Local resident submissions to the Woking Borough Council electoral review

This PDF document contains submissions from local residents.

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Surnames D
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Christopher Dackham
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]

Organisation Name: Resident of Woodham

Comment text:

I object to Woodham being taken out of Horsell Ward and joined with Sheerwater. I do not wish to become part of Sheerwater.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Leonie Dackham
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: Resident of Woodham

Comment text:

I object to Woodham being taken out of Horsell Ward and joined with Sheerwater. I do not wish to become part of Sheerwater.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Susan Dackham

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Resident of Woodham

Comment text:

I object to Woodham being taken out of Horsell Ward and joined with Sheerwater. I do not wish to become part of Sheerwater.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
**Woking District**

**Personal Details:**

Name: Zoe Dackham  
E-mail: [Redacted]  
Postcode: [Redacted]  
Organisation Name: Resident of Woodham

**Comment text:**

I object to Woodham being taken out of Horsell Ward and joined with Sheerwater. I do not wish to become part of Sheerwater.

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Roy Dainty
E-mail: 
Postcode: 
Organisation Name: 

Feature Annotations

Map Features:

Annotation 1: Woodlands & Hollies to remain in West Byfleet
Annotation 2: 

Comment text:

Moving Woodlands Avenue and Hollies Avenue into Sheerwater is for smoothing out electorate numbers purposes only. The move fails all other considerations. These roads are in West Byfleet, always have been and should remain so. They have nothing in common with Sheerwater. Electoral numbers do not matter as Sheerwater councillors would not understand these two avenues whereas the West Byfleet councillors (especially Richard Wilson) do to considerable extent. These roads are in the West Byfleet Neighbourhood Watch area, not Sheerwater's which is a very different consideration for insurers. All of the major services for these two avenues are based in West Byfleet not in Sheerwater - library, Post Office, restaurants, Waitrose and other supermarkets, Estate Agents, Social Club and so on. The avenues are distinctively different in character to the main ones of Sheerwater. Losing Woodlands and Hollies to Sheerwater feels like a disenfranchisement, one that should not happen. It is not in the best interests of the residents of these avenues for whom 'West Byfleet' is where we live and the community to which we contribute. Changing the boundary as proposed by the Commission has about as much common sense as did creating straight line boundaries across Africa. We are wholly opposed to this change.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Annette Damianoff
E-mail: [Redacted]
Postcode: [Redacted]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

Hello, Hereby I object against the proposal of merging Woodham and Sheerwater together. As a resident of Woodham ([Redacted]), we are disconnected from Sheerwater completely by the Basingstoke Canal and we would either go to Horsell or Woking for our daily shopping, interaction, public services (i.e. trains etc) and see no economical, social or political benefit or overlap in merging these two. Kind regards, Annette Damianoff

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Dear Sir/Madam,

We have lived in Woodham for 45 years and would like to register our strong objection to the Boundary Commission proposal to merge Woodham with Sheerwater to form a three councillor Sheerwater ward.

The Basingstoke canal is a natural barrier between the two communities, which is crossed only at the extreme ends of the proposed ward, and we strongly support the alternative proposal that Woodham should join with Horsell to form a three councillor ward. This would provide a cohesive ward with broad similarities, both demographically and geographically.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. & Mrs. K.J. Daniells
Dear Sirs,

I wish to object strongly to the proposed joining of the Woodham Ward with that of Sheerwater. The two wards are completely geographically separated by the Basingstoke Canal and the two communities are very dissimilar in interests and requirements.

I would expect the strong feelings in the Woodham ward to be respected.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.Davenport
To Whom It May Concern

I wish to register my strong objection to the proposal to include Woodlands Avenue as part of the Sheerwater ward. I am a resident in Woodlands Avenue and have lived here since December 1996. In its consultation paper, the Commission has made it clear that the current ward boundary proposals are influenced by 4 factors. However, the proposal to include Woodlands Avenue (Hollies Avenue, Old Avenue) fails to take into account 3 out of the 4 factors:

Residents in Woodlands Avenue identify with the community interests and identity of West Byfleet:
• Travelling to work from West Byfleet,
• Shopping in West Byfleet,
• Using West Byfleet library,
• Eating in the restaurants of West Byfleet
• Attending the West Byfleet Health Centre
• Children attend the schools in West Byfleet

We are part of the West Byfleet Residents’ Association, affiliated with Byfleet and Pyrford.
We are part of the West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum.

The clearly identifiable boundary is the Sheerwater Road and the Basingstoke canal. A review of the local map makes it clear that these boundaries have been ignored.

By contrast, Sheerwater includes an number of streets which are defined within the 14% most deprived areas nationally and the most deprived in Surrey. (This information can be found on the Woking Borough website.) For this reason the current regeneration of Sheerwater is much needed. However, the interests of Sheerwater, the identity of Sheerwater, the transport links of Sheerwater have no relevance to the residents of Woodlands Avenue. An effective and convenient local government, as represented by the councillors in the ward of Sheerwater, would serve the interests of those Sheerwater residents and not the residents of Woodlands Avenue.

You will have received a petition from the residents of Woodlands Avenue which shows the strength of feeling about the proposed changes. I strongly recommend that you revise your proposals and include Woodlands Avenue, Hollies Avenue and Old Avenue as part of the Byfleet and West Byfleet ward.

Yours sincerely

Isabelle David
28th August 2014

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

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing to you to oppose the proposals set out for the new ward of Sheerwater. I am particularly concerned about three West Byfleet roads which would be redesignated as part of this new ward: Old Avenue, Hollies Avenue and Woodlands Road.

My reasons are outlined below:

1. All three roads are part of the parishes of St John's Church and Our Lady Help of Christians in WEST BYFLEET not Sheerwater.

2. Sheerwater is the name given to a social housing estate built in the 1950s- it has never been a village in its own right. West Byfleet was established in the early 1900s as was Old Avenue, the road in which I live.

3. I would draw your attention to Wikipedia's entry for West Byfleet. The only road which is actually mentioned by name is Old Avenue. I quote: 'Old Avenue has been designated a conservation area due to its Arcadian environment of substantial family homes of interesting architecture and still good sized gardens. It is considered the most desirable location of the parish as it is within easy walking distance of West Byfleet Station and is a no through road, a safe and beautiful place to live.'

4. Following on from the above quote from Wikipedia, I feel it is only fair to express my concern at the idea of moving Old Avenue and the other aforementioned roads out of West Byfleet and placing them in Sheerwater. Sheerwater was, as I pointed out before, built as a social housing estate and is still largely so. To be placed under this umbrella would, without a doubt, significantly reduce the value of all properties in the three West Byfleet roads.

In conclusion, the plan to move the location of the roads is unacceptable and I hope that you will take my views into consideration.

Yours faithfully
**Woking District**

**Personal Details:**

**Name:** Sarah Davies  
**E-mail:** [REDACTED]  
**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:**

**Comment text:**

As a homeowner, voter and active part of the Woodham community I am shocked at Woking Council’s decision to amalgamate our ward with the Ward of Sheerwater. Woodham and Sheerwater are not only separated by a geographical boundary (The Basingstoke Canal) but also by our different demographics, social practices, religious and political beliefs. I firmly believe that if the Wards’ are going to truly reflect those districts that share distinct commonality then Woodham should be joined with Horsell. Woodham already shares a joint community spirit, a shared demographic and similar religious & political beliefs with Horsell. I object to Woodham being joined with Sheerwater as proposed.

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded
The Review Officer. (Woking)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Lyden House  
76-86 Turnmill Street  
London  
EC1M 5LG

19 September 2014

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Current stage of the review consultation on Ward Pattern for Woking Borough Council

I am writing to you as an “interested observer” in respect of the proposed Ward changes to West Byfleet/Byfleet, Sheerwater and Woodham Woking. I have been established as a Partner of a successful and well known Estate Agency, trading as Waterfalls Sales & Lettings at West Byfleet and Woking. I have been approached by two local people, namely Mrs Brenda Osborn from Old Avenue, West Byfleet and Mrs Veronica Semon-Ward from Woodham Waye, Woodham (Veronica works for my company and Mrs Osborn has had dealings with this firm in the past).

I feel that I am a representative of residents, within the area that I personally work, which includes Byfleet, West Byfleet, Pyrford and Woodham (our Woking office look after other parts of the Woking area).

I can understand the need for fair division of Wards but I do feel that geographically the areas of the new Wards are ill-conceived. You say within your draft recommendations that the electoral equality from local voters must be considered as should community identity but I feel that the divisions between Wards you have created in reducing the number of Wards don’t take into account these requirements.

The social engineering appears to create Wards of approx. 7500 people and the Sheerwater Ward appears to be the most contentious, from where I work at West Byfleet.

I completely agree with Brenda Osborn that Old Avenue, Hollies Avenue, Woodlands Avenue and Sheerwater Cottages should be retained within the West Byfleet Ward in terms of the electoral equality for local voters and particularly the community identity.

Woodham Woking has no relationship to Sheerwater either and logistically it is just as difficult to take public transport from Horsell to Woodham as it is from Woodham Woking to Sheerwater. Again the electoral equality would not be representative for most of the voters in Woodham, or for that matter Sheerwater voters either.
The area from the six crossroads roundabout to the right hand side of Woodham Lane is known locally as Woodham Woking but I can recall back in the 1980’s a sign announcing that the area was Horsell and of course it remains in the Horsell Ward at present.

In respect of identification of areas to which people relate to, Sheerwater plays no part in either Woodham or West Byfleet.

On studying the plan of Woking and the proposed new Wards, it seems very odd that the Mount Hermon Ward includes parts of Maybury whereas the Town Centre appears to be covered by Sheerwater. Surely Sheerwater should include the Maybury Estate which is an area between the railway bridge in Monument Road/Maybury Hill to the east before it reaches College Road/East Hill. In my opinion this area should belong to Sheerwater. The Maybury Estate is bordered by the railway line, Balmoral Drive, but inclusive of Balmoral Drive and Maybury Hill. This would then allow the small part of West Byfleet which is proposed to be added to Sheerwater (namely Woodlands Avenue, Hollies Avenue, Old Avenue and Sheerwater Cottages) to be returned to West Byfleet and the area to the south-east of Woodham Lane bordered by the Basingstoke Canal which includes Woodham Waye, The Riding, The Gateway, Laurel Crescent etc. all the way to Sheerwater Road, Holm Close and Silver Birch Close to continue within the Horsell Ward.

I understand your wish to create clean lines for boundaries but life offers few straight lines and I think that the history, identity and electoral equality needs to be taken into account within the changes you intend to make.

If you have any queries regarding my views I will be happy to participate further.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew R. Davis: MNAEA MARLA
Senior Partner
5th October 2014

The Review Officer [Woking] LGBCE, 76-78 Turnmill Street, London EC1M 5LG

Dear Sir

Ward Boundary re-organisation – West Byfleet, Surrey

We are writing as residents of Woodlands Avenue in response to the proposed Ward changes.

We strongly object to the proposed changes which would place Woodlands Avenue together with Hollies Avenue and Old Avenue into the ward of Sheerwater.

The Boundary Commission has asked the public to follow certain criteria when looking at and suggesting new ward boundaries however it now seems that the Commission has not followed its own advice or standards in the case of West Byfleet, in that the Commission’s objective to try and equalise the number of electors that each councillor will represent, has been placed above Community identity and Effective local government.

We feel from personal experience our current councillors have a very good understanding of the local residents and understand the village. Dividing the village into three wards will mean, residents will have to consult with numerous Councillors none of whom will have an overall picture of West Byfleet and we feel as a resident of Woodlands Avenue we will no longer have a voice on matters affecting the village. Each councillor will also be representing three other separate communities which in our view cannot be effective. Our fear is that as a result West Byfleet will suffer and that as a resident of Woodlands Avenue we will be excluded, increasingly so over time.

Most of the homes built in Hollies Avenue, Woodlands Avenue and Old Avenue have been part of West Byfleet village since before the Second World War. As a residents of Woodlands Avenue we feel very much a resident of West Byfleet, we walk into the village, use the village’s facilities, transport links and identify ourselves as being part of the village. We have no engagement or linking with Sheerwater. We cannot see any advantage in these roads becoming part of a Sheerwater ward. In addition Woking Borough Council are about to build 500 new homes in Sheerwater so the Commissions objective to try and equalise the number of electors for each councillor will be lost within the next two or three years.

We ask that the Boundary Commission urgently review their proposal, which we consider impractical, and return Woodlands Avenue together with Hollies Avenue and Old Avenue into the Byfleet and West Byfleet Ward to prevent any split in our community.

Yours faithfully,

Mr & Mrs Davis
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Robby De Barr
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I strongly object to the changing of boundaries that would include Woodham in the Sheerwater district. Our insurance premiums will increase, doctors will probably need to change, school catchment areas will be affected, just to mention a few adverse effects. This is a political change and does not give enough consideration to the people who live in the areas to be affected. How many councillors homes and families will be affected ?? I understand there will be fewer councillors but that is an economic / political change! Who Are the beneficiaries of doing this ...the politicians..certainly not the residents.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
To the Boundary Commission

Please find attached my letter of objection to the boundary change trying to incorporate bits of Horsell to Sheerwater.

I have been living in Horsell for nearly two years. I shop, socialise, walk and live in Horsell where I feel there is a community spirit. I know my neighbours, my local pub, supermarkets, etc. I have never stepped foot in Sheerwater as I have never had the need to nor the desire to.

Incorporating the small portion of Horsell into Sheerwater is a big mistake and makes absolutely no sense.

I ask that you reconsider your boundaries.

Regards
Valerie
Valerie de Liedekerke
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.
• 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]
Porter, Johanna

From: terry dell <>
Sent: 05 August 2014 09:26
To: Reviews@
Subject: Boundary changes to Woodham Woking.

With regard to the proposed boundary changes stripping Woodham from the Councils recommendation of joining it with Horsell and merging it with Sheerwater, I have to say that I find it totally incomprehensible. Anybody who lives in the area would know that there is almost no commonality of interest or culture between the two, the demographics are entirely different. There is no link across the proposed ward as the only way in or out of Sheerwater are at its extremities whilst the links between Horsell and Woodham in terms of transport links are myriad.

The logical boundaries to Sheerwater ward are the Basingstoke canal on the one side and the railway on the other. The only reason to take Woodham into Sheerwater is to satisfy some box ticking as to electoral numbers. It would be equally as logical to add the area of Pyrford bounded by the railway, Maybury Road, College Road/ East Hill, Old Woking Road and Sheerwater Road.

Being a Woodham resident I hope I may be forgiven for being partisan but it feels as if we in Woodham would be totally disenfranchised if the proposed changes go ahead. Our recent experiences have not been good in this respect.

Whilst it is laudable to provide bigger and better educational facilities in Woking it seems that the noise and light pollution affecting Woodham residents from developments at Bishop David Brown School and the Athletic Track are ignored.

Our recent experience with public transport reorganisation gives little hope of our concerns being addressed by representatives of Sheerwater.

Until April 2014 Woodham had a public transport link to a supermarket that operated hourly, then in order to provide a more reliable service in terms of time keeping, the bus route operating through Woodham was diverted through Sheerwater. This I think had more to do with reducing the number of buses that the transport provider needed to run rather than improvements to the service. Be that as it may, Sheerwater retained its 4 buses an hour to supermarkets six days a week and Woodham was awarded a service, which at the outset was not guaranteed, of transport to a supermarket 3 times a day but only on three days a week. From this you may possibly understand why we in Woodham feel that the proposed changes would be totally adverse to our interests and that the interests of Woodham residents would be totally subservient to the vote seeking interests of Sheerwater councillors.
Hello, I understand this is the email address I can use to have my say about recent proposals to the pattern of wards in the West Byfleet area.

I would like to register with you that I do not agree with the proposals.

I moved to [redacted] in West Byfleet nearly 2 years ago with my son and husband because I liked the community identity and felt the area reflected community interests. I also liked the amenities available - namely the local school (West Byfleet) which I'd like my son to go to when he's of school age, as well as the health centre, etc. As well as my worry that my access to these amenities will be affected by the new ward boundaries, it seems illogical that West Byfleet town will no longer be considered our local town. Sheerwater is at least 25 minutes walk away from my house so it doesn't seem logical that my neighbours and I will belong to this ward.

With regards to the belonging to the Sheerwater ward, there are little or no transport links between there and West Byfleet. The community feel is not as strong as West Byfleet either; in fact the communities are very distinct, with different interests, facilities, services and groups.

I hope this goes some way towards preventing the boundary change from happening.

Do let me know if you need anything else from me.

Thanks and kind regards
Louisa
Dear Review Officer,

I live in and under your unacceptable proposals we will become part of the proposed new Sheerwater Ward.

I would firstly like to congratulate Woking Borough Council for their wide ranging consultation process and for the eminently sensible proposals that they submitted to you. They listened to their residents and responded wisely to the views expressed by their residents. The whole exercise was a good example of democracy and local government in action. People who are answerable to the electorate listen to that electorate but equally meet and satisfy the parameters and requirements as laid down by Parliament.

As far as I can see the proposals that they submitted to you fully meet all legal requirements re number of councillors; names and number of Wards and greater electoral equality both current and projected through to 2019. Indeed under their proposals the Variations from Average are tighter than your proposals.

I can only echo the words of Jonathan Lord MP - the proposals are robust and sensible.

I have read your report in some detail.

I would like to have the following additional information.

1. Which members of the Boundary Commission actually visited Woking and in particular the current West Byfleet Ward?

2. What were the dates of the visits and how long was spent touring the Wards?

3. Who showed you around the current West Byfleet Ward?

4. Many of the local communities are being protected. However West Byfleet is being dismembered and its local identity effectively destroyed with a callous disregard for its history and shared characteristics. Why?

5. As regards Old Avenue and the immediate surrounding roads what did you actually look at to assess its community identity compatibility and transport links with Sheerwater? Personally I am unable to identify any.

I look forward to your reply.

Thank you and kind regards.

Stewart and Aileen Dick
Dear Review Officer,

I live in Oak Park, Old Avenue and under your unacceptable proposals we will become part of the proposed new Sheerwater Ward.

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5. As regards Old Avenue and the immediate surrounding roads what did you actually look at to assess its community identity compatibility and transport links with Sheerwater? Personally I am unable to identify any.

I look forward to your reply.

Thank you and kind regards.

Stewart and Aileen Dick
Dear Ms. Porter,

We live in Oak Park, Old Avenue and further to our email of the 29th July (and the helpful response from Sarah Vallotton dated 31st July) we now write to object to and oppose the draft proposals of the Boundary Commission under which we will become part of a new ward to be named Sheerwater.

I believe that the West Byfleet roads that will be impacted by this inadequately considered and disturbing draft proposal are as follows:

Old Avenue
Oak Park  }
Old Avenue Close     }    accessed from
The Glade           }    Old Avenue
Reed Place          }

The Hollies         }
Woodlands Avenue    }    accessed from
Silver Birch Close  }    Sheerwater Road

(together the "Above Roads")

I submit that your proposals are ill informed and misguided for, inter alia, the following reasons.

**Transport Links**

You have chosen not to accept the well researched and much debated recommendations of Woking Borough Council ("WBC") in order better to reflect transport and communication links in this part of the Borough.

I am sorry but you are wrong. There are good transport links with West Byfleet and Pyrford but poor links with Sheerwater.

Your draft proposals are not an accurate reflection of the transport links.

**Community Groups**

I am aware of the following community groups:

i) The West Byfleet Neighbourhood Forum. This is a reasonably new forum but has an approved constitution, and is now active in focusing on business and commercial planning issues along with the necessary infrastructure requirements.
ii) The Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford Residents Association which is very well established and has successfully represented our interests over many years.

iii) The Neighbourhood Watch Association. We come within the Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team.

None of these above associations have any involvement in or responsibility for anywhere in Sheerwater. We are very clearly part of the greater West Byfleet community.

iv) Your draft proposals cut across the Parish Boundaries. It may be that in these secular days you care little for such matters but it is unlikely that the Prime Minister will share your views.

**Facilities**

Below are just some of the facilities that we use in West Byfleet/Pyrford.

**Professional**

- Health Centre/Doctors
- Dentist
- Opticians
- Veterinary Service
- Sports Injury Clinic
- Churches
- Banks

**Transport**

- West Byfleet Train Station
- Taxi Service
- Bus Service

**Educational**

- Library
- Schools

**Retail**

I am not going to list the numerous shops and suffice it to say most of our day to day requirements can be and are sourced in the West Byfleet/Pyrford shops.

There is zero retail need or desire to visit Sheerwater.

**Others**

West Byfleet is well served by a variety of restaurants and has a most helpful post office.

**Interest**

The interests that bind our community are very simply a combination of the above with residents being proud and concerned to be part of life in a flourishing and stable West Byfleet.

**Identifiable Boundaries**

You have revised the WBC proposals in order "to follow the railway line and the western boundary to ensure that it follows clear ground detail." So what. What is so special about the railway line? You could just as easily for example have chosen the Basingstoke Canal.

Perhaps even more pertinent is that in the proposed Byfleet and West Byfleet ward you have communities separated by the M25 and the Wey Navigation but you argue round that on the basis of the need to have broadly equal population weighting.

So on that basis "clear ground detail" is only relevant when it suits you.
Conclusions

1. As regards the Above Roads there are poor transport links with Sheerwater and good transport links with West Byfleet and Pyrford.

2. There is little if any shared community identity between the Above Roads and Sheerwater

3. Nor are there shared priorities.

4. As regards Facilities the ones we use are primarily based in West Byfleet.

5. I fear that the interest of Sheerwater will dominate your proposed ward of Sheerwater and the residents of the Above Roads will effectively be dis-enfranchised (also see 6 below).

6. Of course I fully understand and accept that the main critical reason for the current review is to achieve an equalisation of ward populations (both current and projected) to ensure that residents have a vote of broadly equal weight across the Borough.

As regards the projected (2019) electorate population for the proposed Sheerwater ward I am surprised at the almost non-existent increase in the electorate numbers as I had rather understood that the regeneration of Sheerwater would result in the construction of many new houses with the inevitable rise in population.

You state that under your draft recommendations none of the proposed wards will have electoral variances of more than 10% from the average for the Borough by 2019 and that therefore you are satisfied that you have achieved good levels of electoral equality.

May I remind you that under the proposals submitted by WBC (an elected body responsible to their electorate) there was exactly the same outcome. All their projected variances were comfortably within your 10% parameter.

Their largest projected variance (but still comfortably within 10%) was in the Woking Central ward which you appear to have amended by renaming it Sheerwater ward and extending it to include the Above Roads. Including the Above Roads is illogical and unnecessary.

7. Of course my preference is very much that we remain in the West Byfleet ward but equally I do understand the demographic problems that this gives rise to. All of the above issues and many more were fully considered and debated by WBC and their final recommendations had Old Avenue etc. as part of the Pyrford ward.

As Jonathan Lord MP stated - the proposals are robust and sensible.

On page 5 paragraph 12 of your report you state the following:-

"with the need to:
  • secure effective and convenient local government
  • provide for equality of representation
  • reflect the identities and interests of local communities, in particular
    o the desirability of arriving at boundaries that are easily identifiable
    o the desirability of fixing boundaries so as not to break any local ties"

So the identities and interests of our immediate local community are to be torn asunder and destroyed for the sake of a railway line (and we know that you are happy to ignore motorways and water). This is a totally unjust, unjustified and reprehensible proposal on your part. Be in no doubt that you are breaking local ties. Indeed you will crush them. Your proposals are disrespectful to the residents of the Above Roads.

You also state on page 5 paragraph 15 that there is no evidence that your proposals will have an adverse effect on house prices. What research have you conducted and what representations have you received to support this bold assertion?

8. I appreciate that for Sir Tony Redmond as Lead Commissioner to tour the Borough in one day was indeed a challenging and daunting task. We are discussing a Borough of 10 proposed Wards and an electorate of circa 75,000 people. Had he perhaps been able to spend longer and enjoy a more comprehensive and informed visit I am sure that he would have appreciated that there really is no shared community identity between the Above Roads and his proposed ward of Sheerwater.
I very much hope that the Boundary Commission will reconsider their proposals and as regards the Above Roads if possible incorporate us within the proposed WestByfleet/Byfleet ward and if not then adopt the WBC recommendation that Old Avenue etc. becomes part of the Pyrford ward.

Thank you and kind regards.

Stewart and Aileen Dick
To: The Review Officer (Woking)  
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
Layden House  
76-786 Turnmills Street  
London EC1M 5LG  

Re: Borough Boundary Review Consultation  
In particular for Boundary Changes to Horsell West in October 2014  

From ..Marina Dieck  

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.  

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 5-10-14..................................  

Name printed: Marina Dieck.  

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

PTO
1st September 2014

RECEIVED
12 SEP 2014

Dear Sir, Madam,

As an elderly lady living in Old Avenue, your proposals for the new Ward of Heathwaite fills me with gloom and despair. When people plan their retirement, special attention is given to convenience to shops, church services and medical centres, so please give us some consideration in your plans. West Byfleet Village has been created by the Residents down the years, with everybody's needs in mind.

I definitely oppose your plans for the New Ward of Heathwaite.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature]
28th August 2014

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

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing to you to oppose the proposals set out for the new ward of Sheerwater. I am particularly concerned about three West Byfleet roads which would be redesignated as part of this new ward: Old Avenue, Hollies Avenue and Woodlands Road.

My reasons are outlined below:

1. All three roads are part of the parishes of St John's Church and Our Lady Help of Christians in WEST BYFLEET nct Sheerwater.

2. Sheerwater is the name given to a social housing estate built in the 1950s- it has never been a village in its own right. West Byfleet was established in the early 1900s as was Old Avenue, the road in which I live.

3. I would draw your attention to Wikipedia's entry for West Byfleet. The only road which is actually mentioned by name is Old Avenue. I quote: 'Old Avenue has been designated a conservation area due to its Arcadian environment of substantial family homes of interesting architecture and still good sized gardens. It is considered the most desirable location of the parish as it is within easy walking distance of West Byfleet Station and is a no through road, a safe and beautiful place to live.'

4. Following on from the above quote from Wikipedia, I feel it is only fair to express my concern at the idea of moving Old Avenue and the other aforementioned roads out of West Byfleet and placing them in Sheerwater. Sheerwater was, as I pointed out before, built as a social housing estate and is still largely so. To be placed under this umbrella would, without a doubt, significantly reduce the value of all properties in the three West Byfleet roads.

In conclusion, the plan to move the location of the roads is unacceptable and I hope that you will take my views into consideration.

Yours faithfully
Dear Sir

As a resident of West Byfleet for the last 37 years I strongly oppose for Hollies Avenue, Woodlands Avenue and Old Avenue to join with Sheerwater and that they should remain under West Byfleet.

All my local services are associated with West Byfleet, such at The Marist School (where my son attends), Our Place of Worship, Doctors Surgery, Local Shops and Train Station

I am deeply unhappy regarding proposed changes to link only these three roads in West Byfleet with Sheerwater.

You talk about community identity, West Byfleet is a community in its own right and we will be making sure that the residents in these three roads are fully informed of your proposals.

Again strongly oppose these proposals.

Yours faithfully

Samantha Doherty
The Review Officer,(Woking ward proposed boundary change,)
Local Government Boundary commission for England,
Lynden House,
76 / 86 Turnmill Street,
LONDON.
EC1M5LG.
1 September 2014.

Dear Sir Madam,

**Re- your proposals to include Old Avenue, Woodlands avenue,Hollies Avenue, in the Sheerwater ward.**

I write to strongly object to the proposed new boundary change for the above community’s,

All our local services are associated to West Byfleet, Schools, places of worship, shops, Train station.

Our Local Post code, Std code, the level of Council tax banding, Property value.

The visual aspect and property type, and we the people who live within this community.

We have our own self contained neighbourhood watch scheme, and safer policing team.

The sense of belonging to the Village community.

The rural setting especially of Old Avenue.

Old Avenue is listed as a local conversation area by Woking Borough Council

All of the above points would be lost if the proposed boundary change went ahead.

Sheerwater is currently under going a regeneration scheme which will add a extra 500 dwellings to the elector registry

We have never used any of the facilities in Sheerwater in 27yrs, not even to drive through

In conclusion I ask you to look again at the boundary line to keep the above areas in the West Byfleet or Pyrford ward.

Old Avenue Resident for 27yrs

Yours Faithfully

Michael and Josephine Doherty
Community identity reflects the identity and interests of local communities.

We have lived in West Byfleet since 1975, before that in Byfleet. Our children went to schools in West Byfleet, where I was chairwoman of the P.F.A. for one year.

We use the Doctors, Dentist, Vets and Library and regularly shop in West Byfleet.

If we have to go to Woking, we go by train from West Byfleet Station or drive up to six cross roads roundabout.

We never drive, walk or go through Sheerwater.

We wish to vote for our local issues that concern where we live in West Byfleet not Sheerwater.
Dear Sirs,

I would like to register my concerns regarding the proposed boundary changes for West Byfleet.

I currently reside in Hollies Avenue, West Byfleet and am within a 4 minute walk of both West Byfleet Station and shops. You are proposing to join us with Sheerwater Ward. Sheerwater, is considerably further from me and the closest local shops are not within walking distance. It occurs to me that both Sheerwater Road and the Basingstoke Canal provide ‘strong and easily identifiable boundaries’ in the argument to remain in the West Byfleet Ward, or to become part of the newly proposed Byfleet & West Byfleet Ward. Most of the families in our road with young children attend the schools in West Byfleet. As a result of this, events such as the now annual ‘party in the park’ held on West Byfleet Recreation Ground and Ride London which passes through West Byfleet High Street have become proper community events.

Sheerwater suffers from a higher crime rate and has a far higher percentage of social housing. The demographics of the two area’s are significantly different.

When voting, I consider how my vote will influence and affect my community. West Byfleet is my community. I use the local shops virtually every day. My doctor practices at the West Byfleet Health Centre, my Dentist is on the High Street, as are my Optician and my Vet. I often travel into London, so transport links including trains and buses are very important to me. Given my proximity to the station, parking is a very emotive issue, as people park in our road to walk to the station. I frequently walk my dog in the recreation ground in West Byfleet and along the canal, so smaller issues such as the placement of bins for dog waste are things I would wish my vote to influence. If I were voting in the Sheerwater Ward, these things would not be considered as relevant as they are in a different Ward.

I also have concerns regarding how this will affect the value’s of the properties in Hollies Avenue, Woodlands Avenue and Old Avenue. House prices in Sheerwater are below average. The current boundary of Sheerwater is where Albert Road joins Sheerwater Road. From this point Sheerwater properties have a GU21 post code, whereas we have a KT14 post code.

I look forward to receiving confirmation that you have considered the points I have raised, and would like to make clear my strong objection to the proposed change.

Yours faithfully,

Sandra Donovan
For the attention of the Review Body.

We are strongly 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.

In addition, we are also against the permanent removal of the Woodham name from the proposed names of the new wards.

Every Woodham resident appreciates that the Basingstoke Canal separates Woodham from Sheerwater which is crossed only at the extreme ends of the ward. As a result there is little or no communality of interests and certainly no sense of neighbourhood between the two areas. Indeed travelling between the two areas is a tad difficult as the A25 between Woodham and Sheerwater suffers from heavy traffic at peak times and is I understand one of the roads that is part of a route management study.

Having been residents within the Woodham Estate for over twenty years we can confirm that there are many community affinities between Woodham and Horsell as both are predominately prosperous, residential leafy suburbs containing mostly detached housing with many private roads.

We therefore 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

Mr & Mrs Dougherty
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: James Dowdeswell
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I object to the proposed new boundary. There can be little community interest when the Basingstoke canal divides the two areas. If the wards require numerical rationalisation it would make more sense to incorporate part of Mount Hermon Pyrford or Byfleet. Alternatively adjust the number of councillors representing the wards. I speak on behalf of 2 voters, myself and my wife.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Porter, Johanna

From: David Dowling <>
Sent: 20 September 2014 17:32
To: Reviews@

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Pls be advised that I live in Hollies Avenue, West Byfleet. This road adjoining Woodlands Avenue is adjacent to the the town centre. However under the proposed plan these two roads, along with one other are to be split from West Byfleet and aligned to another town Sheerwater, some distance away, a place that I doubt anyone in these two roads visits for the purposes of shopping [as West Byfleet has own broader range of stores], socialising [as not aware that Sheerwater has any restaurants], travel [Sheerwater has no railway station], nor schooling [as each place functions totally separate for purposes of schooling]. Not to mention churches – and impact on peoples faiths. Now whilst I can understand the idea behind hoping to have equal wards, more importantly those living in the wards need have some identity to it. There is no connection whatsoever between Hollies, Woodlands and Sheerwater. For a start they are separated by the A245, and the town centre of Sheerwater is some distance from Hollies/Woodlands. Furthermore a recognised linkage between areas is the post code, so are people seriously suggesting splitting a portion of the KT14 [Hollies/Woodlands] and placing into a larger GU** [not even certain what code is]? But really is about identity, Hollies & Woodlands ARE West Byfleet, not on the peripheral but the centre, so if were to be moved then really is saying that our votes are not valid, as there would be no point our voting as wouldn’t impact us, and besides I take it any polling station instead of being a 5 min walk away in central West Byfleet would be 20 mins away by car (and with no direct public transport link) away in Sheerwater, where’s the council’s green credentials in that?

Regards.
David & Pauline Dowling
The Review Officer (Woking)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London
EC1M 5LG

Dear Sir/Madam

1 October 2014

Submission made in response to consultation on the Woking Boundary Review

Further to Catherine Tann’s letter of 30 September I write to object to the splitting up of West Byfleet in the draft proposals. There are three roads, Woodlands, Hollies and Old Avenues which are part of the West Byfleet community. By applying your own questions to the draft proposed boundary for Sheerwater, inclusion of these roads in Sheerwater fails the tests set for community identity. I therefore propose to keep them within West Byfleet.

Community Identity

Hollies, Woodlands and Old Avenue have strong community links to West Byfleet through their
- Proximity to West Byfleet Station on foot (transport links)
- Being covered by the Three Villages Residents’ Association (community group)
- Walking distance to the diverse range of West Byfleet’s shops, services and Medical facilities
- Separate identity from Sheerwater which is a more urban environment undergoing regeneration and has different priorities and a separate centre of gravity.

Electoral Equality

Paragraph 53 of the report on the draft proposals says the Maybury Estate was not merged with Pyrford on basis that “it had a distinct and separate identity”. The same argument holds for separating this part of West Byfleet (the three avenues) from the Sheerwater Estate. Sheerwater is undergoing a regeneration project which is intended to make the area better for those that live there; however it does mean that the councillors representing that area will have their priorities dictated by the regeneration. It is likely that the addition of three roads which are not part of the natural community there, will mean that the electors in those roads are not given the same focus and will not get the electoral equality promised.

By keeping the three avenues in West Byfleet, about 600 electors would be added and could easily be accommodated in the proposed Byfleet and West Byfleet ward, keeping it within the 10% variance (7973+600 = 8573 variance 9.9%). Alternatively they could be accommodated in the Pyrford ward and stay within the target variance or the roads could be split between West Byfleet and Pyrford. Any of the above options would meet electoral equality and community identity better than the LGBC draft proposal, and I object to the current draft proposal.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Drabble
Summary of draft recommendations


Press release

http://www.lgbce.org.uk/news/electoral-review/woking-residents-have-your-say-on-new-ward-boundaries

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database rights 2013.

https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/2341

30/09/2014
Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my dismay over the Boundary Commission's response to Woking Council’s recommendations. Woking decided to join Woodham to Horsell to form a three councilor ward. There was general agreement that this arrangement would provide a cohesive locality and that there were many broad similarities, both demographic and geographic, in the combined wards. The same cannot be said of Sheerwater, on the opposite side of the Basingstoke Canal. There is little community of interest or sense of neighbourhood between Woodham and Sheerwater not least because of the Canal.

The Commission’s Response ignores the Woking proposal, reached after much debate and seems to forget local people know more about their area than the Commission. I hope the Commission will reconsider.

Yours faithfully

J.Drysdale (Mrs)
Woking District

Personal Details:

**Name:** Adrian Dykes  
**E-mail:** [REDACTED]  
**Postcode:** [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:**

**Comment text:**

I wish to oppose the current draft recommendation for new ward layout for the Byfleet & West Byfleet wards. We are in Woodlands Avenue & feel that the boundary between West Byfleet & Sheerwater should be moved & Sheerwater Road should be used as the boundary line as this would be a stronger, easily identifiable boundary rather than the way you have set it out. I also feel that the boundary between West Byfleet & Pyrford should also follow Madera Rd until the mini roundabout with Sheerwater Road for the same reasons. You also advise that you wish to reflect community interests & identities & we feel that the identities of West Byfleet & Sheerwater are different with Sheerwater having a larger multi-cultural/Ethnic society thus they will have different needs & priorities when it comes to voting for local issues. Woodlands Avenue is also in West Byfleet, we use the health service/shops etc. within west Byfleet & as such feel that our voting issues would best be serviced by being in the West Byfleet ward.

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded