



# **BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL**

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Review Officer (West Sussex)  
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor, Millbank Tower  
Millbank  
London SW1P 4QP

3rd February 2016

Dear Sir

## **Draft Recommendations for West Sussex County Council**

Bognor Regis Town Council recently considered the Draft Recommendations for West Sussex County Council electoral review following the recent consultation.

The Town Council was very concerned to note that the proposed changes for West Sussex County Council will result in consequential parish changes for Bognor Regis which in Members' opinion will not be beneficial for this electorate. During the previous electoral review, in place for May 2015 elections, Members had been disconcerted at the creation of Hatherleigh ward and Marine North ward with 1 town member each. These two tiny wards – Hatherleigh consists only of a small area covering principally one road partially – seemed to serve little towards effective representation or to reflecting community identity and in fact more likely disconnects residents from its council given that the remaining 4 parish wards are considerably larger.

It is noted that the current proposals mean the loss of Marine North ward whilst retaining Hatherleigh ward: For the reasons above the Town Council is not supportive of this seeming anomaly of one or more tiny wards combined with having other large wards in the parish, which is confusing for public as it is not concurrent with district wards.

However, whilst understanding the wish to balance voter numbers, the Council feels that it would be a more effective model if all its wards were similarly represented and the Town Council would therefore like the Local Government Boundary Commission for England to consider the creation of single member wards for Bognor Regis. It is considered that this would be easier and cheaper to administrate in addition to providing better engagement for the electorate and democracy.

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If, however, single member warding is not something the Local Government Boundary Commission for England can consider at this time, the Town Council would like the LGBCE to review the proposal for one single member ward for Hatherleigh as on its own this is confusing and disengages public with democracy, particularly as it is not concurrent with district wards, and would urge instead a return to the earlier 4 wards of Bognor Regis parish.

Yours faithfully



*P-P*  
Glenna Frost  
Town Clerk