels Wards was next dealt with.

8. The Labour Party representatives submitted

a. that the Wards should be divided not by an east to west boundary along the railway line but by a north to south boundary along well defined roads namely Frimley Road, London Road and Roberts Road.

b. that if this line were to be adopted, no-one would have to cross these very busy roads in order to vote.

c. Furthermore, if their proposal was adopted, and this was stated very clearly, while Watchetts, being almost entirely residential in character, would undoubtedly provide safe seats for Conservative candidates, St Michaels (or as they preferred to call it Crabtree) comprising industry and Council housing would be just as safe for Labour Candidates. If this were not to be agreed, the only members their Party would be likely to acquire on the

Council, would be in Old Dean Ward resulting in a 34 - 2 Council in a Borough in which there was an overall 30% Labour vote. It would be more equitable if advantage were to be taken of the opportunity provided to make two Wards which would enable the Labour Party to obtain greater representation on the Council.

9. The Chief Executive supplied up-to-date statistics to illustrate the effect of this proposal which are as follows:

<u>Ward</u>	<u>No. of Cllrs</u>	<u>1974</u>		<u>1979</u>	
		<u>Electorate</u>	<u>Entitlement</u>	<u>Electorate</u>	<u>Entitlement</u>
Crabtree	2	2860	2.26	3178	1.96
New (Watchetts)	3	3623	2.86	4157	2.57
In the Council's draft scheme, the figures are					
St Michaels	2	2940	2.32	2968	1.84
Watchetts	3	3543	2.80	4367	2.70

The proposal would not therefore have any material effect on electoral representation.

10. The Conservative Party representatives submitted

- a. that the railway line provided an excellent demarcation line from east to west.
- b. that the Council had paid due regard to the guiding principles, particularly in this case to "local ties".
- c. far from being a dividing line, Frimley Road is rather the focal hub of the Ward. North of the railway line, the community of Yorktown centred on St Michaels parish church, is one of the oldest communities of the district and Frimley Road runs through its middle. South of the railway line has as a focal point the Frimley Road shopping parade.

d. with regard to the political aspect, the Council did not agree with the policy outlined by the Labour Party representatives. They considered it to be better to have Wards in which the results of the elections would depend on political swings in public opinion, rather than Wards which are politically unassailable. If the dividing line were to be the railway line, ie from east to west, the members elected could very possibly change in political allegiance from one election to the next.

e. the Wards as proposed are very self-contained communities and there is only one bridge across the railway line in this Ward.

11. It was agreed that there was no need for an inspection.

In my opinion there are good grounds for forecasting a fairly substantial increase in the electoral population of the Borough as a whole in the next five years and in Frimley Green Ward in particular. Even if the forecast proves a little optimistic, the figures will still confirm that Frimley Green Ward should be a three member Ward. In all the circumstances there can be no justification for Old Dean Ward having more than two members.

Furthermore, there do not seem to me to be any real grounds for alterations to the draft scheme so far as the boundaries of Watchetts and St Michaels Wards are concerned.

I, therefore, recommend that the draft scheme as submitted be confirmed.

JOHN L EVANS

## BOROUGH OF SURREY HEATH: NAMES OF PROPOSED WARDS AND NUMBERS OF COUNCILLORS

<u>NAME OF WARD</u>	<u>NO OF COUNCILLORS</u>
BAGSHOT	2
BISLEY	1
CHOBHAM	3
FRIMLEY	2
FRIMLEY GREEN	3
HEATHERSIDE	3
LIGHTWATER	2
MYTCHETT	3
OLD DEAN	2
PARKSIDE	2
ST MICHAELS	2
ST PAULS	2
TOWN	2
WATCHETTS	3
WEST END	2
WINDLESHAM	2

## BOROUGH OF SURREY HEATH: DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES

## FRIMLEY WARD

Commencing at a point where the western boundary of the District crosses the M3 Motorway, thence northeastwards along said motorway to Frimley Road, thence southeastwards along said road to Portsmouth Road, thence northeastwards along said road to the unnamed road that leads to Chobham Road, thence southeastwards along said unnamed road to Chobham Road, thence northeastwards along said road to the track that leads to Field Lane, thence southeastwards and southwestwards along said track to Field Lane, thence southwestwards along said lane to a point opposite the eastern boundary of parcel number 0737 on OS 1:2500 plan SU 88-8958 Edition 1973, thence southeastwards to and along said boundary and the eastern boundary of parcel number 0929 and in prolongation thereof to the track that leads to St Catherines Road, thence southwestwards along said track to St Catherines Road, thence southeastwards along said road to the proposed spine road, thence southwestwards along said proposed road to Frimley Green Road, thence northwestwards along said road to a point opposite the southern boundary of No 54 Frimley Green Road, thence southwestwards to and along said boundary, thence northwestwards along the rear boundaries of Nos 54-32 Frimley Green Road to the rear boundary of No 8 Coombe Close, thence southwestwards along said boundary and the rear boundaries of Nos 7-1 Coombe Close, Nos 23-47 Sheridan Road, Nos 1-25 Trafford Road, southeastern boundary of No 12 Hollytree Gardens and continuing in a straight line to the southeastern corner of said gardens, thence generally southwestwards along the southern boundaries of No 13 and No 23 Hollytree Gardens, the southern extremity of Hollytree Gardens thence in a straight line to the southeastern boundary of No 24 Hollytree Gardens, thence southwestwards along said boundary and in prolongation thereof to the western boundary of the District, thence generally northwestwards along said district boundary to the point of commencement.

## WATCHETTS WARD

Commencing at a point where the northwestern boundary of Frimley Ward meets the western boundary of the District, thence generally northwestwards along said district boundary to a point due west of Grid Reference SU 8655759386 thence due east to said grid reference, thence northeastwards along the railway to Park Street, thence southeastwards along said street to Park Road, thence northeastwards along said road to Brackendale Road, thence southeastwards along said road to the M3 Motorway, thence southwestwards along said motorway and northwestern boundary of Frimley Ward to the point of commencement.

## ST MICHAELS WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of Watchetts Ward meets the western boundary of the District, thence generally northwestwards and northeastwards along said district boundary to Staff College Road, thence generally eastwards along said road to Park Street, thence southeastwards along said street to the northern most point of Watchetts Ward, thence southwestwards along the northern boundary of said ward to the point of commencement.

## TOWN WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of St Michael's Ward meets the northwestern boundary of the District, thence northeastwards along said district boundary to the track known as King's Ride, thence southwards along said track to a point opposite the northern boundary of No 190 King's Ride, thence eastwards to and along said boundary and northeastwards and following the western boundary of Olddean Common to the southern most point of the rear boundary of End House Diamond Ridge, and in prolongation thereof to London Road, thence northeastwards along said road to Knightsbridge Road, thence southeastwards along said road to Middleton Road, thence south-

westwards along said road and Upper Park Road to Heathway, thence southeastwards along Heathway to the western boundary of the property known as Greenwood, thence southwestwards and northeastwards along the southwestern and southeastern boundaries of said property to the southwestern boundary of No 45 Tekels Avenue, thence southeastwards along the said boundary to Tekels Avenue, thence northeastwards and following said avenue, and unnamed road and in prolongation thereof to the M3 Motorway, thence southwestwards along said motorway to the northeastern boundary of Watchetts Ward thence northwestwards along said ward boundary and the northeastern and northern boundaries of St Michaels Ward to the point of commencement.

#### OLD DEAN WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Town Ward meets the northwestern boundary of the District, thence northeastwards along said district boundary to the western boundary of Windlesham CP, thence southeastwards along said boundary to London Road, thence southwestwards along said road to the eastern boundary of Town Ward, thence southwestwards and following said ward boundary to the point of commencement.

#### ST PAULS WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Town Ward meets the southern boundary of Old Dean Ward, thence northeastwards along said southern boundary to the western boundary of Windlesham CP, thence southeastwards along said boundary to the M3 Motorway, thence southwestwards along said motorway to the western boundary of Town Ward, thence generally northwards along said ward boundary to the point of commencement.

#### PARKSIDE WARD

Commencing at a point where the northern boundary of Frimley Ward meets the southeastern boundary of Watchetts Ward, thence northeastwards along said southeastern boundary, the southern boundary of Town Ward, and the

southeastern boundary of St Pauls Ward to the Ravenswood Roundabout, thence southeastwards and following Prior Road from the said roundabout to Chobham Road, thence southwestwards along said road to the northern boundary of Frimley Ward, thence southwestwards and following said ward boundary to the point of commencement.

#### HEATHERSIDE WARD

Commencing at a point where the eastern boundary of Parkside Ward meets the southeastern boundary of St Pauls Ward, thence northeastwards along said southeastern boundary to the western boundary of Windlesham CP, thence southeastwards along said CP boundary and the western boundary of West End CP to the track that runs between Old Bisley Road and Minorca Road, thence northwestwards along said track and northwestwards and following Old Bisley Road to the eastern boundary of Parkside Ward, thence northeastwards and following said ward boundary to the point of commencement.

#### FRIMLEY GREEN WARD

Commencing at a point where the western boundary of the district crosses the railway, thence northeastwards and following said district boundary to the southern boundary of Frimley Ward, thence northeastwards and following said boundary and northwestwards and following the eastern boundary of said ward to the southeastern boundary of Parkside Ward, thence northeastwards along said ward boundary and northeastwards and southeastwards along the southern boundary of Heatherside Ward to the western boundary of West End CP, thence generally southeastwards along said CP boundary to the southeastern boundary of the District, thence southwestwards along said district boundary to Grid Reference SU 9070755533, thence northwestwards from said reference in a straight line to the southeastern corner of the property known as Quainton, thence northwestwards along the rear boundaries

of said property and the property known as Four Winds, thence northwestwards in a straight line to the southeastern corner of the property known as The Old Mill thence northwestwards along the rear boundary of said property, the southern boundary of parcel No 4718 on OS 1:2500 plan SU 88-8956 Edition 1972, the southern boundary and western boundary of the property known as Charnwood, and westwards along the rear boundary of the property known as Windmill Cottage to the Basingstoke Canal, thence northwestwards along said canal to a point opposite the southern boundary of Frimley Lodge, thence southwestwards to and along said boundary and north westwards along the western boundary of Frimley Lodge and parcel No 9738 to the railway, thence southwestwards along said railway to the western boundary of the District, thence northwestwards along said district boundary to the point of commencement.

#### MYTCHETT WARD

Commencing at a point where the western boundary of the District meets the southern boundary of Frimley Green Ward, thence northeastwards and following said ward boundary to the southeastern boundary of the District, thence south-eastwards and following said district boundary and generally northwestwards along the western boundary of said district to the point of commencement.

#### BAGSHOT WARD

The Bagshot Ward of the parish of Windlesham.

#### WINDLESHAM WARD

The Windlesham Ward of the parish of Windlesham.

## LIGHTWATER WARD

The Lightwater Ward of the parish of Windlesham.

## CHOBHAM WARD

The parish of Chobham.

## WEST END WARD

The parish of West End.

## BISLEY WARD

The parish of Bisley.