

Starkie, Emily

From: William Forster
Sent: 06 October 2014 19:03
To: Reviews@
Subject: Woking Borough Council Boundary Review

Dear Sir/Madam,

This response sets out the formal views of both the Woking Liberal Democrat local party and Liberal Democrat Group on Woking Borough Council.

The Woking Lib Dems welcomes and supports most of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's well reasoned proposals for the new ward boundaries for Woking Borough Council.

However, we fully support the alternations on ward boundaries suggested in Woking Borough Council's submission and wish to propose some further minor changes to better reflect community identities.

Please see the full details of the Lib Dem submission below, divided into two sections covering the south and north of Woking Borough.

South Woking

We strongly agree with the Council's proposal to include the area south of Moor Lane, including Rosebank Cottages and Bonners Close should be included in the Hoe Valley ward. This area has much better connectivity and community links with the Hoe Valley ward, especially Westfield, than it does with the communities in Heathlands. The local residents association, the Westfield Common Residents Association covers both sides of Moor Lane and the area around Westfield Common, therefore this change would ensure this natural community is solely contained within one ward.

The local Lib Dems agree with the Council's recommendation that the area around Constitution Hill should be included in Mount Hermon, rather than Hoe Valley. This area has very similar characteristics with the rest of Mount Hermon. However, for the same reason of community identity, we wish to propose that the area around Claremont Avenue be removed from Hoe Valley and included in Mount Hermon. The Claremont Avenue area is predicted to contain 333 electors, which would have a small and reasonable impact on both Hoe Valley and Mount Hermon.

The new boundary between the Hoe Valley and Mount Hermon wards would therefore completely follow the Hoe stream and be a clear boundary. This change would better reflect community identity, resulting in Mount Hermon being a suburban ward just south of the railway line and Hoe Valley would become a solely three villages ward of Kingfield, Old Woking and Westfield.

We agree with the Council's proposal of removing the Mayhurst area and the north east side of East Hill Road should be included in Pyrford ward. This change would result in a better electoral equality and result in a clearer and stronger boundary between Mount Hermon and Pyrford wards.

North Woking

The Lib Dems strongly backs the Council's suggestion of including The Grove, Ferndale, the Broomhalls and Brewery Road in Horsell rather than

Sheerwater. These roads are naturally a part of Horsell and Horsell's community identity.

We believe a further area should be added to Horsell ward, namely we would like to propose that the Slocock Hill, Merrivale Gardens and Hedgerley Court area should be included in Horsell. Although there is no doubt this area shares its architectural style with housing in Goldsworth Park, but there the connection ends. This area is detached from other residential areas by road, it has its own access road, Slocock Hill from the Harelands roundabout on the A324 Lockfield Drive. Turnings off the roundabout on either side of Slocock Hill lead to Goldsworth Park and Horsell.

The nearest residential area in Goldsworth park is the roads of Eastmead and Hallington Close. These roads are accessed by vehicle, on foot or by cycling by taking the earlier turning off the roundabout to the south. There is no connection in the sense that residents are unlikely to have interaction within any residents' groupings. The turning to the south off the roundabout continues along the A324 Lockfield Drive for a short distance, with a defined shared use cycle and pedestrian path available alongside the road. The next left turning brings vehicles, cycles and pedestrians into Horsell on Arthur's Bridge Road, which almost immediately becomes Well Lane.

The best accessibility to Merrivale Gardens and Hedgerley Court is pedestrian and cycle access on the defined footpaths of Well Path leading to Well Lane and an unnamed but surfaced footpath leading to Holyoake Avenue. These are well used pedestrian and cycle routes.

Primary school children in this area go to school either in Horsell or at the Goldsworth School, on the Goldsworth Road (outside of the main Goldsworth Park area). A well used route to Horsell schools is along Well Path and Well Lane towards the village centre. Children going to Goldsworth School use either Well Path and Well Lane in the opposite direction then cross the A324 near the Arthur's Bridge junction. There are no links with the Goldsworth Park schools of Beaufort and Sythwood primary schools.

The Slocock Hill, Merrivale Gardens and Hedgerley Court area contains 183 electors, therefore this change had a minimal impact on electoral equality in Goldsworth Park and Horsell wards, and better reflect community identity.

We support the Council's proposal of removing the area between A320 and Morrisons from the Sheewater ward and included in St Johns. Although the A320 would be a clear physical boundary between St. John's and Sheerwater, we believe the Council's proposed boundary between these wards better reflects community identity. This area is very close to Woking Town Centre, therefore relates to Sheerwater ward not St Johns. The area in between the A320 and Morrisons consists of high density developments that have similar characteristics to the Sheerwater ward.

Yours sincerely,

Will Forster

Chairman of the Woking Liberal Democrats
Liberal Democrat Group Leader on Woking Borough Council