Local resident submissions to the Woking Borough Council electoral review

This PDF document contains submissions from local residents.

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Surnames C
19 September 2014

The Review Officer (Woking)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House, 76-86 Turnmill Street, EC1M 5LG
(email: reviews@lgbce.org.uk)

Dear Sir/Madam

**Draft Proposals for changes to Ward Boundaries in Woking**

I am writing to you to ask that you reconsider some of the proposals in the new draft ward boundaries and to the names proposed earlier this year, which will split West Byfleet between three Wards and where Woodlands, Hollies and Old Avenues would find themselves illogically attached to Sheerwater.

I live [redacted] in the parish of West Byfleet. I have lived here for eight years, my husband and I were both brought up in the Borough, my husband in the village itself. The village has its own identity and a prominent community spirit. I enjoy the many facilities and amenities which the village offers, including the local shops and restaurants, the quiet and civilised streets, St John the Baptist church, the recreation areas, the Basingstoke canal and woodlands. I walk to the railway station and the very useful underpass on a daily basis. The underpass conveniently connects us to the village. I have strong connections with the Women’s Institute and the Neighbourhood Watch. I moved to West Byfleet because of all of these “village” attractions.

I have no connection to Sheerwater compared to that of West Byfleet. We might occasionally pass through it on the bus or by car to access other areas. I am equally sure that the residents of Sheerwater do not feel any connection nor a desire to state that they come from West Byfleet.

I see no reason to agree to the proposals which split West Byfleet where it would leave the three roads of Woodlands Avenue, Hollies Avenue and Old Avenue as additions to the new Sheerwater Ward. I have no connection with Sheerwater.

I have no wish to associate my dwelling place with the name Sheerwater. I did not choose to live in Sheerwater and I am strongly opposed to being associated with it. I agree with other West Byfleet residents who suggest the name be changed to Woking Canalside, which is much more appropriate. Other alternatives of linking West Byfleet with Pyrford would make much more sense.

I would be grateful for your serious consideration.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Claire Calder
14 September 2014

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

Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Draft Proposals for changes to ward boundaries in Woking

I am writing to you to ask that you reconsider some aspects of the proposed boundary changes and the naming of new wards in Woking Borough Council. I understand that the rationale for change is based on the following criteria:

1. **Electoral balancing**: adjustments required to ensure an even spread of the voting population across the wards.
2. **Geographical location and residents' identity**: residents most closely located to a particular community centre will be inclined to look to that centre as the place to which they belong. They will shop there, worship there, socialise there and so on. It becomes fundamental to their sense of identity.

I understand the need for electoral balancing and the consequent need to change boundaries periodically. However I am concerned that (Woodlands Avenue) and (Hollies Avenue and Old Avenue) are to be included in the Sheerwater ward.

This may suit the purposes of balancing voter population but it pays no heed to the geography of the area. In fact the new boundaries proposed have a “spike” reaching out to include these three roads in the Sheerwater ward – a clear indication to me that our inclusion there is simply to balance voter numbers.

The problem is that the residents of these three avenues do not live in Sheerwater.

These residents look to West Byfleet as their hometown and this inclusion into Sheerwater makes no sense it the light of the second criterion listed above. It is an error but, fortunately, one that is easy to correct. Simply include us in the ward where we belong.

Thank you for reading this letter.

Yours faithfully

Tom Calder
Hello

We would like to comment on the proposed boundary changes for West Byfleet. We feel that our road (Hollies Avenue) should definitely sit in ward of West Byfleet. We have lived here for many years and our village life is within West Byfleet. It is where we go for our doctors, church, schools, library, shopping and social activities. We certainly do not want to become part of Sheerwater where we have no links whatsoever. We love being part of the community of West Byfleet. We feel there is a strong boundary divider between West Byfleet and Sheerwater which is Sheerwater Road.

We are surprised by this proposal and feel that it is unreasonable.

Regards

Piers and Melanie Capper
Dear Sir/Madam,

I live at [redacted] and would like to object to the proposed inclusion of my road in the proposed Sheerwater Ward.

It seems most peculiar to me to include three roads which are in West Byfleet in this ward rather than in West Byfleet Ward.

What connections do I have with West Byfleet?:

- I use the shops in West Byfleet
- I and my family are registered with the doctors in West Byfleet
- We are also registered with opticians, dentists and beauty salons in West Byfleet
- Myself and family (4) have bank accounts at Nat West in West Byfleet
- My partner is a member of Camphill Social Club in West Byfleet
- My son is a member of West Byfleet Social Club
- We are frequent visitors to West Byfleet Library
- My son played football for the team based on West Byfleet rec.

My connections to Sheerwater

- Very limited: I have used a shop there for replacement windows.

A natural boundary is the A245 road. Geographically it would make far more sense to include roads to the south of the proposed Sheerwater Ward in that ward – rather than a thin finger of two roads which extend east into West Byfleet.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Regards

Bridget Carman
With regard to the proposed ward boundary changes to West Byfleet I am writing to say I & my husband would be against these proposed changes. As a resident of Hollies Avenue we very much view ourselves as part of the local West Byfleet community. Our daughter attends West Byfleet Nursery & we involve ourselves in the local toddler groups & family activities. We bought our house to be part of this community & we walk into West Byfleet nearly every day. I feel these proposed changes would not support the community that the people & businesses of West Byfleet are trying hard to maintain & continue to build. Hollies Avenue & Woodlands Avenue need a councillor who will listen to our views with regard to West Byfleet - not Sheerwater. We would also from a practical level find voting in Sheerwater much more inconvenient. We live or live in & around West Byfleet & not Sheerwater. Voting at the Cornerstone Centre at St Johns Church is easy for me with two small children but also for my husband as he returns from work on the train at West Byfleet. Sheerwater would not be convenient & would risk either of us being able to vote. I believe many people in Hollies Avenue feel the same & feel strongly about this issue & we would urge the proposals to be reconsidered & for Hollies Avenue & Woodlands Avenue to be included in West Byfleet. This is not a natural place to divide the wards. Regards
Caroline & Graeme Carter
Dear Sirs

We would like to state that our preferred solution for Woodham is that it is joined with Horsell to form a three councillor ward. The arrangement would provide a cohesive locality as there are many broad similarities, both of a demographic and a geographic nature in combining with Horsell.

Furthermore Sheerwater and Woodham are separated by the Basingstoke Canal a natural barrier.

Please consider our views on this matter.

Nick and Lyn Caso

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Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Jane Catmull
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

There is the canal separating Woodham from Sheerwater. We feel totally separated from this town and do not want to be part of the Sheerwater community. People have worked very very hard all through their lives to better themselves and pay for expensive housing and do not take kindly to being grouped together for the convenience of councils. Why don't you explain exactly what it is you think you're offering the residents of Woodham and as to why you think it's acceptable to reduce the price of Woodham's house prices. This is unacceptable. I will vote differently if this plan goes ahead.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Catherine Angela Cattell
E-mail: 
Postcode: 

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I am opposed to the amendment made by the Local Government Boundary Commission to take Woodham out of the Horsell Ward and instead adjoin it with Sheerwater to form a three 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.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
**Woking District**

**Personal Details:**

**Name:**  
David Cattell

**E-mail:**  
[Redacted]

**Postcode:**  
[Redacted]

**Organisation Name:**  

**Comment text:**

I am opposed to the amendment made by the Local Government Boundary Commission to take Woodham out of the HorSELL Ward and instead adjoin it with Sheerwater to form a three councillor Sheerwater Ward. I am also against the removal of the name Woodham from the proposed names of the new wards. For the following reasons:-This amendment is a variation to the proposal made by Woking Borough Council in the Boundary Review 2013-2016. This amendment is based on a visit to the area by the commission and does not follow the recommendation of the Woking Borough Councillors who are familiar with the geography and demographics of the area. This amendment reads "We are concerned that this area (Woodham) does not share sufficiently clear transport links with the communities in HorSELL" There is no mention of community in the report or the strong local characteristics that associate it with HorSELL. Electoral Equality The HorSELL and Woodham Ward is forecast to have 8,298 Electors in 2019 compared to the target of 7,867 required to meet the Boundary Commission guidance. This is 5.5% above the target but reflects the likelihood that the ward will attract well below average development over the local plan period to 2027. Geographic Considerations The Basingstoke Canal separates Woodham from Sheerwater which is crossed only at the extreme ends of the ward and as a result there is little or no communality of interests and no sense of neighbourhood between the two areas. The A245 between Woodham and Sheerwater is a major route which suffers from heavy traffic particularly at peak times and is one of the roads that is a part of a route management study. Travel between the two areas is therefore difficult. Woodham has few facilities and transport links and has no direct bus route service to Sheerwater. Community identity (Woodham and HorSELL) There are many community affinities between Woodham and HorSELL as both are predominantly prosperous, residential leafy suburbs containing mostly detached housing with many private roads. There are also many community links between Woodham and HorSELL. Residents of Woodham frequent the shops and leisure amenities located in HorSELL. The Sands, The Red Lion and The Cricketers are our local public houses. HorSELL common is frequented by dog walkers and many members of The HorSELL Preservation Society live in Woodham. Residents associations use the facilities in HorSELL for AGM meetings and social events. Crime levels are low and are comparable Community identity (Woodham and Sheerwater) There are many demographic opposites which hinder a sense of community. Houses in the Sheerwater area range from terraced properties to large estates. Houses are mostly two and three storeys high and have provided a source of small and cheaper accommodation. Sheerwater contains the largest concentration of industrial areas in the Borough. The Surrey Strategic Partnership, of which Woking Borough Council is a member, has identified the ward of Sheerwater as a CS5 `Priority Place and parts of Sheerwater have been identified as the most deprived area in the county for health deprivation and disability, income and employment`. The crime reporting level in Sheerwater is more than ten times the crime reporting level in Woodham. (source Police.uk) Twenty percent of this reported crime is criminal damage and arson, violence and sexual assault. This type of serious crime has not been reported in Woodham. In the 38 years we have lived here I have not heard of children attending schools in Sheerwater - they either go to HorSELL, West Byfleet or Woking together with Private Schools. 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. David Cattell, 

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
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 the purposes set out in the Boundary Commission Policy Document.

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 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 about 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, 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 sense of Village Community
- Horsell Village area and Sheerwater area do not share the same Geographical, Social, Economic 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 and 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: [Name Redacted] Date: 3 October 2014

Name printed: [Name Redacted]
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: John Cavilla

E-mail: [redacted]

Postcode: [redacted]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

To have ward changed from West Byfleet to Sheerwater will not reflect the community to which we belong as a household. We are a few minutes' walk from the centre of West Byfleet and regularly use all the facilities there in terms of shopping, medical services and recreational amenities. We are members of the congregation of Our Lady Help of Christians of West Byfleet Parish. We also support the West Byfleet and Pyrforf Resident's association and commute from West Byfleet Station. Given these strong links we would propose to be part of Byfleet and West Byfleet ward and make Sheerwater Road the boundary between the wards.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
My family would like to see Woking Borough Councils recommendation for Horsell and Woodham to link, using the Basingstoke Canal as the boundary with Sheerwater.

regards

Best Wishes
Brenda

Brenda Champion
Chairman: Mr. Godfrey Chapples  
Secretary: Mrs. Eileen Perryer

29 September 2014

The Review Officer (Woking) LGBCE, 76-78 Turnmill Street, London EC1M 5LG

Dear Sir

The Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford Residents’ Association has been representing our three villages for over 85 years. We hold regular committee meetings which our local Councillors also attend. Our association has been closely following the various proposals for boundary changes in the Woking Borough. Both the Residents’ Association and the West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum, along with many individual residents, put forward strong objections to Woking Borough Council’s proposal to divide West Byfleet between two wards, this was acknowledged in the Boundary Commission’s report, along with agreement that the communities of Byfleet and West Byfleet “are distinct and separate”, and that they are also divided by the strong boundaries of the M25 motorway and a canal. Nevertheless, the Boundary Commission has adopted Woking Borough Council’s ward divisions and has now recommended yet a further split into three wards for West Byfleet.

The principal objective for the Commission’s decision is to try to equalise the number of electors each councillor will represent. In the case of West Byfleet, it would seem that the other main, stated objectives; the need to consider community identities and to form strong, easily identifiable, boundaries between wards, have been regarded as much less important.

Furthermore, you aim to ‘help the Council deliver effective and convenient local government’ This will be very difficult in West Byfleet because the current proposals leave it without representation as a complete village. It will no longer form the nucleus of a ward, and its own representation will be divided between the distinct communities of Byfleet, Pyrford and Sheerwater.

West Byfleet will celebrate its centenary next year. It is recognised by Woking Borough Council as a District Centre, the second major hub of business and industrial employment after Woking itself. It has a thriving shopping centre, a major Health Centre, several schools, churches and a main line station with fast trains to Waterloo. Notwithstanding this, West Byfleet is the only major community in the whole borough to have its warding arrangements split up in this way.

The Commission’s latest proposals have taken three West Byfleet residential roads into a third ward, Sheerwater. The Residents’ Association objects most strongly to West Byfleet being further divided in this way. These roads share no community identity with Sheerwater and should be either included in the Byfleet and West Byfleet ward, or returned to Pyrford ward, as recommended in Woking Borough Council’s own proposals. Because of the massive redevelopment of Sheerwater, the electoral numbers there are very likely to rise over the coming years; there seems no reason whatsoever to include three West Byfleet roads in that ward. Most of the residents of these roads were unaware that such a big potential change was being proposed for their warding arrangements until this Association carried out a leaflet drop to inform them.

We would request that the roads in question, Woodlands Avenue, Hollies Avenue and Old Avenue and its Closes are once again included within the wards which will represent our three villages.

Chair of Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford Residents’ Association
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Anthony Clark
E-mail: 
Postcode: 
Organisation Name: 
Comment text:

I write to express my strong objection to the Boundary Commission’s response to Woking Council’s recommendations with respect to Woodham. Woking Council recommended Woodham should join with Horsell, which we strongly support. However, the Boundary Commission has subsequently responded by recommending Woodham be joined with Sheerwater, which we strongly object to and oppose. My objection is based on the following: Woodham is separated from Sheerwater by the Basingstoke Canal, which forms a natural boundary between the two. The Basingstoke canal can only be crossed, by both road and footpath, at the two extremes of the proposed new ward. It is natural barriers such as the Canal that the Boundary Commission themselves consider should identify electoral Ward boundaries. The above significantly prevents and divides any communality of interest or sense of neighbourhood between Woodham and Sheerwater. Woodham’s distinct identity, separate from that of Sheerwater, will likely be lost as a consequence of joining the two together. Woking Council’s recommendation would provide a more cohesive locality and there are many broad similarities, between Horsell & Woodham, both of a demographic and geographic nature. Tony Clark

Uploaded Documents:
None Uploaded
I, like many residents of Dartnell Park, West Byfleet see no need for merging our part of the West Byfleet Ward with Byfleet or indeed other parts with Pyrford and Sheerwater. West Byfleet has an identity of its own and carving it up may be an attractive proposition for those people who would rather have a Pyrford address but nobody else. No justification for change!

Sincerely,
Roger Clark
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Sabine Clark
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I write to express my strong objection to the Boundary Commission’s response to Woking Council’s recommendations with respect to Woodham.● Woking Council recommended Woodham should join with Horsell, which I strongly support.● However, the Boundary Commission has subsequently responded by recommending Woodham be joined with Sheerwater, which I strongly object to and oppose. My objection is based on the following:● Woodham is separated from Sheerwater by the Basingstoke Canal, which forms a natural boundary between the two.● The Basingstoke canal can only be crossed, by both road and footpath, at the two extremes of the proposed new ward.● It is natural barriers such as the Canal that the Boundary Commission themselves consider should identify electoral Ward boundaries.● The above significantly prevents and divides any communality of interest or sense of neighbourhood between Woodham and Sheerwater.● Woodham’s distinct identity, separate from that of Sheerwater, will likely be lost as a consequence of joining the two together. Woking Council’s recommendation would provide a more cohesive locality and there are many broad similarities, between Horsell & Woodham, both of a demographic and geographic nature. Sabine Clark

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Anne Coleman
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I live in Woodham which I believe under new proposals will no longer be part of the Horsell Ward and become part of Sheerwater Ward. I wish you to reconsider this proposal for the following reasons. There is little sense of communality or neighbourhood links between Woodham and Sheerwater and there is little possibility of that changing. There is a natural boundary - the Basingstoke Canal between the two areas with the only access at extreme ends of the proposed ward. As the preferred solution from Woking Borough Council is that Woodham should join with Horsell this should be taken into consideration and keep Woodham in a ward where the demographic and geographical nature are very similar. I would urge you to visit Woodham and see that it is not a question of just drawing lines but the area and small population of the area should be of the most importance.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
THE REVENUE OFFICER (Woking)
LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES
COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND
Leyden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

Dear Sir/Madam

REF: CHANGES IN MY WARD BOUNDARY FROM HORSELL EAST AND WOODHAM TO SHEERWATER.

I STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH THE PROPOSAL TO EXCLUDE THE FOLLOWING HOUSEHOLDS FROM THE HORSELL WARDS, NAMELY KINGSWOOD COURT, ALWINA COURT, THE GRAYE, FERNDALE ROAD, BROOMHALL ROAD, BROOMHALL LANE, BROOMHALL END AND 1ST SECTION CHESHAM ROAD. THE PROPOSAL MAY BE DESIGNED TO GIVE SOME NUMBER OF VOTERS PER COUNCILLOR, BUT THE COMMUNITY INTERESTS AND IDENTITIES DON'T LIE IN WITH THE LARGE AREA OF THE TOWN CENTRE, MAYBURY AND SHEERWATER.

THERE ARE STRONG COMMUNITY LINKS VIA HORSELL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, THE GRAYE AREA LTD, REPRESENTING ROADS AROUND THE WHEATSHEAF COMMON. ROADS INCLUDE ALL THOSE LISTED IN THE FIRST PARAGRAPH OF THIS LETTER PLUS FENNS WAY, WHEATSHEAF CLOSE, ORCHARD DRIVE, LEADHAMS COURT AND CHESHAM ROAD. HORSELL CARE WHICH GIVES HELP TO OLDER PEOPLE AND THE DISABLED. OTHER FACILITIES USED NORTH OF THE CANAL ARE THE DOCTORS, LOCAL VILLAGE SHOPS AND CHURCHES.

TRANSPORT LINKS FROM NORTH OF THE CANAL INTO THE AREAS OF MAYBURY AND SHEERWATER ARE NOW RESISTANT. IN CONCLUSION AND FOR ALL VIEWS EXPRESSED IS THAT HOUSEHOLDS SHOWN AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS LETTER SHOULD REMAIN IN HORSELL WARD AS THE NATURAL BOUNDARY IS THE BASINGSTOKE CANAL.

Yours sincerely

[Redacted]

CC: MP AND WARD COUNCILLORS
**Woking District**

**Personal Details:**

Name: Suzy Collins  
E-mail: [REDACTED]  
Postcode: [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:**

**Comment text:**

I feel strongly that Woodham should remain within Horsell Ward and should not become part of Sheerwater Ward. Horsell and central Woking are easily accessible from Woodham, and are where I spend the majority of my time when not in Woodham. Sheerwater in contrast takes longer to reach due to having to drive around the Basingstoke Canal to find a crossing point, and as a result I never go to Sheerwater to do my shopping or to use the facilities there. The Basingstoke Canal acts as a natural boundary between Woodham and Sheerwater. The characteristics of Woodham and Horsell are very similar, and I understand that boundaries should reflect the interests and identities of local communities. In my view Woodham has more similarities with Horsell than with Sheerwater, in terms of a shared sense of community, interest and neighbourhood. I hope that you will take my views into consideration and keep Woodham as part of the Horsell Ward.

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded
Dear Sir / Madam

As a resident of West Byfleet for over 40 years I strongly oppose for Hollies Avenue, & Woodlands Avenue to join with Sheerwater and that they should remain under West Byfleet.

The logic of curtailing two roads both of which are within 0.4 of a mile, 5 minute walk from West Byfleet and clearly delineated from Sheerwater by the intersection of Sheerwater Road, appears to go against all reasonable logic.

All my local services are associated with West Byfleet, such as our Nurseries, Schools, Place of Worship, Doctors Surgery, Local Shops and Train Station

We are as a family, deeply unhappy regarding these proposed changes, and feel that wishes of the West Byfleet community and our place within it have been totally ignored and misrepresented by these proposals.

Yours Sincerely

Sent from Windows Mail
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Diane Condon
E-mail: 
Postcode: 
Organisation Name: Boundary commission

Comment text:
I am opposed to the amendment made by the Local Government Boundary Commission to take Woodam out of the Horsell Ward and instead adjoin it with Sheerwater to form a three council 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 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 apart 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 Counci to be sensible, particularly as they make a real attempt to retain the natural cohesion between the historic areas of Horsell and Woodam. Mr & Mrs R Condon

Uploaded Documents:
None Uploaded
To whom it may concern.

Today I have been alerted to the fact that under your guidance a new boundary draft scheme has been proposed which would link my company and private dwelling address within the Woodham Hall Estate with Sheerwater.

I find the prospect of such a boundary totally preposterous! Firstly there is a canal that is placed between our sectors which completely disintegrates the two locations and was originally put in place to segregate the two regions, and as yet, I have not seen any plans to remove the canal. Also the idea of turning my business and private dwelling into an association with Sheerwater would cause me Financial and Credible damage which I would join hundreds of others to take WBC to court and stand up for my rights against this complete farce.

It makes total sense to me to maintain the Horsell / Woodham Hall Estate heritage boundary which I totally stand by.

I sincerely hope that common sense prevails.

Regards

Richard

Richard Condon
Managing Director
VendorRelate Ltd

Company Number 7054458

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My wife and I totally object to the proposed demerger of Woodham within the Horsel district of Woking in favour of a merger with Sheerwater - a more inappropriate proposal can not be imagined. Please see the attached document for the reasons why.

RS & DD Cooke
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attribute</th>
<th>Horsel Ward including Woodham</th>
<th>Sheerwater</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
<td>Predominantly owner occupied with little or no social housing. Many high value properties</td>
<td>Mixed owner occupied and private tenanted with a considerable amount of social housing. Lower value properties for owned housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affluence</td>
<td>Generally affluent to quite affluent</td>
<td>The Woking Informer dated 24th July 2014 describes Sheerwater on its front page as “(being) the most deprived area … (in the Borough)”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>There are no public transport services to Woodham making car ownership a necessity</td>
<td>There are good public transport services along Albert Drive facilitating easy access to Woking town centre and beyond</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commonality of interests</td>
<td>There is no commonality of interest between Horsel / Woodham and Sheerwater. The latter has shown itself to have a strong community spirit particularly with regard to the Sheerwater redevelopment proposals but to have no concerns about the overspill effects on the designated dark zone of the Basingstoke Canal and Woodham in particular.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion</td>
<td>Predominantly Christian</td>
<td>Mixed Christian and Islamic. The former attend churches in both Sheerwater and Horsel / Woodham whereas the latter attend a mosque outside the area of Sheerwater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethnicity</td>
<td>Predominantly Caucasian</td>
<td>Mixed Caucasian and Asian (Indian sub-continent) with little apparent interaction between the two</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The ward of Horsell is separated from Sheerwater by the Basingstoke Canal.

There is no means of connection except by the main roads at the extremes.

It seems that the Boundary Commission has ignored the recommendation of the local Council and all their knowledge of the area.

I think that the Commission should review their latest proposal in view of local knowledge.

Yours,

T J Cook
Review Officer  
Woking Review  
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Layden House  
76–86 Turnmill Street  
London EC1M 5LG

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Proposed Ward changes to Woking District

I am writing to advise that I am opposed to the proposal made by the Local Government Boundary Commission to take Woodham out of the Horsell Ward and instead join 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.

1. This amendment is a variation to the proposal made by Woking Borough Council in the Boundary Review 2013-2016.
2. 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.
3. This amendment reads “We are concerned that this area (Woodham) does not share sufficiently clear transport links with the communities in Horsell” There are no clear transport links to Sheerwater.
4. 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 shared 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 Woodham’s local public houses. Residents associations use the facilities in Horsell for AGM meetings and social events.

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

Crime levels in Woodham are low and are comparable to Horsell.

Community Identity (Woodham and Sheerwater)
There are many demographic opposites which hinder a sense of community. Houses in the Sheerwater area range from flats and 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). 20% 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 reasonable and sensible. They make a real attempt to retain the natural cohesion between the historic areas of Horsell and Woodham and they take into account the very similar communities of both.

I would be grateful if these views were taken into account and your proposals revised to align Woodham with Horsell and use the Woodham name in the new Ward to retain our identity.

Yours faithfully

Sharon Cooper
Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Proposed Ward changes to Woking District

I am writing on behalf of my husband and myself to advise that we are opposed to the proposal made by the Local Government Boundary Commission to take Woodham out of the Horsell Ward and instead join it with Sheerwater to form a three councillor Sheerwater Ward. We are also against the removal of the name Woodham from the proposed names of the new wards.

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**Summation**

We consider the proposals submitted to you by Woking Borough Council to be reasonable and sensible. They make a real attempt to retain the natural cohesion between the historic areas of Horsell and Woodham and they take into account the very similar communities of both.

We would be grateful if these views are taken into account and your proposals revised to align Woodham with Horsell and use the Woodham name in the new Ward to retain our identity.

Yours faithfully

Jennifer and Dennis Cooper
Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to register my objection to the proposal that Hollies Avenue, Woodlands Avenue and Old Avenue be removed from West Byfleet Ward and be put in Sheerwater Ward.

I would like to highlight in your proposal that a good pattern of wards should include community interests, identities and evidence of community links. My community identity is with West Byfleet and not Sheerwater.

In the eight years I have lived in West Byfleet I have never used any of the facilities available in Sheerwater as everything I need, transport, library, Health Centre, Supermarket etc is in West Byfleet.

For the reasons stated above I believe we should remain with the West Byfleet Ward.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M Cornwell.
Dear Sir

We live off Shores Road and we have a bit of Horsell Common adjoining our property as well as several hundred hectares of the Common on the other side of Shores Road.

We are within walking distance of the Village of Horsell.

The type of housing in this area and the population is somewhat different to that of Sheerwater and, therefore, considering all of the above we do not feel that we should have the boundary change that you are proposing.

We are also concerned that the value of our property might be affected badly if the proposal goes ahead but are more concerned that we might end up with political representation contrary to our leanings.

We would be obliged if you would take all of the things above into consideration when making the decision.

Bob and Maryel Cowell
To - Local Government Boundary Commission

From - John Craig,

Subject – Woking Borough Council Ward Boundaries

I write to object to your proposal to put certain areas currently in the Horsell West ward (the Broomhalls etc.) into the proposed new Sheerwater ward. My objection is that this proposal is contrary to the considerations of community identity and effective local government.

The Horsell West areas are physically, economically and culturally out on a limb from most of the new Sheerwater ward and so have little in common with it. They have always been part of Horsell Parish and have much in common with the rest of the parish and their existing ward. Apart from the parish links, children go to school in Horsell, adults go shopping in Horsell, go to meetings and events in Horsell, organisations such as Horsell Care and Horsell Residents association would find the new boundaries irrelevant, and so on. These strong Horsell links are a marked contrast to the negligible links with the rest of the new Sheerwater ward.

Nor are is your aim of clearly identifiable boundaries met by your proposal – the new boundary on both Chobham Road and Brewery Road would merely be a line on a map instead of the current strong physical boundary of the Basingstoke Canal.

Effective local government would be diminished because councillors for the new Sheerwater ward could not keep in touch so much as do the current Horsell West Councillors. Conversely residents would not be so aware of their Councillors; and the arbitrary boundaries with the new Horsell ward would sometimes lead to liaison problems.

The reason for the proposal is presumably numbers of electors but I feel this is far less important than these disadvantages.

John Craig,
With regard to your proposals especially concerning West Byfleet, I would offer the following comments against your objectives.

- Provide good electoral equality, with each councillor representing, as closely as possible, the same number of voters. Combining Byfleet with half of West Byfleet achieves this but you have put yourself in a straight jacket by only allowing three members. If you had a super ward of six members you would be able to cover the traditional three parishes of Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford.

- Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links. This proposal fails as it combines Byfleet with half of West Byfleet which have a different characteristic and moves a marginal ward into one with a strong conservative majority. Although West Byfleet shares some community links with Byfleet it has much stronger links with the other half of West Byfleet which you propose becoming part of Pyrford or Sheerwater.

- Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries. Your proposal totally fails as it divides West Byfleet (see your map where it cuts through the name of West Byfleet!)

- Help the council deliver effective and convenient local government. Your proposal will fail on this account as West Byfleet representation will now be marginal to the main representation of Byfleet, Sheerwater and Pyrford.

Community identity:

- Transport links: are there good links across your proposed ward? Is there any form of public transport? Although there is a bus service and train service there is only one road connecting Byfleet and West Byfleet and they are divided both by the M25 and Wey Navigation, so your proposal fails in this respect.

- Community groups: is there a parish council, residents association or another group that represents the area? Again your proposal fails in that it merges one parish council with half of another which therefore becomes divided into three elements, there are separate neighbourhood fora covering Byfleet and this part of West Byfleet.

- Facilities: does your pattern of wards reflect where local people go for shops, medical services, leisure facilities etc? Byfleet is strongly seeking its own medical services as it feels remote from those provided within West Byfleet. Byfleet has its own shops and supermarkets at Brooklands. So again your proposal fails this test.
Interests: what issues bind the community together or separate it from other parts of your area? There is a shared residents association for Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford. But your proposal splits West Byfleet which has common interests around the village centre and having a local Neighbourhood Forum so again failing on this objective.

Identifiable boundaries: are there natural or constructed features which make strong boundaries for your proposals? The M25, WeyNavigation, Basingstoke Canal/Rive Ditch and Sheerwater Road provide very strong natural and constructed boundaries for West Byfleet, only the southern boundaries with Pyrford are not so obvious. These have been totally ignored in your proposal.

In summary, your proposal fails against the vast majority of your own objectives and should be reconsidered, either by reverting to 2/2/2 councillors for Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford or looking at a twin 6 councillor ward or reconsidering Woking's own boundaries.

Regards

Keith Creswell

Sent from my iPad
The Review Officer (Woking)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Layden House  
75-86 Turnmill Street  
LONDON EC1M 5LG

Dear Sir

re: PROPOSED BOUNDARY REVIEW - SHEERWATER

I am writing to protest most strongly against the proposal to split this part of Pyrford from our friends and neighbours in the rest of Pyrford and join us to Sheerwater.

We all have strong ties with Pyrford Village and West Byfleet through churches, schools, etc, and none whatever with Sheerwater, indeed if I needed to go there by public transport I would have to get one bus to Woking and another to Sheerwater.

Apparently one of the objectives in the proposed boundary changes is "to ensure that residents have a vote of broadly equal weight across the borough". Sheerwater is apparently the most deprived area in Surrey, with most people living in social housing. My area is one of the most affluent parts of Woking with many houses selling for a million pounds. As Sheerwater has a larger population than ours, there is no way that this objective would be achieved.

My main concern is how would this change affect our school-children? Would they no longer be allowed to attend our nearest schools, which are in Pyrford and West Byfleet? Sheerwater is much farther away.

These are very important issues and I hope will be very carefully considered before the final decision is reached.

Yours faithfully

Jean Crowle (Mrs)
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Timothy Charles Crowley
E-mail: [Redacted]
Postcode: [Redacted]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I believe that people in my area, would as I do, suggest that we remain in the present ward which contains West Byfleet/Pyrford. We use West Byfleet Station And the local shops, with no need to frequent the Sheerwater area. Cannot see the logic in the the small change in order to equalise the size electorate.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
The Review Officer (Woking)

Dear Sir

As a resident of the area for more than thirty years, I wish to raise an objection to the proposed boundary changes for West Byfleet. I live in [redacted] and am a retired local GP having worked at West Byfleet Health Centre since 1981. My two daughters attended local schools and our family, neighbours and friends all have strong links with the West Byfleet community. During our time in Surrey we have not had any contact with the community facilities of Sheerwater, yet we find ourselves being placed into the ward of Sheerwater.

The proposed change for the residents of Old Avenue does not reflect the local community where we enjoy facilities: the schools, church, health centre, dentist, library, shops and banks of West Byfleet. Old Avenue has been an important part of Byfleet/West Byfleet since the first houses were built in the avenue in 1906. The Old Avenue residents are less than one hundred in number and for us to be forced into Sheerwater ward, will inevitably give us little, if any, meaningful local representation.

Since many new homes are to be built in Sheerwater, I feel it would be preferable to leave those residents in Old Avenue, Woodlands Road and Hollies Road in Byfleet/West Byfleet ward.

I do hope that the many comments which have been received from the residents of Old Avenue will be seriously considered; the current proposal gives us all great concern.

Yours faithfully

Dr Annette Cummin
Re: THE GROVE / FERNDALE

The original placement of The Grove and Ferndale Road into Horsell was regarded by all as a reasonable inclusion. These roads are part of the Wheatsheaf Park area and as such are, and always have been, aligned to Horsell despite the proximity to Woking Town Centre. The residents are active members of the Horsell Residents Association of which The Group Form forms an integral and active part. To move the ward boundary into “Sheerwater” fails to comply with the electoral quality set out in your document, and the apparent numbers gained to “Sheerwater” are so minimal on paper to be ineffectual.

Your criteria:

1. **Electoral quality:** by moving to Sheerwater the paper numbers may fit your new targets but in practice these are lost votes as the voting population will still feel, and probably retain, an active voice to Horsell, and thus not take up their vote. **Decision: Horsell**
2. **Community interests and identity:** There is no community identity to Sheerwater/Maybury or any other of the new wards other than Horsell. **Decision: Horsell**
3. **Strong identifiable boundaries:** There can be no identifiable association of this area within the new Sheerwater ward as the clearly identifiable association is with Horsell. To bolt on a small area to an area it has no association with merely to balance voting numbers at one period in time (voting numbers will always fluctuate) does not present a practical or reasonable solution. **Decision: Horsell**
4. **Local Government Delivery:** To have this area within Sheerwater will present practical issues for government officers as they will be working outside of the natural practical working area where residents interest is clearly within Horsell. This could cause a practical barrier to their effective operation. **Decision: Horsell**
5. **Electoral equality:** as a paper exercise the numbers of voters may appear to be equalised, but in practice to move this area into Sheerwater may well mean that voters and votes will be lost, as the public may not exercise their voting rites as their is no allegiance to the new ward. With new building planned in the new ward area voting numbers there will be increased, and then a need to increase numbers in Horsell may be required. **Decision: on vote numbers alone – your decision, on electoral quality - Decision - Horsell**
6. **Community identity:** Transport links to each area are arguably equable, but the natural boundary of the Basingstoke Canal and Victoria Way force this area into the Horsell Ward which is where many voters shop and go to church or school. **Decision - Horsell**
7. **Community groups:** This area is covered by the Grove Group and the Horsell Residents Association. Although the area sits on the edge of the ever fluctuating school catchment areas, in practice most to the children attend schools in the Horsell area. Church of England residents are largely served by St. Mary’s Horsell. **Decision: Horsell**
8. **Facilities:** This represents the most variable of options as The Grove and Ferndale Road together with Broomhall Road and part of Chobham Road are served by particularly dental and leisure services (The Wheatsheaf Playing Fields) within the area. Most residents will use both Horsell and Woking shopping areas. Medical services are often sourced outside the residential area, but Horsell has easily accessible medical facilities. **Decision: on balance – equable Horsell or Woking Town “Sheerwater ward” but probably just edges to Horsell**
9. **Interests:** Local Residents associations are clearly aligned with Horsell, particularly through church, schools and casual, local or village shopping. **Decision – Horsell**
10. **Identifiable boundaries:** The Wheatsheaf Park area is a clearly defined area to the north of the Basingstoke Canal and to the west of Horsell village. It is marginally closer to Woking than Horsell on foot but is historically identified as part of Horsell. Residents association is clearly with Horsell. **Decision – Horsell.**

11. **Effective Local Government:** To move the Wheatsheaf Park area of The Grove, Ferndale, Broomhall into Sheerwater to achieve numbers only is not a practical suggestion as the numbers are too small to be significant, or electorally practical, and allegiances for the area are with Horsell. **Decision – Horsell.**

12. **Proposed name of wards:** The unfortunate choice of Sheerwater as a ward name does not appropriately represent the area covered as older residents relate the name of Sheerwater to a London County Council overflow council estate, and the historic localities of Maybury and Woking town and others are not reflected in the name choice. It would have been sensible to choose a new name without any prior associations as the new ward name. However this does not detract from the clearly recognisable association of the Wheatsheaf Park area including The Grove and Ferndale Road into the Horsell Ward. **Decision: The Grove and Ferndale into Horsell**

As a lifelong resident of Woking with at least seven generations of family preceding in the Woking area I look to the Boundaries Commission working with Woking Borough Council to truly represent the interests of the residents of Woking with their decisions. These must be based on the opinions of those residents to provide electoral QUALITY and should not be an “easy option paper exercise to balance numbers without due regard to the residents wishes” because this would not reflect public opinion and lead to ineffectual local government.

Robert Cumming
I am writing to formally object to the proposed boundary change that will put The Grove and Ferndale Road into Sheerwater ward. I have been a Horsell resident for 40 years and this change would deprive me of my vote. I cannot vote in a Sheerwater ward as it will not reflect where I live and the resulting vote would be wasted. I have no community interest in Sheerwater and my children have been part of the Horsell community, they were both schooled there and one was married there. I feel this will waste Horsell votes whose number of residents is already less than that of Sheerwater. This will remove democracy from my daily community life.

Shirley Cumming
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: William Collins
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]
Organisation Name: [redacted]

Feature Annotations

Map Features:

Annotation 1: Boundary should follow the canal as shown.
Annotation 2:
Annotation 3:
Annotation 4:

Comment text:
The proposal to merge Woodham with Sheerwater is misguided and ill informed. The requirements of local government wards is that "Boundaries reflect interests and identities of local communities". This is clearly not the case for Woodham and Sheerwater. As a resident within the Woodham boundary, I would choose to use amenities within Woking or Horsell, occasionally West Byfleet and New Haw. I have never used any facility within Sheerwater - the reason being it takes too long to get there. The local geography is such that it is a 5 min trip to Woking, Horsell, West Byfleet and New Haw, but never less than 15 minutes to Sheerwater shops due to the canal and railway line. In terms of residents, properties and interest is clear that Woodham is similar to Horsell and not Sheerwater. The boundary should follow the canal as shown on the map above. Yours Faithfully William Collins

Uploaded Documents:
None Uploaded