

Basingstoke and Deane District

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Comment text:

Rooksdown Parish Council wishes to retain a single borough councillor to cover the natural community of Rooksdown, as this will allow residents to maintain the current strong relationship between the community and its councillor. Details are given in the attached document

Uploaded Documents:

https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1525432372_Rooksdown+boundary+review+response+May+2018+%281_0%29.pdf



Rooksdown Parish Council

Response to Boundary Review - Consultation on Warding Arrangements May 2018

Submitted to:

<https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/11062?bbox=440479.5,141598,468954.5,161248>

1 Summary

Rooksdown Parish Council wishes to retain a single borough councillor to cover the natural community of Rooksdown, as this will allow residents to maintain the current strong relationship between the community and its councillor.

2 Comparison of Rooksdown with Surrounding Areas

Rooksdown is an urban civil parish, part of the Basingstoke conurbation but operating as a discrete entity in a way that more typical of rural parishes. Its immediate neighbours to the south and east, Popley West and Winklebury, are unparished and are closely identified with the town of Basingstoke. To the north and west, the parish of Sherborne St John is rural and has little in common with Rooksdown.

Therefore, Rooksdown should be considered as a discrete community, represented by its own borough councillor.

3 Characteristics of Rooksdown

The characteristics of Rooksdown are:

- It has a natural boundary on each side, shown on the attached map:
 - The A339 to the south
 - The hospital and the A340 to the north and east
 - Rooksdown Lane and Weybrook Park Golf Club to the north and west
 - “The Spinney”, a double line of mature beech trees, originally marking the boundary of the old Park Prewett Hospital, surrounding the central contiguous part of the parish
 - There are only two major accesses to Rooksdown: The Avenue/Park Prewett Road from the east, and Rooksdown Avenue from the south west
- The housing is all of a similar age: built or converted in the last 25 years
- The population is considerably younger than is typical for the area
- Rooksdown is currently served by a single parish council, a single community association and a single borough councillor, leading to a strong sense of identity; Rooksdown Football club, Rooksdown Revellers Women’s Institute and Castle Hill School (Rooksdown Campus) also have strong local identities.

Rooksdown is marked by “Welcome to Rooksdown” signs on both access roads, situated on the natural boundaries:

The Avenue



Rooksdown Avenue



4 Historical Perspective

Rooksdown Parish was formed in 2004 by dividing off a section of the parish of Sherborne St John. The parish boundary to the south and east was kept as the old parish boundary. This has resulted in some anomalies (see attached map):

- There are two developments on the eastern side of the hospital (Sherborne Fields and Nightingale View) which belong more naturally in Popley.
- There is a small area to the south, "Trumpet Junction" or "Squirrel Wood" – north of the A339, which is naturally part of Rooksdown but is included in the Popley West ward.
- There is area to the south west of the A339 that will become part of the Manydown development and should be included in whichever ward will cover Manydown.
- To the north west there is an area of the parish beyond the natural boundary along Rooksdown Lane. The ward boundary cuts the golf club in half, and it would be more sensible for both halves to be in the same ward.

Since its formation, Rooksdown has been represented very successfully by a single borough councillor. The present incumbent, Simon Bound, has built up a very close relationship with residents and is closely identified with the community of Rooksdown.

5 Conclusion

Even as development continues to the north and east of Basingstoke, Rooksdown continues to thrive as a natural community. Recent and prospective developments at Sherborne Fields and Manydown have meant that the parish council no longer easily represents this community in the way that it has in the past, but the Boundary Review at least gives the opportunity to redefine Rooksdown's ward boundary. This will allow it to continue to be represented in the current highly successful way.

For these reasons we believe that we should continue to be represented by a single borough councillor, and that the ward boundary should be redrawn to enclose the natural community that is Rooksdown.

MARTIN WHITTAKER

Clerk to Rooksdown Parish Council

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