Local resident submissions to the Woking Borough Council electoral review

This PDF document contains submissions from local residents.

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To the Review Officer (Woking)

I wish to express my strong concerns about the proposed new ward boundaries for Woking, and in particular for the Woodham area, where I live. Having lived here for over twenty years, I can state with certainty that this part of Woking Borough has much closer links with Horsell and West Byfleet than with Sheerwater; although Sheerwater appears closer on the map, the distance by road makes it considerably less accessible from Woodham than Woking, West Byfleet or Horsell. People living in Woodham generally use shops, schools, medical and other facilities in Horsell or West Byfleet rather than Sheerwater and do not have any sense of community with, or belonging to, Sheerwater.

To address your criteria, as stated on your website:

**Electoral Equality:**
Obviously I do not know the figures involved, but I would point out that there is a large development programme underway for Sheerwater, which is expected to result in several hundred new homes.

**Community Identity:**
Transport links are not good between Woodham and Sheerwater, as the areas are completely divided by the Basingstoke Canal and it is a slow journey round by road. On the other hand, journeys by bus or road to Woking, Horsell and West Byfleet are straightforward and quick, mostly along main roads.

**Community Groups:**
I am not aware of any such groups except within Woodham itself – not across the two areas. I am aware that there are some links between All Saints’ Church, Woodham and St Michael’s in Sheerwater but this only affects a very few people and I would doubt that many people go to both churches.

**Facilities:**
The proposal to link Woodham with Sheerwater does not reflect where people go for shops, medical facilities etc. Woodham residents mostly use the GP Practice in West Byfleet; the shops in West Byfleet or New Haw; and their children tend to go to schools in West Byfleet, Horsell or New Haw. The whole area is well provided with leisure facilities and I do not believe people use Sheerwater for this.

**Interests:**
I cannot think of any particular interests which would bind Woodham to Sheerwater – they have always been very separate areas.

**Identifiable boundaries:**
As mentioned above, the Basingstoke Canal cuts the proposed new ward in half, and has formed a natural boundary for two hundred years. It seems extraordinary to me to ignore this fact and construct a completely arbitrary dividing boundary along Woodham Lane, ignoring the history and community of Woodham as well as the lack of any significant links between Woodham and Sheerwater.
I understand that Woking council’s own recommendations were to put Woodham into Horsell ward, which reflects the actual communities rather than just arbitrary lines on a map. I would strongly urge you to respect the local knowledge of Woking Council and the people who live there.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer Adams
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: sarah adams
E-mail: 
Postcode: 

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I do not feel that Woodham should become part of the Sheerwater ward. It should be part of the Horsell ward. The canal is a natural boundary between Woodham and Sheerwater and I strongly Woodham should not be put with Sheerwater. There is very little joint community activities between Sheerwater and Woodham and this will not change by joining them into one ward.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Sachin Adhiya  
E-mail: [redacted]  
Postcode: [redacted]  

Organisation Name: Personal

Comment text:

With reference to the proposed ward boundary changes I wish to make the following comments: Woodham and 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. It is natural barriers such as the Canal that the Boundary Commission themselves consider should identify Ward boundaries. Furthermore, there seems to be little communality of interest or sense of neighbourhood between Woodham and Sheerwater. The preferred solution from Woking Borough Council is that Woodham should join with Horsell to form a three councillor ward. This arrangement would provide a cohesive locality and there are many broad similarities, both of a demographic and geographic nature in the combined wards. This solution seems far more sensible.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Boundary Commission – Woodham Ward

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 councillor Sheerwater Ward.

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

For the following reasons:-

This amendment is a variation to the proposal made by Woking Borough Council in the Boundary Review 2013-2016.

This amendment is based on a visit to the area by the commission and does not follow the recommendation of the Woking Borough Councillors who are familiar with the geography and demographics of the area.

This amendment reads “We are concerned that this area (Woodham) does not share sufficiently clear transport links with the communities in Horsell” There is no mention of community in the report or the strong local characteristics that associate it with Horsell.

Electoral Equality

The Horsell and Woodham Ward is forecast to have 8,298 Electors in 2019 compared to the target of 7,867 required to meet the Boundary Commission guidance. This is 5.5% above the target but reflects the likelihood that the ward will attract well below average development over the local plan period to 2027.

Geographic Considerations

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.

Woodham has few facilities and transport links and has no direct bus route service to Sheerwater.

Community identity (Woodham and Horsell)
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.

There are also many community links between Woodham and Horsell.

Residents of Woodham frequent the shops and leisure amenities located in Horsell.

The Sands, The Red Lion and The Cricketers are our local public houses.

Horsell common is frequented by dog walkers and many members of The Horsell Preservation Society live in Woodham.

Residents associations use the facilities in Horsell for AGM meetings and social events.

Crime levels are low and are comparable

**Community identity (Woodham and Sheerwater)**

There are many demographic opposites which hinder a sense of community.

Houses in the Sheerwater area range from terraced properties to large estates. Houses are mostly two and three storeys high and have provided a source of small and cheaper accommodation.

Sheerwater contains the largest concentration of industrial areas in the Borough.

The Surrey Strategic Partnership, of which Woking Borough Council is a member, has identified the ward of Sheerwater as a CS5 'Priority Place and parts of Sheerwater have been identified as the most deprived area in the county for health deprivation and disability, income and employment'.

The crime reporting level in Sheerwater is more than ten times the crime reporting level in Woodham. (source Police.uk)

Twenty percent of this reported crime is criminal damage and arson, violence and sexual assault. This type of serious crime has not been reported in Woodham.

**Summation**

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.

Sincerely.

Mrs Janice Akhtar
Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Boundary Commission – Woodham Ward

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Sincerely.

Kaizer Akhtar
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**Summation**

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Sincerely.

Kassian Akhtar
Dear Sir or Madam

Re: [REDACTED] – Woodham Ward

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**Summation**

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.

Sincerely.

Mr Shahzad Akhtar
To whom it may concern

I am most 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 councillor 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.

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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.

Yours faithfully

Anna-Maria Allan

Woodham
To whom it may concern

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 councillor Sheerwater Ward.

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

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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.

Yours faithfully

Andy Allan

Woodham
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...03/10/2016

Name printed...

Name printed...
**Woking District**

**Personal Details:**

Name: pete anderson  
E-mail:  
Postcode:  

**Organisation Name:**

**Comment text:**

I have lived in Woodham Waye for 12 years. I do not see any advantages for changing the boundaries. Your opening gambit is 'keep Woodham special!'. If we didn't agree with the proposed changes, why would Woodham be any less special? Share with us the reasons why we should change. If this was a business proposing change there would be a business case justifying the change. Does the Council feel that this is not required? There will be an impact to every Woodham household...what are those? You can contact me on [redacted] or via email [redacted] – I await your comments.

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Peter Anderson
E-mail: 
Postcode: 
Organisation Name: 

Comment text:
I am opposed to the Boundary Commission's proposed changes to remove Woodham from Horsell Ward and to be joined with Sheerwater. I have lived in Woodham for 10.5 years and do not see any justification for this change.

Uploaded Documents:
None Uploaded
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: John and Nichola Apthorpe
E-mail: 
Postcode: 

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

With respect to your proposed changes I would like you to reconsider your proposed draft proposal for changes to Woodham. My family and I have, for the last 9 years, lived off Woodham Lane in Woodham and have used Woodham Parish Church, our closest place of worship. You are proposing changing its boundary to be part of Sheerwater which we feel is wrong for the following reasons:- 1) The constructed boundary of the Basingstoke Canal is a now a well established and natural divide between Sheerwater and Woodham. 2) There are no transport links except for a road bridge (A245) which we just use for access to West Byfleet facilities. The other bridge to Maybury is not used by us. 3) There are no community groups we use or intend on using in Sheerwater 4) There are no facilities - be it health, social or commercial we have used in Sheerwater 5) Our recreation including dog walking and off-road cycling is undertaken on Horsell Common and not in Sheerwater 6) Woodham is a well established area in its own right and has more in common with the communities in Horsell East including, pubs, restaurants and places of worship 7) The proposed changes will drive further alienation between the two communities of Sheerwater and Woodham which only have adjacency, over the mostly impassable Basingstoke Canal, in common 8) The proposed redevelopment of Sheerwater will have no impact on Woodham 9) Woking Borough Council understand the sense of community between Horsell and Woodham and that Woodham should form part of their proposed 3 councillor ward - which we support. 10) You have been inconsistent - quoting your own report: "We have decided to broadly base our draft recommendations on the Council's proposals, subject to a number of amendments to better reflect community identities as well as transport and communication links between communities in this part of the borough." Do not broadly base your recommendations on any such things in the matter of Woodham/Sheerwater; there is no community identity or communication links between Woodham and Sheerwater; and other than the A245 that crosses through both wards at the furthest points there is no other access to Sheerwater. In fact, to walk from our home to Sheerwater facilities is considerably farther away than walking to either Horsell facilities or indeed West Byfleet facilities - the reason being we have to circumnavigate the natural boundary that is the Basingstoke Canal, therefore any travel would be undertaken in a car not by foot as Sheerwater is that much farther away. In summary I do not see the justification or logic for not following Woking Borough Council's proposals? They surely know the local communities better than a non elected government body. Regards John and Nichola Apthorpe

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Caroline Argo
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: [REDACTED]

Comment text:

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Uploaded Documents:

https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/print/informed-representation/3702

13/08/2014
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Carl Argo
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]
Organisation Name: member of public

Comment text:

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. For the following reasons:-This amendment is a variation to the proposal made by Woking Borough Council in the Boundary Review 2013-2016. This amendment is based on a visit to the area by the commission and does not follow the recommendation of the Woking Borough Councillors who are familiar with the geography and demographics of the area. This amendment reads “We are concerned that this area (Woodham) does not share sufficiently clear transport links with the communities in Horsell” There is no mention of community in the report or the strong local characteristics that associate it with Horrell. Electoral Equality The Horrell and Woodham Ward is forecast to have 8,298 Electors in 2019 compared to the target of 7,867 required to meet the Boundary Commission guidance. This is 5.5% above the target but reflects the likelihood that the ward will attract well below average development over the local plan period to 2027. Geographic Considerations 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 neighbourhoood 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. Woodham has few facilities and transport links and has no direct bus route service to Sheerwater. Community identity (Woodham and Horrell) There are many community affinities between Woodham and Horrell as both are predominantly prosperous, residential leafy suburbs containing mostly detached housing with many private roads. There are also many community links between Woodham and Horrell. Residents of Woodham frequent the shops and leisure amenities located in Horrell. The Sands, The Red Lion and The Cricketers are our local public houses. Horrell common is frequented by dog walkers and many members of The Horsell Preservation Society live in Woodham. Residents associations use the facilities in Horrell for AGM meetings and social events. Crime levels are low and are comparable Community identity (Woodham and Sheerwater) There are many demographic opposites which hinder a sense of community. Houses in the Sheerwater area range from terraced properties to large estates. Houses are mostly two and three storeys high and have provided a source of small and cheaper accommodation. Sheerwater contains the largest concentration of industrial areas in the Borough. The Surrey Strategic Partnership, of which Woking Borough Council is a member, has identified the ward of Sheerwater as a CS5 `Priority Place and parts of Sheerwater have been identified as the most deprived area in the county for health deprivation and disability, income and employment`. The crime reporting level in Sheerwater is more than ten times the crime reporting level in Woodham. (source Police.uk) Twenty percent of this reported crime is criminal damage and arson, violence and sexual assault. This type of serious crime has not been reported in Woodham. Summation 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. Dr Carl Argo

Uploaded Documents:
None Uploaded
From Mr And Mrs Arnold

Both my wife and I do not want to be placed in the Sheerwater ward as we are cut off by the canal and can only drive in from both ends by road.

Alf Arnold
To The Review Officer

Dear Sir,

My wife and I object most strongly to your proposal to take residents in The Grove and Ferndale Road out of the Horsell ward and join them with Sheerwater to form a three councillor Sheerwater ward. We have been owner/occupiers of our property since 1975 and have voted for councillors in the Horsell ward as Horsell residents since 1964. We have always regarded ourselves as part of the Horsell community.

The residents in The Grove are predominantly well-to-do working or retired middle class. In contrast Sheerwater is the most deprived ward in Woking. Consequently, we have nothing in common with the residents of Sheerwater, either communality of interest or feeling of neighbourhood between us and the Sheerwater residents.

We consider that the proposals of Woking Borough Council to you on this subject (which you rejected) made much more sense than that now proposed.

If your proposals go ahead we shall cease to vote in local elections.

Yours faithfully,

John and Suzanne Arnold
To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my concern about the boundary proposals. I currently come under west Byfleet and with the new proposal i would come under the sheerwater ward. I use west Byfleet daily and my children attend the schools there, I shop there, my doctors is there and the post office i feel i should have a say that relates to the area i use and live in. I feel that sheerwater road creates a natural boundary and therefore should stay that way. I do not feel that i would have accurate representation in sheerwater. I think many people would not vote as it would not be convenient to do so, i very rarely go through Sheerwater let alone stop there!

Many thanks, i look forward to seeing new proposals after this consultation.

Judi austin