West Berkshire

Personal Details:

Name: Dominic Boeck
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]
Organisation Name:

Comment text:

Local Government Boundary Commission for England proposals for West Berkshire Council
Proposed Burghfield & Mortimer Ward Introduction I am responding in my capacity as
ward member for Aldermaston at West Berkshire Council to the Local Government
Boundary Commission for England draft recommendations for new ward boundaries across
West Berkshire. LGBCE Draft Recommendations I am content with the proposal that the
number of members elected to West Berkshire Council is reduced from 52 to 43. I
consider though that the creation of three member wards, especially in the rural parts of
the district, will diminish the effectiveness of representation presently enjoyed by
residents and will not meet LGBCE’s expectations that a good pattern of wards will reflect
community interests and identities and is based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.
The proposed pattern, especially in areas covered by such vast wards as the proposed
Aldermaston and Bucklebury where it will be extremely difficult for members to be
familiar with the unique local aspects and challenges across so many parishes, will not
help the council deliver effective and convenient local government. Neither will the
creation of large wards which combine substantial areas and population in both rural and
suburban communities, such as Thatcham Central and Crookham and as Greenham which
will bring its northern-most boundary into the heart of Newbury. Consultation response
WBCA asks that LGBCE reconsiders its draft recommendations to make changes to the
following wards, as suggested:

- Aldermaston and Bucklebury
- Hungerford and Kintbury
- Basildon and Compton
- Wash Common, Newbury Central and Greenham

Thatcham Central and Crookham

• Purley and Tilehurst

At the moment, Aldermaston ward consists of 5 parishes, three of which have monthly meetings, one has meetings every
two months and one has two meetings a year. I find it difficult to attend all these
meetings and a member elected to represent the proposed new ward of Aldermaston and
Bucklebury would find it almost impossible to attend the meetings of 15 parishes. It
would be even harder to be familiar with issues specific to the parishes and to more than
9,000 residents spread across such a large geographic area. The challenges of
representing effectively residents in such a large ward would inevitably lead to
prioritisation, probably based on geography. This can lead to practical arrangements
between elected members but this would not be transparent to residents. Also, members
are reasonably expected to respond to requests from any resident. Aldermaston and
Bucklebury should be split into three new single-member wards:

• Bucklebury comprising Frilsham, Bucklebury, Stanford Dingley, Midgham and Woolhampton parishes;
• Bradfield comprising Bradfield, Englefield, Southend, Sulhamstead and Ufton Nervet;
• Aldermaston comprising Beenham, Padworth, Aldermaston, Wasing and Brimpton. Basildon and the
Ridgeway communities have very little to do with one another and this ward should be
split into two discrete communities in single-member wards:

• Basildon comprising Basildon, Streatley, Ashampstead and Aldworth;
• Ridgeway comprising West Ilsley, East Ilsley, Compton, Hampstead Norreys and Yattendon. Enborne should be removed from the
proposed new Hungerford and Kintbury Ward and incorporated into a new Wash Common
single-member ward comprising Enborne and Newbury NB14. To address the anomaly of
residents of Newbury town centre falling in the new Greenham ward a new two-member
ward of Newbury St Johns should be created comprising Newbury NB12 and NB13.

Greenham ward should be reduced to a two-member ward comprising Greenham GB1 and
GB2 and a new single-member ward of East Fields should be created comprising NB4, NB5 and parts of NB12 and NB15 sufficient to balance the number of electors. To ensure that the residents of the rural part of Thatcham Central receive effective and convenient representation a new single-member ward of Thatcham Colthrop and Crookham should be created comprising Thatcham TH10 and TH11. The boundaries of the existing Thatcham Central ward should be changed to include TH5, TH12, TH13 and part of TH4 sufficient to balance the number of electors to be represented by two members. Purley and Tilehurst are separate communities and the proposed three-member ward should be changed to a new single-member ward of Purley comprising Purley on Thames ZPD and ZTL2 and a new two-member ward of Tilehurst ZTL3 and ZTL1. Conclusion I would like to thank LGBCE for their diligent hard work in developing the draft recommendations. I hope that my response finds favour with the Commission.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded