

Knaphill Residents' Association



Date: 06 November 2013

The Review Officer (Woking)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
LONDON EC1M 5LG

Dear Sir/Madam,

Consultation Response – Woking Borough Council – Council Size

I write in support of the proposal by the Boundary Commission following submission of proposals to it by Woking Borough Council to reduce the size of the Council from 36 to 30 Elected Members with effect from May 2016.

I consider the case for 30 Members to be well argued and reflecting the need for more streamlined efficient and cost effective governance arrangements.

In supporting the reduction in the number of Councillors it is important that the Council continue to improve the information that is provided to residents and organisations via the Council's Web Site. Particular attention is required in connection with the section of the Web Site dealing with planning issues. It is important that if we are to rely on information delivered directly via the Web that this information is accurate, understandable and timely. The recent introduction of Web Casting its meetings is a great benefit given that I live on the edge of the Borough. Apart from the Planning Web Site the needs of our organisation are adequately met.

The reduction in the number of members of the Council will also be a helpful contribution to the cost savings the Council will need to make in light of the continuing financial challenges faced by the Country.

The more difficult issue is deciding on where the Ward boundaries are to be fixed. It is important that by agreeing with the reduction in the number of Councillors that the change in boundaries acknowledges natural communities and the Commission do not view the whole Borough as a single urban area.

Yours faithfully

Philip Stubbs
Secretary to Knaphill Residents' Association