Local Residents submissions to the Woking electoral review

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Surnames E - L
SUBJECT - WARD CHANGES.

DEAR SIR,

IT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO OUR NOTICE THAT SOMEONE WITHIN THE CONFINES OF WOKING-BOROUGH COUNCIL WISHES TO ADD THE LETTER "S" AT THE END OF OUR VILLAGE OF BYFLEET ("S"). HOW TOTALLY ABSURD,

BYFLEET HAS BEEN RESEARCHED IN A BOOK WRITTEN BY LEONARD R. STEVENS CIRCA 1951 WITH REFERENCES DATING BACK TO THE YEARS OF 727, 967, 1017 AND SO MANY NOTABLE OCCURANCES SINCE BUT ALL
Spelt in the singular phase, it is so ridiculous to add an extra letter as everyone else will agree. It is just not required.

Also, as far as the boundary between Byfleet and West Byfleet is concerned, we already have a very appropriate division in the form of the Wey Navigation which was constructed during the mid 1600s and in 1985 we had the opening of our section of the M25.

Yours Sincerely
Can I please object to the proposal that Byfleet ward be changed to include part of West Byfleet. It seems to me to be a unnecessarily heavy-handed way to make the proposed new divisions equal in terms of number of people in each. Does it matter if the wards are not all exactly the same; is it not more important for the divisions to be made in a sensible geographical way, with natural and historical 'boundaries' kept, such as the motorway and canal which separate Byfleet from West Byfleet.

If you need to reduce the number of councillors we have, I think it is more important to think 'communities' rather than to make the lists of names equal. Byfleet's needs and issues are not the same as those of West Byfleet.

I'd be most grateful to hear your rationale behind making these changes if they are not simply to equalise the number of people in each division, because I don't think that is important enough to justify the changes.

Many thanks for reading this mail,

Liz Gathercole
Dear Sirs

As a resident of Woking Borough Council’s (WBC) proposed new Pyrford ward, I’d like to express general satisfaction with the new boundary defined and recently submitted to you.

Despite challenging timescales WBC have consulted well with the population and listened to the views of their electorate. In particular they have respected local views that Pyrford ward should not divide local residents between two wards and instead follow very closely the boundary of our nascent Neighbourhood Forum. The most significant deviation of the new Pyrford Ward boundary from the PNF boundary is shown in the map embedded in the email attached above where the red line maps the SW boundary of the Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum and the straight brown line at 45 degrees to the Old Woking Road, running to the SE, maps the proposed Pyrford Ward boundary. The logic for this is far from clear.

In the interests of maintaining WBC’s objectives to fix boundaries that:
1. reflect the identities and interests of local communities,
2. fix boundaries that are, and, will remain easily identified,
3. fix boundaries that do not break any local ties but reinforce the local sense of community,
we write now to ask that the proposed boundary follow the red SW boundary of Pyrford Neighbourhood Forum coinciding with the NW boundary of Hoebridge Golf Course so that the unity of the Pyrford community is endorsed and further reinforced.

Many thanks

Yours faithfully

Geoff Geaves
Dear Sir,

We live in Woodlands Road, West Byfleet within the borough of Woking. Woking Council has conducted a consultation period with the residents across the area. Woking Council has listened to its voters and has now drawn up a plan for submission to the Boundary Commission. We would like to register our support for the electoral wards as drawn up by the Council and approved at their Council Meeting on 27 March.

We believe that it is important to keep Pyrford as a unitary element. This respects the wishes of the local residents who have formed a Neighbourhood Forum and who wish to see the community of Pyrford maintained. There are natural boundaries in this area marked by the railway line and the canal. We believe these boundaries should be respected and that Pyrford should not be divided across these boundaries.

We understand that some Councillors were unhappy with the majority decision taken at the Council meeting. However, we do not feel their objections take into account the Boundary Commissions objectives that communities should not be divided and that natural boundaries should be respected.

Yours truly,

Gillian and John Hartley
Dear Sir / Madam,

Warding pattern review for Woking wards
As you will know, the first element of public consultation on the new warding pattern for 'Woking' proposed by Woking Borough Council came to an end on 7 March 2014 or thereabouts. We note that your initial consultation will finish on Tuesday, 1 April 2014. We have studied the proposals carefully and have examined the criteria by which the Boundary Commission direct and determine each Review.

Under the Council's proposals the West Byfleet ward has been 'deleted' and local residents have expressed very great dismay at this prospect and therefore at new the ward pattern. West Byfleet is the dominant centre in this part of the Borough with respect to retail outlets and services and within Woking Borough Council's core strategy, is cited as 'the second largest centre in the Borough' also, 'due to its size, range of uses and accessibility, it has been designated as the only District Centre in the Borough'. The electorate in 2013 was 4,331 residents with, currently, two councillors. Our local Residents Association has canvassed local opinion as is a newly established West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum proposing to undertake. We have spoken to many people in the village and have not yet met one person who does not want to see a West Byfleet ward continue. We are a strong and active community already and very few residents - if any - can understand WBC's logic. Their proposal will emasculate a large part of the community feeling - a circumstance which would be at odds with one of the principle requirements of the LGBCE guidelines.

We respectfully ask you to note that the issues on which local governance tends to be focussed in West Byfleet are different to those for our adjoining communities of Byfleet and Pyrford and we want to see the continuation of a 'West Byfleet' ward.

Yours faithfully,

David and Mary Hastie
J D & Mrs M A Hastie
**Woking District**

**Personal Details:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Peter Hill</th>
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**Organisation Name:**

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**Comment text:**

I live in an area which is to be re-named South Woking. According to WBC in its description, the area would bring together the "semi-rural" communities of Hook Heath, Mayford and Sutton Green. Yet, the proposed new ward area includes a significant swathe of Mount Hermon Ward which is far from "semi rural" and sits oddly in the proposed new Ward. Far better for the Mount Hermon element, in the north east corner of the new proposed ward, to feature in the proposed Town ward. Moreover, South Woking is out of keeping with other ward names: there is no North, East or West Woking, for example. Far better to retain the names of Hook Heath, Mayford and Sutton Green to enhance the sense of a "semi rural community". Other names might include, Woking Heaths or Heathlands, Rural Woking. I rather doubt that the area would require three elected representatives especially if Mount Hermon were to be incorporated into the Town ward.
From: Peter & Penny Hoskyn
Sent: 28 March 2014 21:04
To: Reviews@
Subject: West Byfleet / Woking BC.

Dear Sir / Madam,
I am writing to you regarding the proposals put forward by Woking BC. regarding West Byfleet.
West Byfleet is the second centre after Woking in the Borough. It has 4 banks, post office, two church, two schools, a very large health centre, 70 shops and local businesses which includes a large Waitrose, social club, taxi office, betting office, employment agencies, car and motor repair garage, kidney dialysis unit, 4 dental Practices, 6 Estate Agents and 14 Restaurants. It serves not only the local community but also the much smaller village of Pyrford.

Under these new proposal West Byfleet finds itself in two wards, half in the proposed 'Pyrford' ward and the other half in the proposed 'West Byfleet and Byfleet' ward.

The boundary line in part runs between these two wards along back gardens between the Old Woking Road and up to the railway line.

West Byfleet village could find itself with 6 councillors and the councillors for the Byfleet Ward would have to look after two commercial centres Byfleet and West Byfleet. At present West Byfleet is well served by two councillors who know and understand the village. [The Pyrford village centre is much small, just 7/8 shops]
The Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford Residents' association has served these villages for over 80 years. Each village has its own Neighbourhood Forum, this includes West Byfleet which was formed to serve all the village.

After 50 + years in West Byfleet Ward I now find myself in the Pyrford ward although I live in a Close off the Pyrford Road and no more than 4 minutes walk from the centre of West Byfleet.

I believe these proposals do not follow the criteria set down by the Boundary Commission. No clear boundary has been identified between the West Byfleet and Byfleet and the Pyrford Wards. The community and village of West Byfleet is in effect been cut in half with these proposals and each half could have opposing political councillors let along trying to get 6 councillors to agree and work together.

There is also problems over the name of the West Byfleet and Byfleet Ward. It was original called Byfleet or the Byfleets no mention of West Byfleet and even if it were called Byfleet and West Byfleet it would only be referring to half the village. Perhaps Pyrford should be Pyrford and West Byfleet which would be an accurate description of the area but I understand that the Commission does not like the word 'and'.

I feel that it is very important that all West Byfleet should be included with in one ward

Yours Faithfully,
Mrs Penny Hoskyn.
1: This area should be added to Knaphill not Brookwood as there is nothing in common we have a closer affinity with Knaphill than Brookwood as logistically it's closer and more accessible.

Comment text:

Most people think Brookwood is south of the canal anyway so it makes sense to make that the cut off point and people north of the canal interact more with Knaphill as it's just there not down the hill and to your right going where???
We do not believe that the Byfleet Ward boundary should be changed and find it particularly unacceptable for Byfleet Ward to lose its name. We are very proud of our historic village and the Ward should not be renamed or changed in any way as we foresee Woking Borough Council suggesting this, so they can make up the voting numbers. These proposals completely ignore the wishes of all communities involved and also cause problems in Pyrford and other parts of Woking.

We are strongly against this proposal.

Regards,
Byfleet Residents and Families of Ms L Jelly and Mr Paul M Peters.
I am writing to express my views regarding the proposals for the new Boundaries within Woking. On your website it clearly shows that Byfleet would be taking some of west Byfleet into its ward but when I put my address in it still says that it will be called Byfleet. So you can imagine my surprise when I was told that the Council wish to change Byfleet’s name to “The Byfleets” or “Byfleets”. I have searched the WBC site and cannot find any mention of these names.

I am STRONGLY against any name change to Byfleet and find it strange that the proposed names are not made public so that residents can have their say. I would be grateful if you could inform me if I have this information wrong and send me the link regarding the Ward Boundary proposed names.

Mrs Debbie Jones

Byfleet Resident.
I believe it important that areas that have specific community needs that may differ from surrounding areas, such as Sheerwater & Maybury, continue to have proper representation by being retained as a discrete wards, rather than being split up and absorbed into a more homogenised ward structure.
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Julian Lock

Organisation Name: 

Map Features:

Comment text:

I wish to submit my appeal against the proposed boundary changes to the Pyrford area. I live along Pine Tree Hill, which under your proposals will fall under “Woodlands” rather than “The Heath” with the rest of Pyrford. Pyrford has an excellent local spirit, with many of the residents that help to run the community and various Pyrford committees living in the area that is to be changed. I currently am a Pyrford Scout Leader and therefore am keen to see that Pyrford as a whole continues to thrive and improve. It seems daft to live in Pyrford, yet under the proposals, I would be unable to vote for the Councillor, which oversees this area. The Councillor in the other area (predominately Sheerwater) will have different priorities and agendas to those affecting our location and therefore will not devote the time, money and energy to this area as we are likely to be in the minority. Therefore, I cannot understand the overall advantages to Woking by cleaving off a section of Pyrford, which is still going to be divided by the railway line and golf course with the rest of the proposed Woodland ward. Come polling, this will mean that my family will also have to travel much further to the polling station to vote as we will have to cross over wards in order to reach the polling station, which in turn will also add to the carbon footprint for the residents. I would like you to reconsider the proposed boundary changes and produce a realistic alternative that will help both areas mentioned above.
From: Sue Lovell
Sent: 19 March 2014 10:15
Cc: Reviews@
Subject: Proposed changes to Byfleet Ward

Dear Mr Jeffrey

I've only just learnt of the proposal being considered by Woking Borough Council to amalgamate Byfleet Ward with part of West Byfleet and rename it "Byfleets". I wish to object to this proposal in the strongest possible terms.

Byfleet is a thriving local community with a very long and proud history. It has its own very distinct interests and issues, normally quite separate from those of the West Byfleet community. Byfleet has very clear physical boundaries being completely separated from West Byfleet by the 8-lane M25 and by the Wey Navigational canal.

I understand that a main criteria for deciding ward boundaries is that they should reflect community interests and identities and boundaries should be identifiable. This proposal flies in the face of this criteria and makes no sense in terms of the local communities and geography. It will inevitably damage both the growing community spirit within Byfleet and create a highly artificial split through the middle of the West Byfleet community. No-one that I've spoken to so far supports this proposal.

Please bring this objection to the attention of any meetings of WBC councillors that are to consider this proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Suzanne Lovell
I've only just learnt of the proposal being considered by Woking Borough Council to amalgamate Byfleet Ward with part of West Byfleet and rename it "Byfleets". I wish to object to this proposal in the strongest possible terms.

Byfleet is a thriving local community with a very long and proud history. It has its own very distinct interests and issues, normally quite separate from those of the West Byfleet community. Byfleet has very clear physical boundaries being completely separated from West Byfleet by the 8-lane M25 and by the Wey Navigational canal.

I understand that a main criteria for deciding ward boundaries is that they should reflect community interests and identities and boundaries should be identifiable. This proposal flies in the face of this criteria and makes no sense in terms of the local communities and geography. It will inevitably damage both the growing community spirit within Byfleet and create a highly artificial split through the middle of the West Byfleet community. No-one that I've spoken to so far supports this proposal.

Please bring this objection to the attention of any WBC meetings that are to consider this proposal.

Yours faithfully,

Richard Lovell
Dear Sir,

I strongly oppose the proposed Byfleet ward boundary change to include West Byfleet. These proposals would damage the community spirit of both thriving communities. There is already a physical boundary, namely the canal and M25.

Once again I would like to register my objection to the boundary changes.

Michael Luck
Member of Byfleet Residents Assn.