

# Oxhey Hall Residents' Association

27 August 2012

The Review Office (Three Rivers),  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England,  
Layden House,  
76 – 86 Tummill Street,  
London,  
EC1M 5LG

RECEIVED

29 AUG 2012

Dear Sir / Madam,

This Residents' Association represents in excess of 900 households within the Oxhey Hall ward of Three Rivers District Council. This is about 90% of the electorate of this ward. We have a subscribing membership of about 800 households and our committee meets monthly. The central part of our membership area is now a Conservation Area. A copy of our constitution is attached.

Whilst recognising the need for some reduction in the size of the District Council for the reasons set out in the political party submissions to you, we are strongly of the view that the various wards and parishes within the district are so distinct and well defined that any merger of councillor representation would be in great danger of damaging the close links which exist at the moment between councillors and their respective constituencies. Any major change in the constituency boundaries could present councillors with a conflict of interest if their new constituency contains parts of significantly different regions.

For this reason we are greatly concerned that this review is only considering the size of the council. The number of councillors is intimately linked to the consideration of new boundaries for the reason explained above and so we urge you to take this into account when deciding the most appropriate number of councillors. It is potentially extremely damaging to approach this change to local government from a purely numerical standpoint – the geography and history of the area must inform the process otherwise irreversible damage will be done to the good will which exists between populations, their elected councillors and the officers of the council.

We are also concerned that a significantly reduced council with fewer committees at which members of the general public can make a contribution 'from the floor' will reduce the democratic accountability of the council. To illustrate this point from our own experience we would draw your attention to the fact that when we were applying for Conservation Area status it was essential to be able to speak at more than just the Planning Committee meetings.

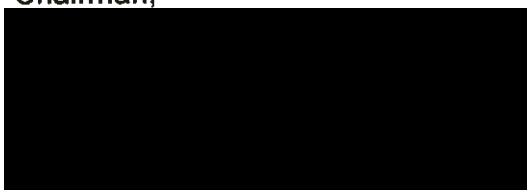


In respect of our membership area within the Oxhey Hall ward of the Watford Rural Parish we wish to emphasise to you the dramatically and distinctly different natures of the 3 wards within the parish. Any redrawing of boundaries which merge all or parts of these wards will, in our opinion, bring about the conflict of interest which we have explained in paragraph 2 above. Although not ideal, we feel that (i) no workable way of splitting our area is possible and (ii) any expansion of the Oxhey Hall ward should be towards the South West i.e. the Eastbury ward within the unparished area of Rickmansworth.

Yours sincerely,



David Hall,  
Chairman,



p.s. I can send this as an email attachment if that would help – please use my email above to tell where to send it.

RECEIVED  
29 AUG 2012

# OXHEY HALL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION CONSTITUTION

(May 2008 amendments shown in *italics*.)

1. The Association shall be called Oxhey Hall Residents' Association, hereinafter referred to as the Association.
2. The Association shall exist to protect the environment of its members and to preserve and improve the amenities of the district.
3. The Association shall be strictly non-party and non-sectarian.
4. Membership of the Association shall be open to residents of the Oxhey Hall Estate which shall, for the purposes of the Association, comprise the following roads :- Anthony Close (including The Pathway and Grovebank), Brookdene Avenue, Hampermill Lane, Highlands, Hillcroft Crescent, Nancy Downs, Oaklands Avenue, St. Francis Close, Raglan Gardens, Vivian Gardens, Vivian Close, Beaulieu Close and those parts of Green Lane and Woodway within Three Rivers District.
5. Membership of the Association shall be by annual subscription to be agreed at each general meeting (AGM) for the forthcoming financial year. All adult members of a household may be members of the Association.
6. The management of the Association shall be vested in a committee which shall comprise six officers (Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, Minute Secretary, Newsletter Editor and Treasurer, all these to be honorary posts) and not more than six other members.
7. The committee shall have the power of co-option.
8. A quorum for committee meetings shall require the presence of fifty percent or more of the total elected committee. At least two of those present shall be officers.
9. The financial and membership year of the Association shall run from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March following.
10. The AGM of the Association shall be held within three months of the end of the financial year.
11. A quorum at any general meeting shall require the number of non-committee members present to exceed the number of committee members present, in addition to the quorum requirements of Article 8.
12. A special general meeting of the Association shall be convened by the Secretary within three months of receipt by him/her of a request signed by not less than twenty members, or by resolution of the committee.
13. Attendees at general meetings shall be paid up members of the Association for the current or previous membership year.
14. Members shall be given at least *three* weeks notice of general meetings.
15. Elections will be held for the officers and committee members at the AGM, by a show of hands. Their terms of office shall end at the next AGM unless re-elected. Any office not filled at the AGM may be so at a subsequent committee meeting.
16. The Treasurer shall be responsible for all monies of the Association and shall present properly audited accounts of the Association at the AGM.
17. The AGM shall appoint the auditors.
18. All cheques of the Association shall be signed by the Treasurer and by the Chairman or Vice-Chairman.
19. *The Association may only be dissolved at either a special general meeting which must be called under clauses 11, 12 and 14 or the AGM. Dissolution requires a two thirds majority of those voting at the general meeting. After the settling of any debts and liabilities any remaining assets will be distributed to local charities and/or voluntary organisations as decided by the general meeting. If there is no quorum for the general meeting called to consider the dissolution then the Association will be deemed to be dissolved from that moment and it is the responsibility of the former officers of the Association to dispose of the assets to other local charitable and/or voluntary organisations.*
20. This constitution can be amended only at a properly convened general meeting.
21. Any member raising a proposal for any general meeting which would, if agreed, result in a change to this constitution must do so by written notification to the Secretary at least three months before the meeting is due to be held.

RECEIVED

29 AUG 2012