Local resident submissions to the Woking Borough Council electoral review

This PDF document contains submissions from local residents.

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Click on the submission you would like to view. If you are not taken to that page, please scroll through the document.

Surnames B
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: [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 use the facilities within area above as part of the Horsell Village.  
- 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: [redacted] Date: 18th October 2014  

Name printed: [redacted]  

I'm wondering whether I will continue to vote in Local Elections when it becomes so irrelevant to my daily life, interests & concerns in & around Horsell Village.
Review Officer (Woking)
LGBCE
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London
EC1M 5LG

8 September 2014

BY EMAIL

Dear Sir / Madam

Review Consultation on Ward Pattern for Woking Borough Council

We are writing to strongly oppose the recommendation that our road (Oak Park, off Old Avenue in West Byfleet) will move from West Byfleet ward to that of Sheerwater. We set out our reasons below - primarily we believe such a change would destroy the West Byfleet community identity of our road and would not reflect the community interests or patterns of the residents living along Old Avenue and the cul-de-sacs running off it.

We purchased our house, Foxwell, in May 2014. A key factor in our decision to purchase was our desire to join the flourishing and stable West Byfleet community. We were particularly attracted by its strong and tight community spirit. Our aim, as we approach middle age, was to put down roots and move away from more transient areas. In buying a house just off Old Avenue, we specifically chose a well-established (possibly THE most established) road in West Byfleet. We already knew many of the road’s residents and were aware that the majority had lived in West Byfleet, for years, if not decades, with strong local ties to the community of West Byfleet.
We wished to live near to the heart of West Byfleet, and so purchased a house just a few minutes’ walk from the central hub of facilities. We now use West Byfleet train station and the surrounding shops daily - being so near, we don’t even need to get into the car. On the few minutes’ walk to the shops and station we often chat to our fellow residents, many of whom are pillars of the West Byfleet community. They, and now us, refer to West Byfleet as ‘the village’. We are already on first name terms with a number of the independent West Byfleet shopkeepers, who depend on the return local custom of residents like ourselves - residents of the immediate West Byfleet community. It never crosses our minds to shop in Sheerwater (or elsewhere) - why would we, when the comprehensive range of facilities in West Byfleet are much nearer, being only moments from our door?

We use the medical facilities of West Byfleet - not Sheerwater - and our children play in West Byfleet Park, with their West Byfleet friends. The list is endless. We are members of the Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford Residents Association and remain impressed at the way the Association has represented the interests of our fellow neighbours over many years. Indeed, we understand a number of our neighbours are key figures of the Association. Old Avenue and its cul-de-sacs also belong to the Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team. We are active members of the West Byfleet Neighbourhood Watch. It is envisaged that if our road were incorporated into Sheerwater Ward this cover would be changed to Sheerwater and the identity and specific concerns of our area would be lost in amongst the wider and distinctly different concerns of Sheerwater.

We find it incredibly wrong that decision-makers who have, at best, limited understanding and experience of the unique community spirit and ethos of West Byfleet can simply carve it up, using haphazard features such as the railway line to determine boundaries, rather than focusing on the community spirit of the area and where people go about their daily lives. We have nothing to do with Sheerwater, having never even set foot in the area, being more than adequately served by the centre of West Byfleet in every way. We believe allocating Old Avenue and its cul-de-sacs to Sheerwater Ward will hugely damage the community spirit of not only our road but also that of West Byfleet. This isn’t just our opinion as relative newcomers - my fellow residents of Old Avenue and its cul-de-sacs share our view. We ask that you reconsider and allow Old Avenue and its tributaries to remain where they have always been - a core part of the West Byfleet Community.

Yours faithfully

Marisa and Simon Baker
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: [Name Redacted]
Address: [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 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: [Signature Redacted]  
Date: 30/9/14

Name printed: [Name Redacted]

Name printed: [Name 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
or 4. Post direct to The Boundary Commission at the above address.

Lets TRY & keep Us in Horsell!

Kathy McCloskey & John Bingham.

tel: 
email:
Porter, Johanna

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 03 August 2014 18:41
To: Reviews@
Subject: FW: Horsell West Ward

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

To The Boundary Commission

We are very much opposed to the proposal by the Boundary Commission to transfer part of Horsell West Ward to form part of the Sherwater Ward. We live in Broomhall Lane and would be part of that transfer.

We have lived here for 43 years. We shop in Horsell Village, and access the village by a footpath through Horsell Common. We belong to the Horsell Residents Association and feel very much part of the Horsell Community. We have nothing in common with the Sheerwater Ward, separated by the Basingstoke Canal and by a totally different environment and community.

We firmly support Woking Council recommendation that we stay with Horsell West and be joined by Horsell East and Woodham to form an enlarged Horsell Ward with three councillors.

We hope the Boundary Commission will reconsider the Councils recommendation.

Mette and William Balfour,

Sent from my iPad
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Simon Baluch-Jenkins
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

Dear Committee, As a resident of The Grove, I am amazed at the latest twist in this consultation. Our three little roads, The Grove, Ferndale and a cluster across the Chobham Road, to the west, are Horsell and by no stretch of imagination are they Sheerwater. If you examine the map carefully it is extremely difficult to get from one area to another. Our two retail focuses are Horsell and Town Centre. It makes no logical sense, and the original proposals that were commented on seemed to make sense as far as Horsell was concerned. Incidentally, Sheerwater does not start until Monument Road. Although I am a committee member of the Grove Area Group Ltd, this is our personal response.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Comments on the draft proposals for new ward boundaries for Woking

As a resident of The Gateway in Woodham, I would like to comment as follows on the inclusion of the Woodham estates in the proposed Sheerwater ward under the new proposals and would like to object to the proposal and suggest that Woodham is returned to its natural home, which is within the Horsell Ward and that the boundary of the new wards should be the line of the Basingstoke Canal.

I have read the criteria which are supposed to underlie the choice of ward boundaries and cannot see how the decision to join Woodham with Sheerwater can possibly reflect those criteria or be in the interests of Woodham residents.

It states that a good pattern of wards should reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links. Under the heading community identity, there are five questions, each of which I will deal with.

1. Transport links

Woodham is separated from Sheerwater by a canal over which there are two bridges, one at each end of Woodham. There is no other link between the two areas. There is no public transport between the two areas.

2. Community Groups

There are community groups in Sheerwater, but they do not include Woodham or its residents or represent their interests.

3. Facilities

The residents of Woodham very rarely visit Sheerwater. They shop in West Byfleet or Woking town centre and their local surgery is also in West Byfleet. Children mostly go to school in West Byfleet, New Haw or various private schools in the area. Leisure facilities are mostly in Woking town centre.

4. Interests

Woodham is an area of high property values and most of its residents are high achieving high earners. According to the Woking Local Plan it is designated as an Urban Area of Special Residential character and the type of development permitted there is severely restricted. Sheerwater is an area of former and present social housing, large parts of which are soon to be redeveloped, together with commercial and light industrial areas. It has many social problems and high rates of crime and anti-social behaviour. It may be regrettable, but there is little contact and no sense of neighbourhood between the two areas and residents of Woodham do not feel they have much in common with the residents of Sheerwater or vice versa.

5. Identifiable boundaries.

There is a strong, longstanding boundary between Woodham and Sheerwater in the form of the Basingstoke Canal. In order to get to any part of Sheerwater from Woodham it is necessary to make a road journey of about 1.5 miles to access one of the bridges over the canal.
From the above it should be obvious that Woodham and Sheerwater are two very separate areas. If Woodham is included within the Sheerwater ward, we as Woodham residents fear that we will not have proper representation on the council. We will be included within a much bigger, more populous and more ethnically diverse area which has many socially disadvantaged residents and high levels of crime and anti-social behaviour and councillors elected by Sheerwater to represent that population are unlikely to have much interest in any issues we might have. In addition there is a very ambitious plan underway for the regeneration of Sheerwater and this is bound to involve councillors for years to come, meaning that we would have a very low priority in their constituency.

Another serious concern for Woodham residents is that already, because of our similar postcodes, Woodham is occasionally included with Sheerwater when calculating our insurance premiums. It can be seen from the Police website that levels of crime are ten times as high in Sheerwater than in Woodham and we find that occasionally premiums are weighted to reflect the risks of the whole postcode area. If Woodham was to lose its electoral identity and be included within Sheerwater, it will impinge on all our insurance premiums and also possibly on our credit ratings.

The adjoining area of Horsell, on the other hand, is an area of largely similar properties, also an Urban Area of Special Residential character, with residents of similar interests. There is easy access to and from Woodham. We have been well represented up to now by councillors in the Horsell East and Woodham ward and would expect this situation to continue if we were to be included in the new Horsell ward.

I would ask the boundary commission to seriously reconsider their proposal since residents of Woodham feel that they are to be virtually disenfranchised if it goes ahead.

Mrs Barbara Barklem
I am writing to object to the Commission's draft report which removes the name and area of Woodham from Horsell ward and places it within Sheerwater ward.

Firstly as to the name Woodham - There are references to an area named Woodham being part of the land owned by Chertsey Abbey as long ago as the 14th century. Much of the land later belonged to Woodham Hall, and there are now roads named Woodham Lane, Woodham Rise, Woodham Road and Woodham Waye etc. Residents are proud of the name and wish to preserve it as an entity rather than being subsumed into a ward named after an area with which they feel no affinity.

Turning to the transfer of Woodham to Sheerwater ward I make the following points in support of my objection to your draft proposal:

1. Transport links.

In principle there are none from Woodham to the centre of Sheerwater as opposed to the centre of Woking Town. If I wish to travel by road to Sheerwater I have to enter and exit via the Horsell ward. The centre of Sheerwater to the south of the canal is some 2 miles by road from my home, the same distance as is the shopping centre of Horsell and indeed West Byfleet. Sheerwater centre can only be reached by either Sheerwater Avenue or Monument Road which are some 2 miles apart at opposite ends of the ward. The transport links between Woodham and the major part of Sheerwater are poor to non-existent.

2. Community Groups.

In essence Woodham and the major part of Sheerwater have no community links. Links from Woodham to schools, churches, and social groups are strongly tied to Horsell or West Byfleet rather than Sheerwater, as are shops, restaurants, pubs and general recreation such as walking and enjoying the facilities of Horsell Common.

3. Facilities.

To shop locally most people from Woodham travel to Horsell or West Byfleet where there are supermarkets, banks, chemists, restaurants, pubs, and other specialised retail outlets none of which are available in the Sheerwater centre. There is very little social interaction between community groups in the Sheerwater centre and Woodham but much more between Woodham and Horsell.

4. Interests.

There is very little in common between Woodham and Sheerwater which in part is due to the physical barrier referred to below, the canal. One can cross a road at any point but not a canal. Other issues that separate the two areas are:

Firstly, Woodham is classed by the Woking Council as an "Urban Area of Special Residential Character". Sheerwater, in the main, is an old LCC development which is now subject to whole scale regeneration during the next 15 years or so.
Secondly, Woking Council have stated, as reported on BBC News, Sheerwater comes within the 14% most deprived areas of the country.

Thirdly, from looking at the Surrey Police web site for the area one can see that in the first six months of 2014 there have been 33 reported crimes in Woodham and 206 in Sheerwater centre. This can have a significant impact on insurance premiums for property, building contents and motor vehicles.

5. Identifiable Boundaries.

The largest and most obvious is the Basingstoke Canal which effectively cuts off Sheerwater from Woodham. The two roads Monument Way and Sheerwater Drive are some two miles apart and they are the only route to the centre of Sheerwater. That same distance can see one in the centre of Horsell or West Byfleet, where the variety of shops and facilities is much greater and wider in choice. I note the the canal is already an effective ward boundary between Horsell and parts of Sheerwater, St. John's and Goldsworth Park. It seems perverse not to follow the canal boundary line between all of Sheerwater and Woodham up to the edge of the Constituency.

6. I note at para 45 of your draft Report that you state you have decided to depart from the Council's proposals for wards particularly to the north of the railway in order to better reflect the community identities and interests of Woking. I believe the position should be to reflect the identity of Woodham as the Council have proposed. They are our elected representatives who know and understand the people and areas of both Woodham and Sheerwater and their local view should prevail.

7. Woking Council has recently embarked on a wholesale regeneration of Sheerwater affecting some 1100 properties 600 of which will be demolished. They are part of an old London County Council estate set up just after the Second World War and are in need of refurbishment and/or demolition as the Council now propose. The regeneration is due to start late 2015 and the construction programme is not due to be completed until 8 - 12 years later (2023 and 2027). The proposal has a number of objectors and the ward Councillors will be effectively immersed full time, as is and should be their role, with the electorate in the Sheerwater area and not Woodham as it is outside the proposed regeneration, being on the north side of the Basingstoke Canal. Therefore those in Woodham, which is unaffected by the proposal, will de facto be under represented if not disenfranchised in the Council because of the time and need for the Councillors to properly attend to the concerns of those who live in the Sheerwater area of the regeneration. Keeping Woodham in the Horsell and Woodham ward would provide the electorate in Woodham with a democratic voice.

8. Looking at para 72 and Appendix A of the draft Report it does appear that in 2019 Horsell will have 6% fewer voters per councillor while Sheerwater would have 2% more. By returning Woodham to Horsell, this discrepancy could be rectified.

S. J. A. Barklem,
Review Officer (Woking),
LGBCE
Layden House
LONDON
EC1M

Dear Sirs,

Woodham Ward, Woking, Surrey

We have lived in Woodham for 34 years and are opposed to the changes to the ward as proposed by the Boundary Commission.

Geographically the ward is north of the Basingstoke canal which forms a physical division with neighbouring Sheerwater, with only two crossing points at the extremities of the ward. Woodham and Sheerwater are areas with firmly developed distinct identities and share no common facilities or amenities. Major redevelopment plans are currently out for consultation on the expansion of the residential population of Sheerwater whereas Woodham has a static and mature demographic.

The recommendations of the Boundary Commission take no account of these distinctions and their recommendation for amalgamating Woodham and Sheerwater wards should be reversed, more especially as it defies the recommendation of the democratically elected local body, Woking Borough Council.

Yours faithfully,

A M & CM Barnes
Hello,

I'm writing to comment on the proposed changes to the West Byfleet ward. I currently live [redacted] and I'm not happy with the proposal suggesting we join with Sheerwater ward.

What do we need to do for Hollies Avenue to remain within Byfleet and West Byfleet Ward?

Many Thanks

Simon.

Sent from my iPad Mini
**Woking District**

**Personal Details:**

Name: Brian Barrow  
E-mail: 
Postcode: 
Organisation Name: 

**Comment text:**

I live in post code [redacted] I do not understand the rationale for combining the Woodham area north of the Basingstoke canal with Sheerwater. The canal is a natural barrier between the two areas and there is access only at the extreme ends of the areas. As a consequence there is no normal interaction between the areas, little communality of interest or sense of community between the areas. The original proposal to combine Horsell with Woodham is far more in line with the reality of the neighbourhoods. Brian Barrow

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Brenda Barrow
E-mail: 
Postcode: 

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I am concerned about the proposal for Woodham to be included in the Sheerwater ward, as Woodham is separated from Sheerwater by a natural barrier, the Basingstoke canal, and can only be crossed at the extreme ends of the proposed ward. Woodham sits more naturally with the Horsell Ward. This would provide a more cohesive locality both in terms of demographic and geographic nature.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to say that we totally oppose the proposal for some of the aspects of the new ward boundaries of Sheerwater.

In a nutshell, the inclusion of Hollies Avenue, Woodlands Road and Old Avenue in the proposed Sheerwater Ward is not in keeping with the long-standing identity of these roads with West Byfleet. Almost all of our contact with West Byfleet village is within walking distance to shops, professional services, churches, railway station and many other amenities. Whereas Sheerwater has very little to offer in any of these respects.

We have an historic connection with West Byfleet that goes back many, many decades and the ties towards West Byfleet are one of the key reasons we have settled in Old Avenue. Even when redeveloped, Sheerwater is unlikely to offer the residents of the aforementioned roads anything like the facilities and draw of West Byfleet.

We do hope that you will take our views into serious consideration.

Yours faithfully

Dr Simon Baynham and Mrs Nina Baynham

This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.
Hi

This may be a repeat of a previous e-mail which I do not think I sent correctly.

I note from recent consultative literature that it is proposed to include Old Avenue within the Sheerwater Ward rather than Byfleet and West Byfleet

I request that this be reconsidered for the following reasons

# Old Avenue is contained within a conservation area which does not include Sheerwater

# Sheerwater is currently contained within a Regeneration zone that rightly does not include Old avenue. Therefore the issues will be different for both areas.

# Residents of Old Avenue use the shops, medical services, leisure facilities and other services within Byfleet and West Byfleet rather than Sheerwater

# The size and nature of properties within Old Avenue is totally different from those within Sheerwater and therefore there issues and interests are different from those of Sheerwater and more akin to those of Byfleet and West Byfleet

# It is illogical that properties with a West Byfleet address and who associate themselves with West Byfleet are not included within the Byfleet and West Byfleet Ward and are proposed to be included within the Sheerwater Ward

# Old Avenue has its own Neighbourhood watch area which unites the area and has links with those in Byfleet. Sheerwater will be united with the Regeneration area of which old avenue is not a part

regards

M J Beehag
**Woking District**

**Personal Details:**

**Name:** Peter Bellion  
**E-mail:** [Redacted]  
**Postcode:** [Redacted]  

**Organisation Name:**

**Comment text:**

Dear Sir I do not agree with the proposed boundary change to the Horsell East and Woodham ward when part of the ward is proposed to be included in Sheerwater. The natural boundary is not Woodham Lane but the Basingstoke Canal. This is the current natural ward boundary. Woodham would then form part of Horsell East as a three Councillor separate ward. I live in The Riding and have never felt a part of Sheerwater, the local demographic and geographic boundaries demonstrate there is no commonality of community interest or senses of neighbourhood. you could not find two more distinct neighborhoods. Please amend your review and include Woodham to the north of Basingstoke Canal as part of the Horsell ward. Regards Peter Bellion

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded
Dear Sirs

Being a resident of Woodham I am dismayed by the proposal that Woodham should be removed from the pairing with Horsell and become part of a Sheerwater Ward. Woodham is similar in character to Horsell in that it comprises largely privately owned, low density housing, and they directly adjoin one another. Sheerwater is of completely different character to Woodham in that it is composed of mainly high density housing and factory estates. Sheerwater and Woodham are separated throughout their entire length by the Basingstoke canal. I do hope you will see how completely inappropriate this proposal is and withdraw it.

Yours faithfully,

H. M. Benham
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Diana Bertolone
E-mail: 
Postcode: 
Organisation Name: 

Comment text:

We live in Woodham and do not want to be attached to sheerwater, we bought here for the reason of the area and the nature of the geographic boundaries, so do not change this please, !!!!!

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
The Review Officer (Woking),  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England,  
Layden House,  
76-78 Turnmill Street,  
London. EC1M SLG.

Dear Sir,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW – WOKING BOUNDARIES

I have lived in [redacted] West Byfleet for 53 years & in all that time I have always thought that West Byfleet was the community in which I lived. This is where I shop, use the library, the Health Centre, the Dentist, the train station, local buses, go to a Yoga & Pilates class etc. I belong to the Byfleet, West Byfleet & Pyrford Residents Association. The fact that your proposal to place the two roads of Hollies Avenue & Woodlands Avenue in the Ward of Sheerwater seems very strange, just in order to make the wards of similar size, with similar population numbers now & in the future.

I have never considered that Sheerwater was anything but the next village community. West Byfleet village, for all the new development, & there has been a lot, still retains the atmosphere of its former village.

The fact that the population has increased & will increase should not be the reason for removing people who live so very close to the centre of West Byfleet (as I do - a 10 minute walk) & place them in a ward with which they have no association at all. West Byfleet divided between 2 wards as Woking proposed is unfortunate, but at least there is some uniformity. Your proposal of West Byfleet divided between 3 wards would mean that its whole identity could change. Also there would be 9 councillors involved in any decisions & surely that would be costly & unworkable.

The natural boundary in this area is the Basingstoke Canal to the north, as at present in the Ward of West Byfleet. This was maintained in Woking's submission to be the northern boundary for both of the two new wards. You have maintained this for the new Ward of Byfleet & West Byfleet, which includes the roads of Birchwood Close, Station Road & Claremont Road, but not for the roads of Woodlands & Hollies Avenue, where you use the railway, which is not logical. These roads meet at the green at West Byfleet station.

Most of the houses in the two roads Hollies & Woodlands Avenues were built before WWII, & had no exit to the Sheerwater Road until the 1950's. What traffic there was went eastwards to West Byfleet with pedestrians crossing the green to use the underpass at West Byfleet Station (as they still do). With the building of the new houses after the end of the last war an exit for both roads was made to the Sheerwater Road. This road, the A245, has become very busy since I came to live here & is very difficult to cross & in fact is a natural division between the Sheerwater Estate & the district of West Byfleet. The railway here does not act as a natural boundary as it does on the western side of the A245 towards Woking, where the golf course stretches. Pedestrians can reach West Byfleet centre by either crossing the railway on Sheerwater Road or by using the underpass at the station. Traffic can use the Sheerwater Road bridge or go eastward to the road under the railway & thence into West Byfleet.

The new policy to make the wards of a more similar size with 3 councillors I can understand, but the division of the present Ward of West Byfleet as you advocate does not make sense.

The Ward of Pyrford should include the roads of Hollies Avenue & Woodlands Avenue as shown on the draft map dated 28th March 2014 by Woking Borough Council.

I do not agree with your proposal for placing them in the Ward of Sheerwater.

Yours faithfully,

(Mrs R.A.Beynon)
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Mario Biancardi
E-mail: [Redacted]
Postcode: [Redacted]

Organisation Name: [Redacted]

Comment text:
I should like to express my STRONG OPPOSITION to the LGBCE's repositioning of WOODHAM by taking it away from Horsell and placing it within Sheerwater Ward. This amends what was originally proposed by Woking BC's own recommendation and which seemed to me to make perfect sense. Apart from the very obvious natural boundary of the Basingstoke Canal which separates Woodham and Sheerwater, the two areas share very little in common, are completely different and do not form any kind of 'neighbourhood'. Visually, demographically and in terms of housing stock, there is little common interest. Woodham is generally much greener and contains mostly larger, detached houses and a considerable number of private roads which means it has far more in common with Horsell. I feel Woodham would be overwhelmed, lose it electoral identity and under these proposals would even lose the use of its name from the new ward, which I also oppose. Woking BC's proposal to team Woodham with Horsell recognises the much better and more natural fit of these two areas that are very much more similar in so many ways. This would create a much more cohesive entity, naturally tied together by Horsell Common which envelops and links these two very similar areas.

Uploaded Documents:
None Uploaded
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 Consulation
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......................

Name printed..........................................................

Name printed..........................................................
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Jean and Graham Bisacre
E-mail: 
Postcode: 

Organisation Name: 

Comment text:

Dear Sir, We are writing with reference 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 and can see no good reasons whatsoever for the proposed changes that will benefit either of the communities involved. 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 facilities. Indeed they are separated by the canal which can only be crossed at the extreme ends of the proposed ward. We would need to travel 2-3 miles, around the canal to access any facilities in Sheerwater with no public transport being available. The facilities in Sheerwater are very limited. There is no bank. When using local shopping facilities, people in Woodham would typically use the local shops in Horsell, West Byfleet or New Haw.

2. In the 30 years that we have lived at our current address in Woodham, we have never known a child to attend to attend the schools 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 at all to try and 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 the proposed names of the wards appropriate?” The answer quite simply is “No”. We are appalled at your proposal that the identity of Woodham should be lost and renamed Sheerwater. 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 Jean and Graham Bisacre

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: David Bittleston
E-mail: 
Postcode: 

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

In general I agree with the boundary commissions proposals, it is a shame that following the very wide consultation conducted by Woking Borough Council the commission has chosen to make some significant changes to the ward boundaries. I would prefer that the boundary commission stick with the WBC. Suggestions, however, I understand the need for a fair distribution of electors across every ward. I would echo the comments made by the Council with respect to the name of the Sheerwater ward, as this ward includes electors from as far west as Goldsworth Road and I the north the area called Woodham as well as the entire centre of Woking. Sheerwater was a name given to a single estate, but just after the Second World War to house people displaced by the bombing in East London. To Name the whole of the town centre as Sheerwater would be misleading and incorrect. A better name would be Canalside. I also agree with the other minor changes suggested by full council.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
To the Review Officer (Woking)

Dear Sir

I have read the Review Statement together with its two Appendices with great interest. Clearly your members of the Commission have put a lot of work into this document but I am left with the impression that in their attempts to balance the Target figures they have in many cases lost sight of the local community groupings and whilst the idea of ten wards each having three Councillors with a balanced workload is very laudable it seems to me that this in some cases is not going to be in the best interests of the people of Woking. and I am bound to say that i think that Woking Borough Council's (WBC) proposals were much nearer to what would suit the people of Woking, than most of the Commissions proposals.

At the heart of the problem is the ward the Commission is pleased to call Shearwater and perhaps at this point I should say that I have lived in Horsell for 45 years so I do know the area well. Now the Shearwater was a "bogish" lake drained by London County Council in the late 1940's to create a "London Overspill Estate" It was originally populated entirely by former Londoners who were not best pleased when in the 1960's I think it was, they were compulsarely taken over by WBC. Today it is a rather run down area with a large number of immigrants

All who live in Woking know where Shearwater is and it has nothing to do with the rest of the Ward you are pleased to call Shearwater. The WBC proposed name of Woking Central is far more accurate.

Now assuming we are talking about the area bounded by the Canal to the North and the Railway to the South we come to an area generally known as "Walton Road" This area extends from Maybury Road in the East to Walton Road in the West and I would guess that the vast proportion of its inhabitants are from the Indian Sub-continent and they are represented on WBC by members of that community which is no bad thing. The remainder of your "Shearwater" Ward is the central district of Woking made up of shops and offices with however a very large complex of flats proposed for the extreme Western end.

Now it seems from the way you are "cherry picking" bits of Horsell you either want to want to enlarge "Sherewater" or reduce Horsell. I really am not sure from the figures you quote in Appendix A which.

Now I have lived in Horsell in The Grove, for many years and I can say without fear of contradiction that Horsell works very well as it is and I might add that I always state my address as Horsell not Woking. Horsell is mentioned in the Doomsday book, Woking as it is known today did not exist before the railway arrived in 1837 and only then because the railway company found it a convenient place to serve Guildford by horse carriage! The only "odd" aspect of Horsell is the inclusion of what we in Horsell know as Woodham, better described as Horsell East. Woodham proper is a couple of miles to the North East and is in the next Borough. Now this is another area you want to transfer to "Shearwater" but I cannot think that there is anyone there who would agree with you the same goes for those of us who live in The Grove and Ferndale Road another of those areas you want to transfer into "Sherewater"Our two roads may not be far from the town center but make no mistake about it we live in Horsell and the least we have to do with your Shearwater the better! We have a thriving Residents Association and we have needed it too to fight off various inappropriate ideas proposed by WBC over the years. We are a community something modern Woking lacks entirely with the exception of the people from the Indian Subcontinent down the Walton Road. Now if you really want to enlarge this "natural group" then include the Maybury Estate in your Shearwater. Something I am sure the rest of Maybury would be delighted about. Yes it would look "messy" on the map but it would represent a truthful reality that many would appreciate.

If I might make some comment on your Information sheet. You ask if "your" proposal would mean that the Councillors would have roughly the same number of voters? Well perhaps not but they would not be far adrift and with respect they make far more sense than some of your Commission's ideas.
Community identity. Transport links are what have evolved over many years and there is not a lot one can do about it. In Horsell one makes ones own way to the station or by car to the M25 probably. Our bus services were once much better but today are very poor. Almost everyone has a car. (we don’t)

Community groups. Yes very important and we have them in Horsell plus all our local friends.

Facilities Rather a silly question. These exist where they are and if you want to use them you have to make your way to them as best you can. Altering the structure of the Wards will make no difference to this subject.

Identifiable boundaries. Highly desirable and in general Woking has them

Are the proposed names of the wards appropriate? Well that of Sherewater could not be worse, This name only goes to undermine any confidence people might have in your Commission members. Woking Central please.

Useful tips. Perhaps it is my lack of Computer knowledge but I could not make any sense of your web-site. It said enter your Post Code and when I did it rejected it!!

I hope the above is of some help to you but I am bound to say I am disappointed and I feel that WBC knowes best as to what is wanted.

Yours faithfully Alan Blackburn
The Review Officer,
(Woking), LGBCE,
Layden House,
London EC1 M 5LG.

Re: Local election boundaries / WBC's recommendsation to join The Grove and Ferndale Road with the Horrell Ward.

I am writing to support Woking Borough Council's recommendation. My family and I have lived in Horrell for nearly 45 years, for about 20 years in Horrell Village, since then at our present address.

We feel we belong to Horrell, our children grew up here, we have many friends and know a lot of people in Horrell, and are familiar with local affairs.

All that cannot be said about Chevening, a part of Woking, we have virtually nothing to do with and don't know any people personally.
I would not know whom I was voting for, and would probably not vote at all any more.

Please join us up with Horrell!

yours faithfully
Dear Boundary Commission

We have only recently moved to Horsell, but share our neighbours views about Horsell West staying within the Horsell Ward, and strongly oppose the proposal to combine with the Sheerwater Ward.

All the arguments from local residents in favour of staying within the Horsell Ward are important, valid and relevant. We moved here to be a part of the Horsell village community, our daughter will soon be walking through Horsell Common every day to attend Horsell Village School, and we are members of the Horsell Residents Association. Our house, and those surrounding it, have important, historical roles within Horsell. Combining the social, economic and environmental fabric of Horsell West with Sheerwater does not make any sense.

I very much hope the voices of local residents will be heard on this topic and look forward to being kept informed.

Mr and Mrs Black

Dear Boundary Commission

My neighbours, Mr and Mrs Balfour have kindly shared their email regarding their opposition to the proposed Boundary changes where Horsell West Ward would become part of the Sheerwater Ward.

Like Mr and Mrs Balfour we agree that Horsell West should stay within the Horsell Ward.

Although I am relative newcomer to Horsell, having lived here only eight years, I share their concerns. My key concerns as as follows:

1) I believe this Consultation is invalid
The billboard information provided by the church in the centre of Woking clearly shows our neighbourhood remaining in the Horsell Ward. (I checked this on Sunday 3rd August 2014).

I don't understand how this Boundary change can be proposed while there are posters showing a different Boundary on public display? Perhaps you can clarify this.

I believe the posters should be changed so all residents have a fair opportunity to respond to the Consultation, as currently the Consultation on public display is misleading.

2) We are clearly part of the Horsell community
As Mrs Balfour highlights our social and financial connections are with the Horsell community. I believe the proposed merger with the Sheerwater Ward will split us from the Horsell community.

If this change goes ahead we will no longer have the political opportunity to contribute to the future of our community, and this will prevent us from being part of the social, economic and environmental fabric of the area we live in.

3) Segregation between town and village

I agree with the need to develop Woking town centre, as this Woking represents a great satellite into London and is an economic opportunity for Surrey.

However, the Basingstoke Canal represents an important landmark separating Horsell from the Woking town centre. We need to protect and invest in the 'green spaces' of Horsell for the future of our community. I believe incorporating our community into Sheerwater would begin to chip away at this separation.

I believe the Boundary Commission has an obligation to reinforce this protection and to prevent the 'creep' of the town centre beyond the canal.

4) Metrics for Decision Making

I understand this decision is based on balancing voting numbers between Wards. I really cannot see how this is the best metric for decision making.

I believe there are other key metrics which define communities, which I hope we have clearly communicated.

5) Community Voice

Finally, perhaps you can suggest how our voices can be heard in this matter, especially as the public information available in Woking is no longer accurate.

I have copied in my neighbours who may also want to build on my comments.

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards

Alison Ward

From: [redacted]
Date: 3 August 2014 18:41:19 BST
To: "reviews@lgbce.org.uk" <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>
Subject: FW: Horsell West Ward

To The Boundary Commission

We are very much opposed to the proposal by the Boundary Commission to transfer part of Horsell West Ward to form part of the Sherwater Ward. We live in Broomhall Lane and would be part of that transfer.

We have lived here for 43 years. We shop in Horsell Village and access the village by a footpath through Horsell Common. We belong to the Horsell Residents Association and feel very much part of the Horsell Community. We have nothing in common with the Sheerwater
Ward, separated by the Basingstoke Canal and by a totally different environment and community.

We firmly support Woking Council recommendation that we stay with Horsell West and be joined by Horsell East and Woodham to form an enlarged Horsell Ward with three councillors.

We hope the Boundary Commission will reconsider the Council’s recommendation.

Mette and William Balfour,

Sent from my iPad

No virus found in this message.
Checked by AVG - http://www.avg.com/
Version: 2014.0.4716 / Virus Database: 3986/7977 - Release Date: 08/04/14
The Review Officer (Woking)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-786 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

Re: Borough Boundary Review Consulation
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 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... [Redacted] Date... 29.9.14

Name printed... [Redacted]
To whom it may concern

I am writing to object to the proposed boundary changes in the Woking area which will put part of West Byfleet into Sheerwater district.

I live in Hollies Avenue and I use the facilities in West Byfleet. I commute into central London every day and use the Taylors coffee shop and restaurants in West Byfleet Village. I moved to the area from Kent because I wanted to live somewhere with a more village feel and that is what I got when I moved to West Byfleet. I do not understand why these changes are being proposed. I do not cross the main road to the Sheerwater area for any reason whatsoever. All the facilities i need are in my village and I consider myself a part of West Byfleet.

Please do not destroy our community by splitting West Byfleet into wards for the convenience of the local council.

Regards

Rachael Blaker
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Charles Blane
E-mail: 
Postcode: 
Organisation Name: 
Comment text:

I am unhappy that the nature; boundary of the canal has not been used, in this instance anything north of the canal will fall into Horsell.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
From: Lynn Blane
Sent: 20 September 2014 18:03
To: Reviews@
Subject: Proposed boundary changes

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. 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 Lynn Blane
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.

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.
Dear sir,

I feel a need to protest against the new 'boarding' form.

I have lived in Oxford since 1946 and have always lived with it until now. This year has nothing in common with the 'boarding' ever before, and I have no desire to be associated with it. I urge you to reconsider.

Yours sincerely,
Dear Sirs

Woodham and Sheerwater are separated by the Basingstoke Canal which forms a natural barrier between Sheerwater and Woodham and is crossed only at extreme ends of the proposed ward. The Canal is a natural boundary and we do not want Woodham’s distinct electoral identity to be lost. I agree with many others from the area that there is little community interest or sense of neighbourhood between Woodham and Sheerwater and feel that Woodham should join with Horsell as there are many similarities between the two wards both of a demographic and geographic nature in the combined wards. The preferred solution from Woking Borough Council is that Woodham should join with Horsell to form a three councillor ward and seems the most sensible solution.

Regards

The Blunstone Family
The Gateway, Woodham

Mrs S Blunstone
Receptionist

Kingston Grammar School

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**Woking District**

**Personal Details:**

**Name:** David Boorman

**E-mail:** [Redacted]

**Postcode:** [Redacted]

**Organisation Name:**

**Comment text:**

The suggestion of including Part of Chobham Road, Ferndale Road and The Grove in the new Sheerwater Ward is quite ridiculous and can only have been made to make electoral numbers match. Any one with local knowledge would know that these roads form a historic and current part of Horsell and tha the Basingstoke Canal forms the true boundary. The electoral process must be community based if it is to survive. People must have this connection to 'their area' where they send their children to their first school on safe footpaths.

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded
Dear Sir,

I write in response to the proposal for boundary review in the Horsell area of Woking.

Many years ago I was closely involved in a similar review of this area and have detailed knowledge of the difficulties of forming boundaries to areas of the right size, that are coherent and that are inclusive. We found that people are prepared to accept obvious physical divisions as logical but also because they naturally fit with their local journey patterns. One does not swim a canal or cross a railway or major road willingly. Our lives tend to revolve around shops, church, schools, recreation areas. Often these links are by footpaths formed hundreds of years ago; the fact that they remain in use proves their value. Ward boundaries constructed on these patterns will be understood by the electorate and will be supportable by the local party organisations. If the wards lose their coherence then local democracy will die.

In my time we found that it made sense not to try to insist on a fixed number of councillors per ward as this gave more flexibility. If current legislation demands this, then so be it. If not so demanded, the why the insistence?

Regarding the actual proposals before us – Woking Borough Council produced very credible proposals to meet the ‘requirement’ of equal member wards and these were generally acceptable to the electorate.

The current proposals from the Boundary Commission seem to fail entirely to meet the need for any sense of community coherence. My own area has been Horsell since before modern Woking came into existence and has been divided from proposed Sheerwater Ward by the Basingstoke Canal for 220 years. We overlook the Wheatsheaf Common (a controlled section of Horsell Common), we have a footpath to Horsell Church, pubs and shops, our surgery is in Horsell. Community wise, we have no connection or affiliation with Woking Central or Sheerwater.

The inclusion of Ferndale Road, The Grove, parts of Brewery Road, the Broomhalls from our immediate area and the Woodham part of the wider Horsell in an area physically so separated can only be intentionally disruptive to democracy or due to some overweening desire to match voter numbers to councillors. Feeling in the area is very strongly opposed to the latest proposal and serious reconsideration is essential.

Yours truly

David Boorman
Dear Sirs,

We have lived in West Byfleet for nearly 27 years and strongly object to the proposed boundary change to include our road in Sheerwater. We live less than half a mile from the centre of West Byfleet so it is totally absurd for Woodlands Avenue to be included in Sheerwater.

This does not make any sense as we have no affiliation with Sheerwater in any way and if Woodlands Avenue was included in Sheerwater we would lose out as our needs and interests would not be taken into consideration. The needs and interests of Sheerwater would be dominant and they have nothing to do with West Byfleet, Sheerwater has very different needs and interests to West Byfleet.

Woodlands Avenue has a strong community identity with West Byfleet and this is well established. Our community interests are in West Byfleet, we only identify with West Byfleet, not Sheerwater, indeed our address is West Byfleet, not Sheerwater.

We shop in West Byfleet, we never shop in Sheerwater.

We go to the doctors in West Byfleet, we don’t go to Sheerwater.

We use the railway, library, park, restaurants, cafes, petrol station, pubs, etc., in West Byfleet, we never use anything in Sheerwater.

We have no reason to go to Sheerwater other than to drive through to get to Woking or visit friends.

Woodlands Avenue is included in the local Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford Residents Association, not Sheerwater.

West Byfleet should be retained as a complete unit including Woodlands Avenue. Sheerwater Road is a very clear boundary between West Byfleet and Sheerwater and this should be considered as the boundary of West Byfleet therefore, Woodlands Avenue should be included in West Byfleet.

Please re-consider your proposal and include Woodlands Avenue in the West Byfleet ward.

Yours sincerely,

C. Bottone
Dear sirs

I strongly object to the proposed boundary change. Why take Woodham out of the Horsell Ward.

Woodham and Sheerwater are separated by the Basingstoke canal, which forms a natural boundary between Sheerwater and Woodham and is crossed only at the extremes ends of the proposed ward. It is this natural boundary that Boundary Commission themselves consider should identify electoral Ward Boundaries. Furthermore there seems little communality of interest or sense of neighbourhood between Woodham and Sheerwater.

The preferred solution would be for Woodham to join Horsell to form a 3 councillor ward as there are many broad similarities between the two.

Regards
Andrew

Andrew Bourne – Managing Director
Firebrand Promotions Ltd.
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: fergus boyd
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

As a resident of The Riding I see no logic for the arbitrary extension of the Sheerwater boundary to take us and other residents north of the West Byfleet road inside the new area. We have much more affinity with Horsell (where we moved from several years ago) and likewise the Sheerwater residents would have no affinity with us. Please leave the original boundaries intact!

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
The proposal to take the area between the A245 (Woodham Lane) and the Basingstoke canal out of the Horsell and Woodham ward and make it part of the Sheerwater ward is bizarre. The Basingstoke canal acts as a distinct and impervious barrier between two totally different areas, and should remain as the ward boundary. Every single one of the ‘Community Identity’ bullet points in your document supports the argument that this area is distinct from Sheerwater. It’s akin to suggesting that The Hockering and Granville Road should be in the same ward. Any councillor of the proposed ward would have an impossible job to represent the views of the whole ward, as these would be so diverse. This proposal is nonsense.
**Woking District**

**Personal Details:**

**Name:** Tim Bracher  
**E-mail:**  
**Postcode:**  

**Organisation Name:**

**Comment text:**

Hi I’m really struggling to work out the logic of including areas of Horsell in the new Sheerwater domain. The canal makes a more logical boundary. I’d formally like to register our objection to the changes. Thank you Tim Bracher =

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: John Bradbury
E-mail: 
Postcode: 
Organisation Name: 

Comment text:

would prefer north of the Basinstoke canal to remain with Horswell East, as opposed to joining Sheerwater

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
To: The Review Officer (Voting)

Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Jayden House, 76-86 Tanners Hill Street
London ECIM 5LG

From: Mrs. M. Bradbury

02.10.2014

Re: Woking Borough Boundary Review Update  September 2014

I live in West Byfleet and have very strong geographical and historic boundaries, most by the railway to North, Main Road of Sheerwater Road to the west, Old Woking Road to the south, and the main residential part of West Byfleet to the S east, enclosing me in an area in which I have been a resident for 45 years.

In West Byfleet I have my Health Centre and Doctor, Chemists, General Shopping facilities, Hardware, Library, Cafes, Restaurants, Bus and Train services, where I meet friends and neighbours, and the facility for casting my votes. All these are within a 10 minute walk which is important for me now in my mid-eighties.

Any need to contact a Councillor is met within West Byfleet by someone who will understand my local problems if and when any.

Having written to Woking Council stating my objection to be moved into the Sheerwater Ward during the previous round of changes proposed, I now see it proposed that I will be moved yet again (across the Old Woking Road) into the Ryford Ward.

Also I have no interest in Sheerwater or Ryford which would cause me to vote in either those wards any more than I could...
see that anyone living in the Sheerwater or Pyrford Wards would want to discuss with a Counsellor matters on where I live.

Neither Sheerwater or Pyrford, geographically or historically have ever been of vital interest to me, and therefore if I cannot remain a voter in West Byfleet I will become totally disenfranchised.

-Chipping Woking Borough into Ward Regions of an average of 7,302 residents may seem a very simple way to reorganise the area but will hardly make things easier.

I envisage maps indicating why I would be unhappy if I am not reinstated into my present Ward and hope I will be moved back into my present Ward in the Byfleet area.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

[Name redacted]

c/c Mr. Frank Jeffrey, Democratic Services Manager
Woking Borough Council
Woking Borough Council has now submitted its proposed warding pattern to the Boundary Commission. The final submission was changed significantly to take into account the responses received through the Council’s consultation exercise. The map overleaf shows the final submission for the area of Pyrford.

The next stage of the Review is a public consultation exercise by the Boundary Commission on its preferred warding pattern. The consultation is due to take place between 14 July and 6 October 2014 before a final proposal is put before Parliament in January 2015 for formal adoption. The new warding pattern will come into force in May 2016.

**Pyrford**

The Pyrford Ward incorporates the existing Borough Ward of Pyrford and the balance of West Byfleet not included in the Byfleet and West Byfleet Ward. It is based on the established community of Pyrford and neighbouring areas. There are good connections to local schools and the Ward is well connected whether by foot, bicycle or car.

The Pyrford Ward is forecast to have 8,309 Electors in 2019 compared to the target of 7,867 required to meet the Boundary Commission guidance: this is 5.6% above target but reflects the likelihood that Pyrford will attract Well Below Average development over the Local Plan period to 2027.

**Contact Details**

If you have any questions on the Review, or this submission, please do not hesitate to contact Woking Borough Council (01483 743012 or email frank.jeffrey@woking.gov.uk) or the Local Government Boundary Commission (email reviews@lbce.org.uk). Information on the review can be found on the Council’s website (www.woking.gov.uk) or the Boundary Commission’s website (www.lgbce.org.uk).
Woking Borough Council has now submitted its proposed warding pattern to the Boundary Commission. The final submission was changed significantly to take into account the responses received through the Council’s consultation exercise. The map overleaf shows the final submission for the area of Byfleet and West Byfleet.

The next stage of the Review is a public consultation exercise by the Boundary Commission on its preferred warding pattern. The consultation is due to take place between 14 July and 6 October 2014 before a final proposal is put before Parliament in January 2015 for formal adoption. The new warding pattern will come into force in May 2016.

Byfleet and West Byfleet

Byfleet and West Byfleet Ward is based on the historic village of Byfleet where there is a strong identified community. In order to ensure that it has an adequate number of electors, a significant proportion of the centre and neighbouring area of West Byfleet has been included in the new Ward. The community and retail cores of the Ward are in the two village centres with good connections to local schools. Even though the areas within the Ward are separated by the M25 they are well connected whether by foot, bicycle, car or public transport.

It is accepted that existing Borough Ward of West Byfleet has effectively been split between the new Byfleet and West Byfleet Ward and the new Pyrford Ward but care has been taken to do so where connectivity is not significantly adversely affected.

Byfleet and West Byfleet Ward is forecast to have 8,068 Electors in 2019 compared to the target of 7,867 required to meet the Boundary Commission guidance: this is some 2.6% above target but reflects the likelihood that Byfleet will attract Below Average development over the Local Plan period to 2027.

Contact Details

If you have any questions on the Review, or this submission, please do not hesitate to contact Woking Borough Council (01483 743012 or email frank.jeffrey@woking.gov.uk) or the Local Government Boundary Commission (email reviews@lgbc.org.uk). Information on the review can be found on the Council’s website (www.woking.gov.uk) or the Boundary Commission’s website (www.lgbce.org.uk).
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.

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

The A 245 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 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 live on one of these 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.

Many thanks,

Suzanne Brannan
Sir/Madam,

I refer to your circular. I am resident at West Byfleet.

I am both astonished and dismayed at your proposals. We are part of, and always will be part of, West Byfleet - NOT Sheerwater.

You reference criteria of:
"community identity"; and
"strong, easily identifiable boundaries".
If Sheerwater Road is not one of the best examples of the latter, then I don't what is, whilst the demographics of Woodlands/Hollies/Old and Sheerwater are completely different.

Your draft proposals make a mockery of your own criteria - which suggests to me this is merely lip service to meet artificial numerical targets. I urge you to re-consider.

Anthony Brewer
Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to add my strong opposition to the proposed boundary changes to the village of West Byfleet. It appears that the village is now going to be split into three different wards instead of having one voice it will now have none. The other areas will come to dominate and the village identity will be lost.

The changes appear to have been made at random with little or no thought of the effect it will have on the local community. There is a strong sense of local identity which has been demonstrated when speculative builders have produced inappropriate plans. If the boundary changes are bulldozed through then I can see this spirit being broken.

If changes are going to be made on a purely geographical basis then placing Woodlands Avenue within the Borough of Runnymede would make more sense because the border is only across the Basingstoke Canal which runs a few yards from the end of my back garden.

The residents feel that the local authority pays far too little attention to the needs of West Byfleet at the moment and should this ill-conceived plan come into being then the village will be completely forgotten.

Yours,

George Brion.
Review Officer (Woking)
LGBCE
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG
(By Email)

15 September 2014

Dear Sir,

Response to Draft Recommendations on the new electoral arrangements for Woking Borough Council

I have read with interest the full draft report that you have published, showing your recommendations. I am a registered voter in Ferndale Road and am opposed to your proposal that The Grove and Ferndale Road should be transferred to the new Sheerwater Ward from Horsell.

I have set out the criteria that you published in your one page Bulletin dated July 2014 and have followed each with my comments (these are solely in connection with the proposed changes to The Grove and Ferndale Road), listing various factors that qualify as beneficial features in your criteria, but that seem to have been overlooked in your analysis. To ensure clarity, your criteria are printed in black ink, my comments in red.

Criterion 1
- A good pattern of Wards should reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links.

The Grove Area Group Ltd is the Residents Association for those who live in The Grove and Ferndale Road and its catchment area extends to Broomhall Road, Chobham Road, Wheatsheaf Close, Orchard Drive, Wheatsheaf Close, Thurlton Court and Laleham Court. This Association has strong links with Horsell Residents Association. The proposed boundary changes would divide the membership across two Wards and destroy the ability of the Grove Area Group to speak with one voice to its Membership.

Criterion 2
- A good pattern of Wards should be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries.

In your Report, when opining on the boundaries for other Wards, you accept that physical boundaries such as “A” roads or The Basingstoke Canal form strong, easily identifiable
boundaries. The A320 dual carriageway and The Basingstoke Canal lie between The Grove, Ferndale Road and the new Sheerwater Ward. No such boundaries exist between The Grove and Ferndale Road and Horsell.

Criterion 3
- A good pattern of Wards should help the council deliver effective and convenient local government. The Grove and Ferndale Road form part of the Wheatsheaf Conservation Area. (For details please go to [http://www.woking.gov.uk/planning/policy/localplan1999/wheatsheafcas](http://www.woking.gov.uk/planning/policy/localplan1999/wheatsheafcas). Other roads within this Area are Chobham Road, Broomhall Road and Broomhall Lane. The division of this Area would not assist the Council in delivering effective and convenient local government. Additionally, The Grove and Ferndale Road are included in Horsell and Woodham for the purposes of the Local Plan. (For details please go to [http://www.woking.gov.uk/planning/policy/localplan1999/horsell](http://www.woking.gov.uk/planning/policy/localplan1999/horsell)). The Conservation Area and Local Plan date from 1999 and are well understood by the Council and the Residents of the Area. Plucking two streets from settled initiatives that have stood the test of time would be to the detriment of effective and convenient local government.

Criterion 4
Electoral equality:
- Does your proposal mean that councillors would represent roughly the same number of voters as elsewhere in the council area?

From your website I note that following the changes you have proposed you forecast the electorate of Horsell at 7,360 and the electorate of Sheerwater at 7,994. I have heard estimates of the number of electors resident in The Grove and Ferndale Road at around 150. To keep the 150 in Horsell Ward would bring the electorates in each Ward closer to parity, at 7,510 versus 7,844.

Criterion 5
Community identity:

a) Transport links: are there good links across your proposed ward? Is there any form of public transport?
Buses run to Horsell Village from Brewery Road (adjacent to The Grove/Ferndale Road). However most people use the network of footpaths to walk to Horsell.

b) Community groups: is there a parish council, residents association or another group that represents the area?
See the answer to Criterion 1.

c) Facilities: does your pattern of wards reflect where local people go for shops, medical services, leisure facilities etc?

The current Ward boundaries do reflect the strong links between the residents of The Grove and Ferndale Road to Horsell Village with its Pubs, Restaurants, Schools and variety of shops.
d) Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area?

The principal issue binding the community together is the potential for encroachment into Horsell from the centre of Woking. The best example of this was the development of the World Wildlife Fund building on Brewery Road Car Park which saw the community come together. The Grove Area Group worked closely with Horsell Residents Association in co-ordinating their activities to present the views of the neighbourhood. To pluck two roads out of Horsell Ward and combine them with the territory that threatens to encroach on the area goes against everything that the residents have been fighting in the 27 years that I have lived here. It is difficult to imagine that the voices of 150 individuals, or less than 2% of the registered electorate of the new Sheerwater Ward, would receive the attention they currently get, given their common interests with Horsell, should the proposed boundary changes come into effect.

e) Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals?

Please see the response to Criterion 2.

In this instance, you are not dealing purely with a line on a map, but a philosophical division between the commercial interests of the Town Centre and the interests of inhabitants of an adjacent residential area. To make the change you propose, you will undo the efforts to maintain the current boundary made by all the residents of Horsell, not just those in The Grove and Ferndale Road, over at least the last thirty years.

Please reconsider your proposals in the light of the responses given above which are closely aligned with your stated criteria for a good pattern of wards. To go ahead with them would not serve the residents, the council, local democracy, or the interests of electoral parity well.

Yours faithfully

C J Brown

c.c Jonathan Lord MP, Councillor A Murray & Councillor M Smith
Sirs

I live in [redacted].

There is a proposal to move the flats known as Kingswood Court, along with others, from the Horsell West ward to the Sheerwater & Maybury ward.

My arguments with this are that we have little in common with the Sheerwater area and our local councillors are, at present; known to us.

Also, the proximity of the Polling Station, across the road from Kingswood Court, encourages us to vote. I know one can vote by post, but, to me, it never seems quite the same.

Finally, in the case of Kingswood Court, we feel somewhat a pawn in local politics since, when it was proposed that Surrey County Council offices be built on Brewery Road car park, the boundaries were moved so we became part of the town centre and when the move fell through we were moved back into Horsell.

Please reconsider this change in boundaries proposal as there are a number of elderly people involved, myself being one, who will lose faith in our local council.

Sincerely

Michael Brown
To: The Local Government Boundary Commission - by email.

13th August 2014

Dear Sir

I wish to object to the proposed boundary changes in the Horsell, Woodham and Sheerwater area.

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 CSS ‘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.

Yours faithfully

Maurice Buckingham
Objection to the proposed alterations to Ward Boundaries

I object to the proposed alterations to ward boundaries for the following reasons:

- We live 5 minutes walking distance from the centre of West By fleet village which is the location of all the facilities which I and my family use on a regular basis. The facilities include the shops, medical centre, library, schools and dentist. In contrast, Sheerwater centre, (which is the proposed ward in your document) is 25 minutes walking distance from our house which does not make it very local for us and results in us never visiting the area and not using any of the facilities in the Sheerwater ward.

- We are members of the By fleet, West By fleet & Pyreford Residents Association who provide us with an excellent service in relation to local community matters, many which include items which would affect us such as planning application, changes in local transport. Some of these items require the assistance of our local councillor for West By fleet who provides guidance on all these matters. The change in the ward will mean that me, my family and West By fleet residence as a whole will lose its right to maintain a councillor who can provide a voice for us as and when necessary.

- Following an inspection of the proposed boundaries, it would appear that all the other villages in the Woking Borough Council area still maintain a Ward representing the view of their community, the only exception being West By fleet. Splitting the West By fleet residence into three different wards will result in our village being weaker when it comes to important decision making in the future.

Regards

Paul Bulmer
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Zoe Bushell
E-mail: 
Postcode: 
Organisation Name: 

Feature Annotations

3: Boundary of Sheerwater should run along Sheerwater road. Properties to the east, e.g. Woodlands Avenue & Hollies Avenue belong with West Byfleet. This is where residents are most likely to go for local amenities and be part of community.

2: Boundary of Sheerwater should run along canal, not A245. Houses on north side of canal are more in line with Horsell.

Map Features:

Annotation 2: Boundary of Sheerwater should run along canal, 
Annotation 3: Boundary of Sheerwater should run along 

Comment text:

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Woking District

Personal Details:
Name: Colin Butler
E-mail: 
Postcode: 
Organisation Name: 

Feature Annotations

Annotation 3: Establishing the canal as the "Natural Boundary"  

Comment text:
I have drawn a proposed boundary change on to the website. Under the current draft proposal, Sheerwater would have 7994 electorates, Horsell would have 7360 electorate. The "Natural" boundary to Sheerwater is the Basingstoke Canal. I would propose the boundary moved South to the canal (as is in the current Horsell East and Woodham Ward) taking the properties North of the canal from Paddock Way through to the East where the proposed boundary is once again the canal into the Horsell ward. This would place the electorate along a section of Woodham Lane, The gateway estate and the area including Laurel Crescent, Priory Close etc with the eastern end taken back to where the proposed boundary is the canal into the proposed Horsell ward. The Horsell ward could become the "Woodham West and Horsell" ward. This particularly as the Sheerwater Regeneration Scheme is due to add hundreds more properties to the existing housing stock. Due to the "Natural boundary" of the canal, there is no "community link" between the electorate divided North and South of the canal, as there is nothing immediately North of the canal for the residents South of the canal to engage in, or indeed any easy access to allow passage from South to North for the majority of residents without motorised transport. Likewise those North of the canal are far more likely to use Horsell, Woking and West Byfleet for shopping, recreation and leisure. There is far more linkage from the area North of the canal to Horsell, as it is a natural route to an interesting and pleasant golfing, walking, cycling and dog exercising area.

Uploaded Documents:
None Uploaded
I am writing to express my concern about the proposal to join Woodham to the Sheerwater ward instead of the Horsell ward.

I absolutely do not think that this is appropriate given the lack of communality between Woodham & Sheerwater. The 2 neighbourhoods are entirely different and it is more appropriate to have Woodham in the Horsell ward.

Regards
Justine Butler
Dear Sirs,
I wish to record my disagreement with the proposed joining of Woodham and Sheerwater council boundaries.
In no way can Woodham and Sheerwater be considered an appropriate, cohesive combination. The 2 wards are separated both physically by the Basingstoke canal and demographically.
I was under the impression that Woodham and Horsell councils had recommended to the commission that they join - yet the commission has seen fit to ignore local peoples opinion and decide to propose a Woodham/Sheerwater merge.
This is NOT democracy in action - it is NOT the will of the people and it is NOT the correct course of action.
People need to feel engaged in their local affairs - what you are proposing is to fly in the face of the people whose local conditions are effected by your high-handed decisions.
For the record my postcode is [redacted]

Shaun Butler
As a long-term resident I am very concerned about the proposal to merge our end of Horsell (some West & some East) to the current Sheerwater ward.

My thoughts are as follows:-

- Because of our position, the residents of Kingswood Court relate to Horsell first and foremost, and to some extent to the actual town centre. We have no natural links with Sheerwater.

- Culturally, I suspect we relate more easily to Horsell, and probably have very different needs and priorities to Sheerwater.

- I am given to understand that Horsell has traditionally been Conservative and Sheerwater Labour; this could leave many people (in both wards) far less happy about election results.

- Our current Polling Station is within the area you want to change; in one of Trinity Methodist Church Halls. I am unlikely to go to Sheerwater to vote whereas I have always voted living opposite Trinity. I know there is a postal option, but I prefer to "post" my paper into the box myself knowing it has "arrived".

I would, therefore, ask you to reconsider these plans; and let Horsell residents remain part of Horsell.

Sue Butterfield