Local resident submissions to the Woking Borough Council electoral review

This PDF document contains submissions from local residents.

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Surnames N-P
5 October 2014

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

Dear Sir,

We are writing in response to the proposed changes to the electoral boundaries in Woking, specifically the proposal to take Woodham out of the Horsell Ward and amalgamate it with Sheerwater.

We object strongly to this proposal because it has no merit, lacks properly reasoned justification and it could not and will not benefit either community. Your criteria state that “A good pattern of wards should reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links”. You also mention the need for “Community identity”, listing transport links, facilities such as shops, leisure, medical, the interests that might bind the community together and identifiable boundaries”.

We would like to make the following points:-.

1. Sheerwater and Woodham are two very different communities with different needs and no common interests or any shared facilities. The two communities have no need to and do not mix as they are separated by a canal which can only be crossed at the extreme ends of the proposed ward.

2. In the 25 years that we have lived at our current address in Woodham, we have never known a child to attend any school in Sheerwater. The Primary School in Sheerwater only has a one form intake (30 pupils per year group) and this is already inadequate for the number of children living there. Many children from Sheerwater are schooled in Maybury or New Haw.
3. Medical facilities are not shared by the two communities and we are unaware of anyone in Woodham accessing any medical facilities in Sheerwater.

4. The only sport and leisure available in Sheerwater as far as we are aware is a running track (Woking Athletics Club) at the recreation ground. People in Woodham use Woking Leisure Centre or private gyms.

5. Woodham, like Horsell, is purely a residential area, almost entirely owner occupied. Sheerwater on the other hand is a largely commercial area with a high proportion of rented accommodation and social housing. It is about to undergo radical changes and expansion with many new businesses and homes proposed.

Residents of Woodham have no cause to go to Sheerwater and Sheerwater residents have no cause to come to Woodham. The two communities are “chalk and cheese” and we see no reason to join these two communities within the same electoral ward. We fail to understand why the recommendations of Woking Borough Council, (who know these areas well and have proposed to keep Woodham with Horsell), are being ignored.

Your website asks “Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate?” The answer quite simply is “No”.

We hope that you will take note of the proposals of our own local Woking Borough Council, will listen to the objections of local residents and will leave the electoral boundary of Woodham with Horsell.

Yours sincerely

VK Nayar JP
Mrs GM Nayar
Review Officer (Woking)
LGBCE
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

26 September 2014.

Dear Sir, Madam,

REVISION OF WARD BOUNDARIES, WOKING

I live in Woodham. I am appalled at the proposal to include Woodham in the Sheerwater ward.

The Basingstoke Canal runs roughly N.E. - S. W. The area north west of the canal bounded by Woodham Lane, Monument Road, and Sheerwater Road is naturally part of the area including New Zealand golf course and Anthony’s to the north west, and Horsell Common and Horsell to the west. It has no affinity whatsoever with Sheerwater and the Maybury Road area.

No only is the canal a very clear, firm, and fixed physical barrier between Woodham and Sheerwater:

- Woodham and Sheerwater are very, very different in socio-economic terms,
- Woodham and Sheerwater are very, very different in character, the first being an area of low housing density and individual houses, the second being a council estate with a higher housing density with social housing and right to buy properties,
- in terms of shopping and other facilities it is normal and easier for people in Woodham to go to either West Byfleet or Woking town centre, not to Sheerwater,

Both areas are good areas, but they are very, very different with nothing at all to connect them and nothing to bring them together.

The ward plan submitted earlier in the year by Woking Borough Council** was the ideal proposal, keeping Woodham and Horsell together in one ward. This is the proposal that recognises the affinities between areas and does not force disparate areas together. This is the proposal that must be adopted.

Yours faithfully,

D. Niven Reed

**Plan titled “Final Submission for Boundary Commission” and dated 28 March 2014.
Review Officer (Woking)
LGBCE
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

26 September 2014.

Dear Sir, Madam,

REVISED ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS, WOKING

I am appalled by the proposal to have 3 councillors in each ward in Woking. I have twice had experience of wards with more than one councillor, and in both instances it has been highly unsatisfactory.

In the first place, having more than one councillor to a ward is not democracy as we understand it in the UK. Voting for just one particular person to be the voter’s representative is as important as the principle of one person one vote. The situation is clear and transparent and the responsibilities are clear. Having more than one councillor in a ward is a step down the road towards the widely derided elections for members of the European Parliament, where voters have no idea who they have voted for and no idea who is their representative.

In the second place there is the practical difficulty of knowing which councillor to contact in the event of a query or problem. In the past I have resorted to writing to all the ward councillors in the hope that one of them will pick up my question. But it hasn’t always worked, the risk is that each thinks that another will reply, and none does. It is all very well saying that, well, informally the councillors might divide up the ward between them, or, informally, they might each take on the responsibility for particular questions. Firstly, if it is not good enough to be a formal division then it is not good enough. Secondly, if the division is not publicly and widely advertised then it is not transparent and the voters will not have any idea where they stand or who, in the end, can help them.

We don’t have several members of parliament for each parliamentary constituency, we have only one MP. We know who he or she is. Why should the arrangements for a local council be any different?

Having three councillors to a ward is a thoroughly bad idea.

D. Niven Reed
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name:          Xenia Norman
E-mail:        
Postcode:      

Organisation Name: Horsell Preserves

Comment text:

It will be a great loss to Horsell if the areas around the Canal side are moved. 1. The canal provides a natural physical and psychological boundary. 2. The residents in this "canal side area" benefit greatly from village activities, magazines etc. 3. Horsell is a vey active community and this includes residents in the small area north of the canal. 4. All residents and fully appreciate the Lightbox and WWF. They are logically part of Horsell and should remain within it’s boundaries. 5. There are very few routes in and out of Horsell and it is common for one to be closed for various maintenance needs. Brewery Road and Chobham Road are key. Moving them outside the boundary undermines their importance to the village. 6. It will remove a key polling station from the village.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
To Whom it may concern

We moved to West Byfleet just over a year ago, and purposely bought a house here for the area and being part on West Byfleet. We are registered with the Dr’s, Library and go to the local Church of England in West Byfleet which is just under a mile from our home, I see no valid reason as to why this should change.

I do not understand the reason behind changing the boundary line, but I do know that we bought our house to be part of West Byfleet and not Sheerwater, had we wanted to be part of Sheerwater we would have bought a house there.

I am against this change and see no valid purpose for this.

Regards

Leigh O’Brien
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Claire Ogden
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I am a resident of Ferndale Road and have since moving in worked to fully integrate myself into 'my local community'. I am an active community volunteer, with two small children with whom I do a range of community activities/groups - all in Horsell. I am hoping to send my children to the village school. I have no ties or connections whatsoever with Sheerwater and do not wish to be affiliated to an area I know very little about and have nothing to do with for election purposes or otherwise. Councillors for Sheerwater will have the needs and wants of Sheerwater in mind when making decisions rather than those of what I consider to be my community - Horsell (which are far more relevant to me and my family). Our house overlooks Wheatsheaf Rec ground which under the proposed plans will no longer be in the same electoral district - this seems nonsensical. Hypothetically (ignoring planning restrictions etc.) Horsell could decide to build over this ground with no objections from anyone in the Horsell electoral district (as all properties overlooking the ground would be in the Sheerwater 'district').

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
**Woking District**

**Personal Details:**

Name: Peter Ogden  
E-mail: [redacted]  
Postcode: [redacted]

**Organisation Name:**

**Comment text:**

Dear Sirs  
The draft proposals should be amended such that the Grove, Ferndale Road and Broomhall Road (and any others around Chobham Road and North of the Basingstoke Canal) are part of the Horsell ward. These streets form part of the Horsell community and have no links (geographical, social or otherwise) with Sheerwater. As can be seen in the attached "History of Horsell", these streets are part of Horsell and residents in these streets play an active role in the Horsell community. Elected representatives for the Sheerwater will rightly focus in issues that affect the Sheerwater area and are unlikely to give as much (if any) priority to Horsell. If the proposed boundaries were adopted this would mean residents in the above referenced streets would be put in the invidious position of electing people who will be obliged to focus on issues that affect an area in which they do not live and have no say on who is elected to represent them in relation to the community in which they do live. For example, decisions could be taken in relation to the Whetsheaf Recreation Ground, where those making decisions to not represent the interests of any of the residents overlooking that recreation ground. Two of the three criteria LGBCE state decisions are always based on appear to have been ignored in this proposal: "Ward patterns should – as far as possible – reflect community interests and identities and boundaries should be identifiable." "The electoral arrangements should promote effective and convenient local government and reflect the electoral cycle of the council." the proposals do not reflect community interests or boundaries and would make effective local governance for the affected properties very difficult, if not impossible. As you also will be aware, Government guidance indicates that “boundaries should be easily identifiable on the ground and thus often follow features such as rivers, major roads and railways.” In this case it is obvious that the Basingstoke Canal should be the boundary, rather than drawing an arbitrary line around this community. Even more importantly ”Community identities should be taken into account”. These interests have obviously not been taken into account in the proposals and now need to be. If these proposals go ahead it will be incumbent on LGBCE to demonstrate how it has attempted to satisfy these fundamental criteria. Any decision to put these properties within the Sheerwater area is not one that any reasonable person could take and as such could be amenable to judicial review by adversely affected residents. Please therefore amend the proposals to ensure that these properties are within the same boundary as the rest of their community (ie. Horsell). Yours faithfully Peter Ogden the [redacted]

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded
Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to register by strong objection to the proposed realignment of Old Avenue into Sheerwater Ward.

I reinforce the areas of concern raised by many of my fellow residents and most comprehensively positioned by Brenda Osborn.

Kind regards

Shane O’Neill and Family
8 August, 2014

The Review Officer. (Woking)
Lyden House,
76 – 86 Turnmill Street,
LONDON.
EC1M 5LG

Dear Sir/Madam,

Ref: Current stage of the Review consultation on Ward pattern for Woking Borough Council

I write to oppose the proposals for the new ward of Sheerwater.

The lines drawn for the Sheerwater ward do not take into consideration the roads to the N/E of Sheerwater Road namely Hollies Avenue and Woodlands Road and also Old Avenue to the S/E of Sheerwater Road which are part of the parishes of St. John's Church and Our Lady Help of Christians, West Byfleet not Sheerwater. The latter falls into the parish of All Saints and St. Michaels Woodham. Although parish boundaries may not be given so much consideration as in the past, there is no doubt that the way in which West Byfleet has grown over the years owes much to these boundaries and how the area has developed, certainly the ties towards West Byfleet are strong.

The professional and other services including retail, required and used by the residents of the aforementioned roads are found in West Byfleet not Sheerwater and there is a strong community link with retailers in support of their businesses. It is considered that if Hollies Avenue Woodlands Road and Old Avenue were included in the Sheerwater ward, the interests and identities of those residents would not be fairly reflected.

Listed below are services, shops etc based in West Byfleet village centre greatly used by the residents of Hollies Avenue, Woodlands Road and Old Avenue.

SERVICES

West Byfleet Railway Station
Bus Services
Taxi Services
Health Centre. (Three medical practices)
Sports Injury Clinic with Therapeutic Services
Dentists
Opticians
Podiatrist
Veterinary Services
St. John's Church. (Anglican)
Our Lady Help of Christians Church (Roman Catholic)
Schools
Library
Banks
Legal Practice
Post Office

RETAIL

Baker (Independent)
Beauty Shops & Nail Bars (3 Independent)
Butcher (Independent)
Bridal Shop (Independent)
Charity Shops (3 Local hospice Woking & Sam Beare, Sue Ryder & Scope)
Cobbblers & Key Cutting Shop (Independent)
Cycle Shop (Independent)
Dry Cleaners (2 Independent, 1 Waitrose)
Flooring & Carpet Shop (Independent)
Funeral Directors (Lodge Bros Ltd. Independent)
Gift Shops (2 Independent)
Hairdressers Men & Women (4 independent)
Jewellers & Watchmaker (Independent)
Kitchen Fitting Shop (Independent)
Ladies Dress Shop (Independent)
Newsagents (2 Independent)
Picture Framers & Art Shop (Independent)
Public House
School Uniform Supplier
Stationer (Independent)
Supermarkets (Waitrose & Londis)
Wines & Spirits (Independent)

Many residencies of the roads mentioned earlier date back to the 1930's and in some cases from as long ago as the 1920's and have been an integral part of Wes: Byfleet. Since 1999, Old Avenue has been recognised as being an area of local conservation by Woking Borough Council. Some of the houses in Old Avenue bear a star as being of architectural interest and there are several that were designed by locally renowned architect Walter Tarrant of the Arts & Craft style.

It is noted that the Commission has based its proposals on its own investigations regarding electoral equality. It is not accepted that this would apply to the proposed new ward of Sheerwater. It is considered that the electoral number of Sheerwater as it currently stands would increase in the future when 500 new dwellings will be added to the existing housing stock. Inevitably, the balance could be out of order and not truly representative of the ward.

The re-generation plan of Sheerwater with increased housing stock of 500 will increase the electorate of that area and since it will be of an urban nature it is considered that the previous proposal of a Sheerwater and Woking Central ward would be of benefit to the residents of those particular neighbourhoods. Sheerwater Estate was built in the mid 1950's, and it has always had an identity of its own and with the proposed re-generation programme could be an outstanding
and vibrant area of Woking Borough.

It will be seen from the listed services and retail outlets available in West Byfleet that the residents of Hollies Avenue, Woodlands Road and Old Avenue look upon West Byfleet as Their Village and it is recognised that we are part of the three villages of Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford.

It should be further noted that many residents of these three roads belong to The Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford Residents Association which has represented their interests over many years. Additionally, local Neighbourhood Watch Associations cover these areas.

At the present time, Hollies Avenue, Woodlands Road and Old Avenue receive the cover of Byfleet, West Byfleet & Pyrford Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team. It is envisaged that if these roads were incorporated into the Sheerwater ward that cover would be changed to Sheerwater and identity of the area would be lost. A photocopy of the Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team is enclosed.

In conclusion, the writer asks that due consideration be given to the pertinent points in this letter. It would indeed be a great sadness and loss to West Byfleet if these particular roads were “swallowed up” into the proposed Sheerwater ward and could possibly mean a retrograde step for the immediate area and Woking Borough Council.

A map is enclosed with the writer's suggested boundary for the Byfleet & West Byfleet Ward incorporating Hollies Avenue, Woodlands Road and Old Avenue.

Yours faithfully,

Brenda M. Osborn.

Encls. a) Photocopy
b) Map showing suggested boundary lines for the Byfleet, & West Byfleet Ward incorporating Hollies Avenue, Woodlands Road & Old Avenue.
Keep in touch with local policing in your area:
Contact us directly by phone on
0845 125 2222 ext 39911
or email
SNT@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Only call 999 in a genuine emergency requiring police attendance. For all non-emergency policing matters please call 0845 125 2222. If you would prefer to give information anonymously call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.
Summary of our recommendations

We have considered all of the submissions we received during the previous phase of consultation.

The Commission has developed proposals for 10 three-member wards based on a combination of submissions received during consultation. In general, we have based our draft recommendations on warding patterns proposed by the Council subject to a number of modifications to provide for improved levels of electoral equality and to reflect the evidence received relating to community identities. Our proposals will provide good electoral equality while reflecting community identities and transport links in the borough.

You can read the full report on our website at www.lgbce.org.uk.

Overview of draft recommendations for Woking Borough Council

Have your say at www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk:
- view the map of our recommendations down to street level.
- draw your own boundaries online.
- zoom into the areas that interest you most.
- find more guidance on how to have your say.
- read the full report of our recommendations.
- send us your views directly.

View this map online and draw your own boundaries:
www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

Follow the review on Twitter: @LGBCE

If you are viewing this page online, click on the map to go straight to our interactive consultation area.
1 September, 2014

The Review Officer.
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Lyden House,
76 – 86 Turnmill Street,
LONDON.
EC1M 5LG

Dear Sir/Madam,

Ref: Current stage of the Review Consultation on Ward Pattern for Woking Borough Council

Kindly replace my letter dated 8 August with the enclosed. An error was made in calling Woodlands Avenue, Woodlands Road.

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted]

Brenda M.Osborn.
8 August, 2014

The Review Officer. (Woking)
Lyden House,
76 – 86 Turnmill Street,
LONDON.
EC1M 5LG

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Dentists
Opticians
Podiatrist
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St. John's Church. (Anglican)
Our Lady Help of Christians Church (Roman Catholic)
Schools
RETAIL

Baker (Independent)
Beauty Shops & Nail Bars (3 Independent)
Butcher (Independent)
Bridal Shop (Independent)
Charity Shops (3 Local hospice Woking & Sam Beare, Sue Ryder & Scope)
Cobblers & Key Cutting Shop (Independent)
Cycle Shop (Independent)
Dry Cleaners (2 Independent, 1 Waitrose)
Filling Station. Esso with Tesco mini market
Flooring & Carpet Shop (Independent)
Funeral Directors (Lodge Bros Ltd. Independent)
Garage with M.O.T. Service.
Gift Shops (2 Independent)
Hairdressers Men & Women (4 independent)
Jewellers & Watchmaker (Independent)
Kitchen Fitting Shop (Independent)
Ladies Dress Shop (Independent)
Newsagents (2 Independent)
Picture Framers & Art Shop (Independent)
Public House
School Uniform Supplier
Stationer (Independent)
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The re-generation plan of Sheerwater with increased housing stock of 500 will increase the electorate of that area and since it will be of an urban nature it is considered that the previous proposal of a Sheerwater and Woking Central ward would be of benefit to the residents of those
particular neighbourhoods. Sheerwater Estate was built in the mid 1950's, and it has always had an identity of its own and with the proposed re-generation programme could be an outstanding and vibrant area of Woking Borough.

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It should be further noted that many residents of these three roads belong to The Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford Residents Association which has represented their interests over many years. Additionally, local Neighbourhood Watch Associations cover these areas.

At the present time, Hollies Avenue, Woodlands Avenue and Old Avenue receive the cover of Byfleet, West Byfleet & Pyrford Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team. It is envisaged that if these roads were incorporated into the Sheerwater ward that cover would be changed to Sheerwater and identity of the area would be lost. A photocopy of the Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team is enclosed.

In conclusion, the writer asks that due consideration be given to the pertinent points in this letter. It would indeed be a great sadness and loss to West Byfleet if these particular roads were "swallowed up" into the proposed Sheerwater ward and could possibly mean a retrograde step for the immediate area and Woking Borough Council.

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Yours faithfully,

Brenda M. Osborn.

Encls. a) Photocopy
b) Map showing suggested boundary lines for the Byfleet, & West Byfleet Ward incorporating Hollies Avenue, Woodlands Avenue & Old Avenue.
We are writing to object to the proposals to include The Riding, Woodham, Woking with a new Sheerwater Ward.

We understand that our local council, who know the area well, proposed that The Riding, Woodham should join with the Horsell ward, and we agree fully with this.

We feel that the proposal to join Woodham to Sheerwater is deeply flawed for many reasons.

Woodham and Sheerwater have no common community interests or identities.

1. The areas are separated by the Basingstoke Canal. There are no crossing points except at either end. Woodham residents therefore look west to Horsell for all their facilities which are easily accessed.

2. The areas are further separated by different characteristics of the two areas. Sheerwater consists of relatively high density housing stock. Woodham is characterised by mostly large detached private homes in suburban leafy streets, many of which access Horsell Common directly, and which are most akin to those homes in Horsell. In fact no one would be able to note the difference between Horsell and Woodham; the difference between Sheerwater and Woodham is both shocking and startling. It is hard to understand how the areas could be combined. We are willing to provide photographic evidence to demonstrate this point.

3. There are NO public transport links between the two areas. The local bus service runs along Woodham lane, towards and through Horsell, to Woking town proper. Even to drive a private car to Sheerwater is tricky because of the limited access - it is far quicker and easier to drive to Horsell!

4. Because of the above, Woodham residents shop locally in Horsell - or, we shop in Marks and Spencer in Brooklands, or most often in Waitrose in West Byfleet.

5. Because of the above, Woodham residents attend school in Horsell. We have lived in our home for 22 years, and neither our children nor those of our friends and neighbours have attended school in Sheerwater. Our children use the bus service along Woodham lane to attend Woking High School Horsell, or Fullbrook school in New Haw. Many younger children attend Halstead Private school in Horsell - the closest and easiest to walk to.

6. The local care home for residents of The Riding in Woodham is Kettlewell House in Horsell. This is easily walkable from The Riding. This is where our mum resides.

7. Residents from The Riding, Woodham, do not attend community groups in Sheerwater. We attend our own groups, often based in Woodham Church and more generally groups in Horsell.
8. **Doctors** for Woodham residents are to be found in York Road near the town centre - this is much more accessible to Woodham residents that anywhere in Sheerwater.

9. **Dentists** for most Woodham residents are in Horsell.

10. Even our local **hairdresser** is in Horsell.

11. The Community in Sheerwater is very different to the community in Woodham. It is very different socio-economically but also culturally. For example, many community groups in Sheerwater are related to the interests of residents who have an Asian heritage; many community groups in Sheerwater are mosque based. These valuable groups however do not represent Woodham residents.

    Without doubt, if this change goes ahead, we will be completely disenfranchised, as the residents of Sheerwater will dramatically outnumber us and have nothing in common with us.

    Philip and Yvonne Osprey.
To: The Review Officer (Woking)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-786 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

Re: Borough Boundary Review Consultation
In particular for Boundary Changes to Horsell West in October 2014

From: ...............................................
Address: ...............................................

The Boundary Commission for England are proposing to re-align the Boundaries to existing Wards with for the purposes set out in the Boundary Commission Policy Doc.

I/we wish to strongly object to the proposal to remove the part Locally Listed and Conservation Area of the Broomhalls and part Brewery Road area from the existing Local Horsell West Ward and include the area into the proposed Sheerwater (Canal Side) Ward. The area requested currently lies within the existing boundary to Horsell West.

The Proposal is contrary to the Boundary Commissions intentions as set out in their policy document.

Here is a summary of some of the reasons for my/our objection:-

- Our area is of little significance in terms of electoral numbers BUT would make a vast difference to us who have lived in the area for generations as part of the local Horsell Village, it would destroy the sense of Village Community in the area.
- We would loose the Village cohesion that is part of the Heritage and Heritage of Horsell eg. children & parents attending the same school or Church for generations.
- In this area we help with organising Horsell Village Events and use the facilities within area above as part of the Horsell.
- Residents use local Horsell Shops and other local services in Horsell
- Our sense of character of the area has evolved with generations living for over 150 years & belonging to Horsell Village.
- In this area we help organise Horsell Community Events eg. Safari Gardens, Fund Raising for Horsell Village Hall, Scout & Girl Guide organisations, the annual Horsell Village Fair etc..
- We meet together at Horsell Schools, Doctors, Dentist, Churches & services - all central to our sense of Village Community

- Horsell Village area and Sheerwater area do not share the same Geographical, Social, Economic or Political backgrounds.
- Horsell Village area and Sheerwater area do not share the same Heritage.
- Horsell is separated geographically and economically by the Light Industrial Units of Maybury & Sheerwater along the Canal.
- The number of residents in the Broomhall & part Brewery Road area is INSIGNIFICANT with regards to the overall numbers required for the proposed Ward
- There are no Community Associations with Sheerwater or the proposed Canal Side Ward.

Signed: ...............................................
Date: 30/9/14

Name printed: ...............................................

Name printed: ...............................................

PTO
Our letters of objection do matter. The letters of objection need to be returned by The Boundary Commission before the 6 October 2014.

Please urgently complete the above and either/or:-

1. Scan and sign this letter and email to: reviews@lgbce.org.uk
2. Use the context of this letter and adjust for your own objection letter & submit.
3. Sign this letter & hand deliver to [redacted]
4. Post direct to The Boundary Commission at the above address.

Let's TRY & keep Us in Horsell!

Kathy McCloskey & John Bingham.

tel [redacted]
email [redacted]
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Angela Palmer Melham
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]

Organisation Name: 

Comment text:

My husband and I want to register our disagreement to the suggest bondary change for following reasons, Woodham district identity would be lost, Woodham ans Sheerwater are separated by Basingstoke Canal which forms a natural barrier between Sheerwater and Woodham and is crossed only at the extreme ends of the proposed ward. Also their is no natural community interest and sense of neighbourhood between Sheerwater and Woodham, Our preferred option would be for Woodham to join with Horsall as a more natural alliance both physically and socially.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
FOR YOUR URGENT ATTENTION.

THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION of ENGLAND PROPOSE TO INCLUDE
ALL BROOMHALL AREA & PART OF BREWERY ROAD INTO THE SHEERWATER WARD
(under a new name: CANAL SIDE).

OBSJECTIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED.
before Friday 3 Oct. 2014

SUMMARY OF OBJECTIONS TO THE BC BOUNDARY COMMISSION PROPOSAL

1. The Broomhall area & part of Brewery Road have traditionally been part of Horsell Village since the 1850's and retains a strong sense of Community with Horsell Village.

2. The Broomhalls & part Brewery Road have no links with Maybury, Sheerwater or the Town Centre.

3. Horsell West residents have a collective sense of History, Public Services, Village access, Village Society, Village Support, Village Events in Horsell.

4. Horsell has a very strong sense of Community Identity and local governance. It is against the Community Interest to dismember a well established and well supported Ward.

5. The Boundary Commission remit is to reduce the number of Wards by merging areas together, not to destroy our existing Community & Ward that has been successful for many years.

LOCAL NATURAL BOUNDARIES

The total number of residents in the Broomhalls and part Brewery Road area is of little significance to effect the proposed Ward requirements of the Boundary Commission, yet doing so would totally disrupt the sense of our Horsell Community and local cohesion that has developed over the last 150 years.

The current Southern Boundary to Horsell West Ward is Victoria Way, which in turn was constructed following the line of the Basingstoke Canal dating back to the mid 1800s. The traditional Ward Boundary forms a natural "green" boundary between the Town Centre and residential area of Horsell.

- The Boundary Commission Guidance Notes specify that Natural Boundaries that have evolved over years by local Village Community should be respected for Community & Village Cohesion.
- Residents have moved to this area to be part of the Horsell Village Community with the choice to use the Town Centre services.

LOCAL SERVICES

Neighbours in Broomhall & brewery Road area share the same Surgeries for Councillors, Dentists & Doctors, go to local Horsell schools, local Horsell Churches, Shop in Horsell, walk & meet in the park in Horsell etc.

The local Police Community Officers are known to the local residence in Horsell West including Broomhall and Brewery Road area, reinforcing local identity by neighbourhood watch meetings.

Horsell West is essentially Residential with well established Lanes that inter connect local residents with Horsell Village schools, Church, Surgeries etc. The Lanes are part of the heritage of an English Village.
VILLAGE LIFE

Neighbours in Broomhall & Brewery Road organise Fund Raising, financial support and actively promote the promotion and development of Horsell Village needs such as the Village Hall, Church refurbishments, New Scouts & Guides Hut facilities etc.

Neighbours in Broomhall areas go together to local Horsell Groups such as the Horsell Choir, Horsell Residents Association, Exercise Classes, dance classes and share transport if not walking together.

Local Councillors are known individually to local Horsell Residents.

Residents of Broomhall & Brewery Road subscribe to Horsell Matters Magazine.

HISTORY OF HORSELL VILLAGE

The Broomhall areas have Local Listing within the Local Conservation Area, the purpose of which is to retain the local heritage, sense of community that exists and architectural character of this area.

The residents of the area have played a major role in the Community to retain the character of the area by being active as a residential group to protect local matters that effect the area.

Our Local Horsell Historian lives in Broomhall Road, he has organised local walks to show the history of the area, has produced a written document detailing the History of Horsell which includes The Broomhalls that date back to 1850's. Our Local Historian has submitted work to the Surrey Library, Goldsworth Road, Woking on behalf of Horsell & the Broomhall area.

The residents of the Broomhall area have over many years argued to retain the specific character of the area and resisted all light industrial or high density development North of the Canal. Evidence is shown in the recent development of the WWF building where local residents made very strong representations to WBC & SCC and succeeded in the WWF building Planning application amended to be more modest in size and to provide parking for local residents.

ACCESSIBILTY: WALKING, CYCLING, PUSH CHAIRS, WHEEL CHAIRS

Horsell Residents generally, and in particular the residents of Broomhall area, have a great sense of The Broomhall Community, in ensuring that neighbours are able to get to local events such as the Horsell Garden Safaris, the local Horsell Church Services, the local Village Fair, Car sharing children to the Horsell Schools etc.

Horsell Care is supported by local residents.

All the above services can be reached using well established level surface Lanes that radiate from Horsell Village to around the Broomhall area. It is a safe route, used by the children & adults alike.

No major Roads or geographical difficulties exist between Broomhall & Brewery Road area & Horsell Village, residents enjoy a pleasant walk through local footpaths to local services through the Horsell Common wooded areas.

Many residents in the Broomhall & Brewery Road area belong to the local Horsell Common Preservation Society and help maintain the local woodland.

The residents of the Broomhall area often prefer to use the back Lane footpaths to walk to Horsell Village for local shopping, rather than to cross over the dual carriage way of Victoria Way & into the Town for a pint of milk.

The Lanes are a social walking or cycling route also used by dog walkers and children going to & from school.

LOCAL CHARACTER.

Horsell West is a well established residential area, predominately of two storey housing or flats within a dedicated green space. There is negligible light industry or workshop facilities in the Ward other than in Horsell Village itself.
LOCAL COUNCILLORS, GOVERNMENT & POLLING STATION

Horsell has always been pre-dominantly Lib- Dem or Conservative, whereas Sheerwater & Maybury have been pre-dominantly Labour. The local Trinity Church Brewery Road has been traditionally used for many years as the local Polling Station.

The local Polling Station has been a centre for Social interaction, it is accessible from the Broomhalls, Brewery Road & Horsell residents by walking without the necessity to cross major roads or junctions.

The local Polling Station would no be a centre for social interaction as residents would have to travel to the Sheerwater Ward to Vote at another Polling Station.

SHEERWATER renamed to "CANAL SIDE"

The name change is an attempt to "re-design" the area by another name. "Canal Side" would be part of Sheerwater and the Town Centre. It will include the Broomhall area & part Brewery Road area which will become part of the Town Centre, This would give support to the future expansion of development and expansion of the Town Centre to North of the Canal - local residents have worked hard to resist this for many years.

TRANSPORT

There are NO direct Transport links between Sheerwater and Horsell. The A320 is a clear division between the two areas.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE MERGING OF HORSELL WEST & "CANAL SIDE".

- Horsell has NO COMMUNITY or LINKSs with Sheerwater or Town Centre.
- Councillors to the Maybury or Sheerwater areas have no empathy with Horsell.
- There is no connection with Sheerwater or Maybury Social Events, Services. Schools, Village events, Church Services.
- Services in Sheerwater & Maybury are disconnected geographically separated from Horsell by the A320, the Canal & Town Centre.
- Services in Sheerwater & Maybury are culturally estranged from Horsell.
- There is a vast difference between the Social, Economic & Political backgrounds in the two separated areas.
- Sheerwater & Maybury has a typical infrastructure of Light Industrial Units as can be seen along the Canal. It has predominantly "intense" Social housing. The Town Centre is predominately Retail & Commerce with accommodation over.
- Geographically remote form each other. The Canal is a strong dividing feature of the area, it divides the Town Centre from the residential area and divides the Light Industry of Sheerwater from the residential area of Horsell.
- The new Ward would have no sense of Community with the Broomhalls or Brewery Road, this would lead to a diminished effectiveness of local Government as the Ward areas are not compatible, have very different needs and are not close in proximity. Local Councillors would not be able to address the array of varying local issues.

The above clearly show the Local Horsell West strong objections to the Boundary Commissions Proposals.

The Boundary Commission proposal for Horsell West is Contrary to the Boundary Commissions Policy Document that supports a sense of Village Community. It should not:-

- Split the Community
- Propose to divide Wards by major roads or geographical divisions.
- To install convoluted Boundary divisions where simplicity exists
- To change a Boundary that would cut off the Heritage and traditional Community connections with Horsell Village
- The Boundary Commission should not destroy our sense of Community.
NOTE:

--- NEW BOUNDARY TO BE INCLUDED IN SHEERWATER

Horsell
Broomhall Lane
Brookhall Lane

Fernidale Road

Horsell

Sheerwater

Delivery to: Broomhall Road SE

Ferndale Road

The Grove

Horsell Moor

Brewery Road

Kingswood Court

Alwyn Court

Trinity Church Hall

Footpath

A3046

Sheerwater

VICTORIA WAY

Horsell

TOWN CENTRE

Sheerwater

Brewery Road

NWF

Canal Road

Victoria Way

Horsell

Sheerwater
To: The Review Officer (Woking)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-786 Turmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

Re: Borough Boundary Review Consultation
In particular for Boundary Changes to Horsell West in October 2014

From: [Redacted]

Address: [Redacted]

The Boundary Commission for England are proposing to re-align the Boundaries to existing Wards with for the purposes set out in the Boundary Commission Policy Doc.

I/We wish to strongly object to the proposal to remove the part Locally Listed and Conservation Area of the Broomhalls and part Brewery Road area from the existing Local Horsell West Ward and include the area into the proposed Sheerwater (Canal Side) Ward. The area requested currently lies within the existing boundary to Horsell West.

The Proposal is contrary to the Boundary Commissions intentions as set out in their policy document.

Here is a summary of some of the reasons for my/our objection:-

- Our area is of little significance in terms of electoral numbers BUT would make a vast difference to us who have lived in the area for generations as part of the local Horsell Village, it would destroy the sense of Village Community in the area.
- We would loose the Village cohesion that is part of the Heritage and Heritage of Horsell eg. children & parents attending the same school or Church for generations.
- In this area we help with organising Horsell Village Events and work with the facilities within area above as part of the Horsell.
- Residents use local Horsell Shops and other local services in Horsell
- Our sense of character of the area has evolved with generations living for over 150 years & belonging to Horsell Village.
- In this area we help organise Horsell Community Events eg. Safari Gardens, Fund Raising for Horsell Village Hall, Scout & Guide organisations, the annual Horsell Village Fair etc.
- We meet together at Horsell Schools, Doctors, Dentist, Churches & services - all central to our sense of Village Community

- Horsell Village area and Sheerwater area do not share the same Geographical, Social, Economic or Political backgrounds.
- Horsell Village area and Sheerwater area do not share the same Heritage.
- Horsell is separated geographically and economically by the Light Industrial Units of Maybury & Sheerwater along the Canal.
- The number of residents in the Broomhall & part Brewery Road area is INSIGNIFICANT with regards to the overall numbers required for the proposed Ward
- There are no Community Associations with Sheerwater or the proposed Canal Side Ward.

Signed: [Redacted] Date: 28/4/14

Name printed: [Redacted]

Name printed: [Redacted]
Our letters of objection do matter. The letters of objection need to be received by The Boundary Commission before the 6 October 2014.

Please urgently complete the above and either/or:-

1. Scan and sign this letter and email to: reviews@lgbce.org.uk
or 2. Use the context of this letter and adjust for your own objection letter & submit.
or 3. Sign this letter & hand deliver to [Redacted]
or 4. Post direct to The Boundary Commission at the above address.

Lets TRY & keep Us in Horsell!

Kathy McCloskey & John Bingham.
My wife and I object most strongly to the proposed boundary changes in your recommendation document published on the 1st July 2014. It may be more efficient to reduce the number of councillors from 36 to 30 and if so, then so be it, we have no objections to increased efficiencies within local government. However the boundary changes suggested are wrong and impractical and ignore natural boundary lines. See below reason and causes.

1. The proposal to include roads in Woodham east of and including Woodham lane of the natural boundary of the canal is banal. It is after all a natural boundary which all locals understand. This area should be included in Horsell.

2. The residents of point 1 do not shop in Sheerwater, their Doctors are not in Sheerwater and I doubt other than possible business commitments never go to Sheerwater.

3. The current populace of Sheerwater is either Businesses or Social/Welfare housing, therefore the needs from the council for that area are far removed from those of Woodham Lane and east of Woodham Lane previously mentioned and require a greater number of councillors to manage the area.

4. Currently Sheerwater is heavily industrialised, this is not the case west of the natural canal boundary, which is totally residential.

5. The support and needs for the current residents and businesses of Sheerwater are far greater and wide reaching than the area west of the natural canal boundary.

Thank you for your attention in this matter

Rgards

T E Palmer and P A Palmer (Mrs)
Further to my recent E Mail to your commission. I write again to stress the natural boundary of the Basingstoke canal within the area which has always been recognised as a natural boarder between Sheerwater and Woodham, and therefore should remain as such, and I believe natural boundarys are and should be supported by the commission.

Since my previous contact with the commission I have found out that the Local Governing body (Woking County Council) would prefer Woodham to join Horsell to form a three three councillor ward. I do not see any reason for the commission to go against the local government wishes in this matter. This wished for arrangement would provide a cohesive locality with broad similarities, both of demographic and geographic nature in the combined wards.

Thank you for your attention in this matter.

T E Palmer (Mr) and P A Palmer (Mrs)
To the Local Government Boundary Commission

I write in response to your proposal to incorporate Woodham into Sheerwater to form a new three-Councillor ward.

You will have already received numerous communications from my neighbours in the Woodham Hall Estate and along Woodham Lane, and I will not repeat all the relevant arguments here.

I would, however, draw to your attention two aspects in particular which affect your proposal.

Firstly, accessibility between the two parts of the proposed Ward.

Although it may not be obvious by reference to published maps Sheerwater and Woodham are separated by the Basingstoke Canal. This is a substantial waterway which is crossed only by two bridges, in Chertsey Road, Woking and Sheerwater Road, West Byfleet respectively. The distance by road between these two bridges is approximately two miles and there is no access in between.

Secondly, the two areas are completely different in character.

Sheerwater was created by the London County Council in the 1950s to provide overspill housing for Londoners displaced by the redevelopments taking place at the time.

Conversely, Woodham consists mainly of detached houses with large gardens, many of which are situated in private roads.

It would be less than ideal for the interests of these two different groups to be represented by the same councilors.

I would therefore urge you to withdraw the proposal to amalgamate Woodham and Sheerwater and to revert instead to the current arrangements which have served their respective communities well.

Regards

Alfred Parker
Hello,
I am 18 and have lived in West Byfleet my whole life. these changes now place me in Sheerwater. I am against this change as I have never used the facilities offered in Sheerwater. I go to West Byfleet Medical Centre, Post Office, Barclays, Chippy, Coffee shops and Park. West Byfleet is my community hub, not Sheerwater! Therefore I’d rather my vote go to West Byfleet rather than Sheerwater.

--
Yours,
Sam Parke-Wolfe
**Woking District**

**Personal Details:**

**Name:** Robert Payne  
**E-mail:** [REMOVED]  
**Postcode:** [REMOVED]

**Organisation Name:**

**Comment text:**

Re: Horsell West I believe that the boundary should follow the natural border of the canal. The Lightbox, WWF & Brewery Rd carpark are all within Horsell West, as are the properties in the vicinity of The Wheatsheaf Public House (eg Broomhall Road). The Grove and Ferndale Rd are both clearly in Horsell (East). It is important that areas actually in Horsell stay in Horsell (EAST or West) for the purposes of elections. Horsell has no commonality with Sheerwater or Goldsworth East

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded
The Boundary Commission.

I have already written and sent my reasons for opposing the change of boundary. But as I'm so against having Sheenwater as my address, I'm writing again. We asked the feeling of being in a Parish at the three Villages. That's why we didn't buy in Sheenwater. The houses with electrically done value with this brain...
change. And if we decided to move would the Council make up the Short fall? I also see we would expect our Council Tax to be greatly reduced. My Son also has an interest in this road. and is Concerned about the Schools so he would want his Children to go to Saltbrook as all my children did and all have got on really well. We have lived in our house for the 37 years and the being part of the Village and the thought of having Sherman as our address both us will disappear. We would welcome changes & reform.
Review Officer (Woking)

LGBCE,

Layden House,

LONDON EC1M 5LG

Dear Sir or Madame,

I would like to register my opposition to the proposed changes by the Boundaries Commission to take Woodham out of the Horsell Ward and place it in the Sheerwater Ward.

I consider the two wards to be totally different in profile. The Basingstoke Canal, while very narrow in width effectively divides the communities into two areas with no commonality.

Personally I always use the Horsell shops in preference to the Sheerwater local shops.

Traffic issues regarding the A245 and the Six Crossroads roundabout affect Woodham and Horsell far more than Sheerwater.

Also the Recycling Centre on Martyrs Lane, while being of special interest to my community also has more bearing more bearing on Horsell than on Sheerwater.

Our community is effectively isolated by the canal and if the wards are combined we will effectively be disenfranchised as we will be a small minority with little relevance to Sheerwater’s issues and hence ignored.

In conclusion I wish to remain part of Horsell Ward.

Kind regards,

CFA Peakin
Dear Sirs,

I have been onto your website and viewed the proposed boundary changes and would make the following comments in opposition to the proposals:

1) I cannot honestly comment on the number of people on the electoral register for Shearwater and Woodham. However, if the proposals to redevelop Shearwater go ahead, the number of residents will significantly increase and thus, there will be an imbalance of voters.

2) The types of property in Shearwater and Woodham are quite different. The majority of residents in Woodham do not use public transport links, other than rail, which would be serviced at either West Byfleet or Woking. Furthermore, the Basingstoke Canal divides the two districts which can only be crossed via Sheerwater Road or by going into Woking.

3) Overall income will be higher in Woodham with a lower demand for benefits and social care.

4) Sheerwater has nothing to attract Woodham residents to visit as Woking is nearer and offers a good range of retail outlets and easy parking. Sports facilities are available at the Woking Leisure Centre. Sheerwater has a health centre with one GP practice whereas West Byfleet Health Centre has three GP practices and offers a range of treatments such as minor operations and ultrasound, etc. The majority of Woodham residents would, therefore, go to West Byfleet for healthcare.

5) We believe that Woodham has much more in common with Horsell and would prefer that the boundary remains unchanged.

Yours faithfully

Joseph and Maggie Pearson
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: JAN PEMBROKE
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]
Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I strongly object to Woodham being joined to Sheerwater Ward.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
24 September 2014

The Review Officer (Woking)
LGBCE
76-86 Turnmill Street
LONDON EC1M 5LG

Dear Sir

I am a resident of West Byfleet, which up until now has been a separate ward of Woking Borough Council. I am very concerned over the proposed boundary changes which will mean, as far as Woking Borough Council is concerned, the disappearance of West Byfleet as a thriving village.

West Byfleet will celebrate its centenary next year. It is recognised by Woking Borough Council as the second major hub of business and industrial employment after the centre of Woking itself. It has a thriving shopping facility, a major Health Centre covering the whole of the Eastern part of Woking, a main line station with fast trains to Waterloo and several schools. There are residential areas covering all types of housing, from affordable and rented homes to substantial owner-occupied properties.

The original proposals were to incorporate part of the business centre and some homes into Byfleet, which is more than a mile away, the remaining residential property would be being joined with Pyrford and Maybury. This final proposal has been to separate the village further by adding residential property between the railway line and the Basingstoke Canal (along the Rive Ditch) to the Sheerwater Ward. The old West Byfleet village had no connections with Sheerwater and the reason for this further splitting seems to be merely to add or subtract numbers to make the proposals viable.

I would therefore request that the roads in question, Woodlands Avenue, Hollies Avenue and Old Avenue are returned to the West Byfleet area which will join with Pyrford and Maybury.

Yours sincerely
Dear Sirs,

Boundary Commission review. Woodham and Horsell Wards.

I am perplexed and somewhat astonished that the Boundary Commission proposes to bond Woodham ward to Sheerwater rather than to Horsell.

The ward has always been known as Woodham and Horsell East. There is a significant geographic barrier between Woodham and Sheerwater in the form of the Basingstoke canal with only bridge access at the extreme ends of the ward. This has contributed to a lack of social intercourse between Woodham and the ward south of the canal resulting in an absence of any propinquity between us.

I will have lived in the ward for 40 years in February and I do not believe that I have ever spoken to a resident of Sheerwater in that time.

Frankly I find the Commission's proposal bizarre to say the least. My wife and I are very much against the Boundary Commission's proposal and we believe that our Council's sensible recommendation should be accepted.

John Perry
9 Broadwater Close
RE: REVIEW OF SHEERWATER WARD.

Dear Sirs,

I am writing with regard to the above to advise that my wife and I are strongly opposed to the proposal for this new ward of Sheerwater to include Hollies Avenue, Woodlands Road and Old Avenue.

It is to the layman such as myself puzzling as to just why this proposal came about and for what purpose.

It can certainly not be considered as any form of advantage to the residents of the three roads specified, and I have no doubt they will indicate this in correspondence with you.

In the most admirable and detailed letter dated 3rd August 2014 sent to the Council by Mr. J. Osborn of Hammond's Old Avenue, the feelings of the residents are clearly portrayed.

I am frankly surprised that the Border Commission's proposals are even allowing the notion to be put forward and I am further surprised that the previous proposal put forward by Woking Borough was not considered acceptable by the Commission.

My wife and myself have noted over the past 18 years of our residence here that Woking Borough have generally appeared fair and reasonable in all considerations with which they are called upon to deal.

However in this case it is almost as though the residents can be considered as cattle to be herded up, driven into a corral and then moved on when considered suitable to a real assistant.
WITH NOT TOO MUCH DEMOCRACY SHINING FORTH!

THIS MUST BE CONSIDERED BY THE PRESENT SHEERWATER
RESIDENTS TO BE ALMOST AN IRRELEVANCE AS IT
WILL SURELY BE VERY SURPRISING TO LEARN THAT
THEY ARE CLAMOURING FOR US TO JOIN THEM.

THEIR THOUGHTS MUST BE CONSIDERED ON
THE SUPERS RE-GENERATION PROGRAM AHEAD OF
THEM OF WHICH THEY WILL SURELY BE PROUD.

MY WIFE AND I CONSIDERED VERY CAREFULLY
THE APPEAL AND ADVANTAGES OF MOVING TO
WEST BYFLEET (FROM WEYBRIDGE) APPROX. 18 YEARS
AGO. WE SAW THE 'VILLAGE' TYPE TOUR AS
MOST SUITABLE AND OUR JUDGEMENT WAS NOT
PLAGUED WRONG, WE DID NOT CONSIDER SHEERWATER
AT ANY TIME WHEN MAKING OUR HOME SELECTION.

WE CONSIDER OURSELVES AS 'WEST BYFLEETERS' OR
NOT 'SHEERWATERS' AND WE CERTAINLY DO NOT
WANT TO LOSE OUR 'IDENTITY IN THE MANNER PROPOSED.'

I WRITE THEREFORE TO ASK THAT THE BORDER
COMMISSION, ON REFLECTION, CONSIDER NOT TO PROCEED
FURTHER WITH THE PLANS, GIVING PEACE OF MIND
TO ALL RESIDENTS INVOLVED - LEAVING US UNDER
THE WEST BYFLEET 'UMBRELLA' WHERE WE BELONG.

AFTER ALL, SURRY SHEERWATER WITH THE
RE-DEVELOPMENT OF HUNDREDS OF HOMES IN VolUN
SEVERAL THOUSANDS OF NEW AND OLD RESIDENTS
WILL HARDLY BE CONCERNED ABOUT OUTSIDE RESIDENT
BEING INCLUDED,

I PROPOSE THAT SHEERWATER SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS IT IS AT PRESENT I.E., TERMINATING AT THE TRAFFIC
LIGHTS JOINING SHEERWATER ROAD AND ABINGER DRIVE.
Dear Sir or Madam,

As a resident of Old Avenue Close, I am writing to object to the new boundaries being introduced in West Byfleet.

We bought our house to live in West Byfleet and enjoy the facilities provided.

We use the health centre, Waitrose, church and library in "our village". We have no connection with the Sheerwater area in terms of access to or participation in their amenities.

I hope you will note these points when making a final restructuring of the electoral boundaries.

Yours Faithfully,

Elizabeth Phillips.
Dear Sir or Madam,

I live at [_address_redacted]. At present I am in West Byfleet ward and wish to be included in Pyford or Byfleet wards, NOT Sheerwater.

I understand that Woking Borough Council has committed itself to building an ADDITIONAL 300 homes on the Sheerwater estate, most of which are to be family homes. This will provide a further 450 voters, more than there are in the Old Avenue area.

I have lived in Old Avenue Close since 1988. I came here because West Byfleet centre area provided good family facilities, schools, health centre, shops, banks, churches and excellent sports facilities. There is also the fast train service to central London.

My family always go to West Byfleet or beyond to Brooklands for most of thier needs. It never occurs to us to go to or through the Sheerwater estate with which we have no connection whatsoever.

Please note my objection when finalising the ward boundary changes.

Yours Faithfully,

Ian Phillips.
The Review Officer (Woking)  
LGBCE  
Layden House  
76-78 Turnmill Street  
London EC1

Dear Review Officer

Proposals for West Byfleet Ward

I am writing to object to the proposals to divide up West Byfleet Ward and in particular to reallocate Woodlands Avenue and Hollies Avenue to Sheerwater Ward.

West Byfleet is a community with a strong sense of identity and clear geographical boundaries. These are the Basingstoke Canal to the north, the Sheerwater Road (A245) to the west, and the Wey Navigation / M25 to the east. Whilst the southern Boundary between Pyrford and West Byfleet is less distinct many regard it as being the Old Woking Road apart from where it passes through the centre. It is one of the more clearly identifiable communities in Woking and hence it beggars belief that it is a Ward considered suitable for dividing up in order to implement the required reduction in the number of Wards in Woking. You acknowledge that it is extremely contentious in your recommendations yet proceed to ignore all the issues raised by the residents association and West Byfleet Forum. Acknowledging that there is an issue is not the same as resolving it.

In your proposals you identify the railway line as a boundary but this is simply not so in West Byfleet. West Byfleet exists on both sides of the line illustrated by the fact that West Byfleet station is on the north side, the shops and centre are on the south side. There are two road bridges crossing it and a pedestrian subway at the station. The residents do not view the line as a boundary and never have done so; it may bisect West Byfleet but it does not divide it.

Your proposal to include Woodlands Avenue and Hollies Avenue in the Sheerwater Ward is widely regarded as the most ludicrous suggestion in your
document. The residents of these roads are unanimous in their opposition to it as you will see from the petition that has been presented to you. Not one resident feels part of the Sheerwater community and many never even enter the Sheerwater estate. We are part of the West Byfleet community. We shop in West Byfleet, use West Byfleet library, church and church hall, recreation ground, heath centre and schools. Many residents are members of the two social clubs in West Byfleet. As already mentioned West Byfleet Station is on our side of the railway line. Its address is Claremont Road which is a road directly joined to Woodlands Avenue.

We wish to be represented on Woking Council by a councillor for West Byfleet. We do not feel that a Sheerwater councillor will be able or willing to reflect our views and that as we live in West Byfleet we need a say in matters affecting our community. Sheerwater itself is a clearly identifiable community in its own right. Like West Byfleet it has issues and problems and these are different from ours and dealt with by their councillors.

In summary and ideally West Byfleet Ward should not be divided and you and Woking Council should scrap the plans to do so and devise a plan that takes into consideration the views of West Byfleet residents. However if a division is unavoidable then the recommended proposals should not involve Woodlands Avenue and Hollies Avenue becoming divided from West Byfleet.

Yours sincerely

Graham Phillips
Hello. With regards to the Woodham boundary change, we would like to register our objection to this alteration. Quite frankly, given the points offered up for the change, it makes absolutely no sense. The canal is its own boundary separating Woodham from Sheerwater, we cannot see the sense in changing existing boundaries. It's a big no from us.
Yours sincerely
Mr & Mrs Placito
**Woking District**

**Personal Details:**

**Name:** Carl P  
**E-mail:**  
**Postcode:**  
**Organisation Name:**

**Comment text:**

I'm no good at using the tool above for adjusting the map but to be clear I am strongly opposing the proposal to merge Woodham into Sheerwater. We live in Laurel Crescent just off of Woodham Lane and typically tell people we live in West Byfleet because this is where we shop, socialise and spend most of our time. We have no reason to go into Sheerwater and do not feel that our area is in sync with that of Sheerwater. Yes there is some snobbery to that but we are mortgaged up to our eyeballs to have something better for our family whereas Sheerwater is all ex-council and with respect, just drive through it to see the difference. Ideally I would be positive about joining Woodham with West Byfleet but at a push there is Horsell. My request would be to leave us as Woodham, a lovely niche amongst some major areas.

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded
Dear Review Officer (Woking),

I have already signed the petition but I wanted to personally write in to oppose the boundary changes affecting Woodlands, Hollies and Old Avenues.

I am a resident of Woodlands Avenue and on the community issue alone it does not make any sense to make these 3 roads part of the Sheerwater ward. My doctor is based in West Byfleet, along with my chemist, Optician, Library, my son's nursery etc. I am part of the West Byfleet community. I never use any of the facilities of Sheerwater and I do not believe many, if any, of my neighbours do.

West Byfleet is the focal point for shopping, banking etc. for neighbouring areas such as Pyrford, Byfleet, New Haw and other areas. To split it up in to separate wards just does not make sense to me.

Living in West Byfleet, in such close proximity to the village centre and the train station, the issues that affect the residents of the 3 suggested roads are different to the issues of Sheerwater and I do not believe we would be represented properly.

There is a sign as you enter Albert Drive in Sheerwater that states 'Welcome to Sheerwater'. That to me suggests a clear boundary between Sheerwater and West Byfleet.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Jenna Prior

Sent using BlackBerry® from Orange
Dear Review Officer

In regards to the proposed changes to the boundary ward of West Byfleet, as a resident of Woodlands Ave I strongly object to being aligned with the Sheerwater Ward. Myself and my family do not use any facilities within Sheerwater, our shopping, doctors, church and child’s school is all located in West Byfleet. To be re-aligned with Sheerwater would not make sense as we would not be represented in important issues regarding facilities we use in our community of West Byfleet.

Please note my strong objection.

Regards

Stephen Prior
**Woking District**

**Personal Details:**

Name: Marjorie Pritchard  
E-mail:  
Postcode:  

**Organisation Name:**

**Comment text:**

I fully support Woking Boundaries proposals, in particular that the old Pyrford ward remains complete. The proposed extended Pyrford ward will include part of Maybury and the edge of West Byfleet. This follows the natural boundary of the railway line, public transport routes and keeps the community of Pyrford together, that has close links with West byfleet. This proposal in the main reflects the interests, the historical nature and close links of the communities in the three villages of Pyrford, West Byfleet and Byfleet.

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded
I am opposed to the amendment made by the Local Government Boundary Commission to take Woodham out of the Horsell Ward and instead adjoin it with Sheerwater to form a three councilor Sheerwater Ward.

I am also against the removal of the name Woodham from the proposed names of the new wards.

The Basingstoke Canal separates Woodham from Sheerwater which is crossed only at the extreme ends of the ward and as a result there is little or no communality of interests and no sense of neighbourhood between the two areas.

The A245 between Woodham and Sheerwater is a major route which suffers from heavy traffic particularly at peak times and is one of the roads that is a part of a route management study. Travel between the two areas is therefore difficult.

There are many community affinities between Woodham and Horsell as both are predominantly prosperous, residential leafy suburbs containing mostly detached housing with many private roads.

I consider the proposals submitted to you by Woking Borough Council to be sensible, particularly as they make a real attempt to retain the natural cohesion between the historic areas of Horsell and Woodham.

Regards,

Dan Pursey