Windsor and Maidenhead

Personal Details:

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Feature Annotations

Map Features:

Annotation 1:
Annotation 2: Old Windsor proposed boundary

Comment text:

Please see attached document I do not agree with the Boundary Commission's recommended Ward or councillor number proposals due to affecting established communities and accessible governance.

Uploaded Documents:

Download [link](https://consultation.labcc.org.uk/download_document?file=20125459824_L2_response_to_Boundary_Commission_review.pdf)
The review has 3 aims
To achieve electoral equality across the borough
To promote effective governance
To reflect local communities

I assume that, as there is no information to say otherwise, these criteria all have equal weighting. The recommended proposal fails in this aspect as it gives much greater relevance to numbers rather than community and governance.

Due to the geographical constraints of the areas potentially affected I would respectfully urge you to reconsider the number of councillors required across the borough to enable the communities of the Windsor area to be most effectively served by their councillors.

Please see the map below for our proposed Old Windsor ward boundaries. I am proposing that Old Windsor ward is extended towards the castle (but not the castle itself) to include all Crown Land that is under the remit of The Crown Estate office (The Deputy Ranger).

Currently there is a cohesive situation where Old Windsor councillors work closely with Old Windsor Parish Council to achieve the best outcomes for all our residents, this proposed fragmentation would make that extremely difficult. The working relationship between Old Windsor Parish and the ward councillors has always been very strong and productive.

My reasons for questioning the proposal’s contribution to effective governance and reflecting communities

1. Historical – The Great Park has always been associated with Old Windsor as it was the hunting grounds from Kingsbury Palace (Saxon Royal Palace, precursor to Windsor Castle) located in Old Windsor on the banks of the Thames. There is a section of The great Park that is called ‘Old Windsor Woods’. Maps show the whole area has been known as Old Windsor, The Great Park is part of the Old Windsor History.

2. Community/Governance – Old Windsor village is home to many ex-employees of The Great Park who retire to Tyle Place (Crown Estate owned) based in Old Windsor. It is good governance to have both parts of the Great Park/Crown Estate community be served by the same councillors.

3. Community – The Royal School is part of the East Windsor Cluster of schools along with Kings Court School and St Peters School based in Old Windsor. Many children from Old Windsor Village attend the Royal School, There is a bus route to allow Great Park children to attend St Peters Middle School. The Royal School enters a float into the Old Windsor Carnival every year. Children from The Great Park attend Old Windsor Groups such as Scouts, Guides and Football Club

4. Community - Runnymede Medical Practice is based in Old Windsor & Englefield Green and is used by the majority of Great Park residents. Old Windsor has a targeted elderly provision.
This benefits all Old Windsor Parish residents, is provided by the Parish through RBWM and was instigated by a collaboration of Parish and Old Windsor Ward councillors because of an understanding of need.

5. **Community** - In the current proposal Old Windsor Cemetery is within the Sunninghill and Ascot Ward. Houses within the Great Park (Bears Rails Gate - not Bears Rails Park) are within walking distance of Old Windsor and have no access to Ascot. This would not be considered good governance.

6. **Governance** - Due to the geographic proximity of the Great Park to Old Windsor and the fact that lands within Old Windsor are owned by the Crown Estate (of which the Great Park is part), discussions are had with the relevant personnel concerning flooding (ground water flowing from the Great Park through Old Windsor into the Thames), trespassing/poaching as access is usually via the village, illegal parking on Crown Estate land in Old Windsor village.

7. **Community** - Great Park residents consider themselves part of Windsor area and have little affiliation with Sunninghill and Ascot.

8. **Community** - Ascot Gate is now closed to residential vehicle movements and therefore necessitates a 2 mile detour to access to and from Ascot.

9. The only reason the Boundary Commission gives for including The Great Park in Sunninghill and Ascot is that it increases the numbers in the Ascot area to nearer equality. I cannot support a recommendation that splits the community just to make the ‘numbers of electors per councillor’ look better in another area.

**‘The Boltons’**

The area we will call ‘The Boltons (seen at the North of the proposed Old Windsor ward map) has no community links with Old Windsor. Residents in this area identify with urban Windsor

1. Trevelyan School is accessed mainly by children in Windsor and it does appear ‘overload’ to allocate 2 of the 4 middle schools to one rural ward.
2. None of Old Windsor’s facilities are accessed by residents from ‘The Boltons’.
3. There is no reason for Windsor residents to use the transport links to Old Windsor
4. The Boltons are part of Urban Windsor and therefore have completely different issues to that of a Rural Village like Old Windsor.

Most frustrating of all is that the number of councillors being suggested as 43 seems to have been plucked out of thin air, to enable a soundbite of a 25% reduction, and the ‘facts’ woven around meeting this target. Recent proposed changes to reduce meetings and panel (in line with the reduction) have been questioned by councillors and will not be in place for this municipal year.
The reason given for asking for the review was that Maidenhead had a ward that was outside the equality limits and with planned development central maidenhead would soon be significantly outside the limits. The consequences of this are that the rest of the Borough is significantly, negatively impacted and communities disrupted even though the developments in Maidenhead are only proposed at this stage.

Other areas of concern. Communities.

Eton Wick, Eton and Castle

There is only a pedestrian bridge access between Eton and central Windsor. Eton and Eton Wick are natural wards to combine with similar issues and geography. Central Windsor should have its own wards reaching to the A308 and Imperial road to the West, all properties exiting onto St Leonards Road & Bolton Road in the South, Kings Road to the East (incl Windsor Castle & The Thames to the North

Clewer & Dedworth

This area should extend from the A308/Imperial Road to the East to Bray boundary in the West, North is The Thames, south is Old Windsor (inc The Great Park

The constrained and irregular geography of the Old Windsor/Ascot area should have special consideration when looking at electoral equality if the proposed 42 councillors is not reviewed.