

## Woking District

### Personal Details:

**Name:** Jonathan Lord

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**Organisation Name:** Member of Parliament

### Map Features:

#### Comment text:

I congratulate Woking Borough Council (WBC) on a thorough and wide-ranging consultation exercise with regard to its initial draft boundary proposals and on listening carefully to the views expressed by residents during the WBC consultation period. The resulting WBC boundary proposals put forward to the full Council Meeting of 27th March are, I believe, robust and sensible. The relatively large and well-defined villages/communities of Horsell, Knaphill, Goldsworth Park, and Mount Hermon each have an electoral ward of their own. With the exception of West Byfleet which, of electoral quota necessity, gets split between two proposed wards in the East of the Borough, all other villages and communities within the Borough remain intact and are placed within highly appropriate wards, almost always alongside other villages or communities with which they have strong historical links and/or shared characteristics/communities of interest and/or shared transport links. I am particularly pleased that WBC is now proposing that the whole of Pyrford should remain together (in the proposed Pyrford ward) and I believe that the neighbouring parts of West Byfleet and the residents of the Maybury Estate are also likely to welcome their inclusion in this ward. Like the Council, I received numerous (articulate and well-argued) representations from Pyrford residents who were very upset with the initial proposals to 'divide' Pyrford and I am absolutely delighted that their views and suggestions have been taken on board. I also commend the suggested names for all ten proposed WBC wards. In particular, I would urge the Commission to take forward/accept the proposed name of 'Byfleet and West Byfleet' for the easternmost ward. Many local residents from both Byfleet and West Byfleet heartily dislike the term 'The Byfleets' (which is, in any case, and despite their ongoing objections, the name already bestowed on the similar County Division), and I received strong representations in favour of the name 'Byfleet and West Byfleet'. Several residents made the case that the name 'The Byfleets' has no historical basis and that it has never even been a term in colloquial usage. 'Heathlands' is an excellent name for the semi-rural ward (that contains several heaths) proposed in the South of the borough, but the even simpler name of 'Heath' would be equally, and perhaps even more, appropriate. The well established residential community of Hook Heath has, I understand, the largest population of any village or community in this proposed ward and the area of Hook Heath is also geographically fairly 'central' to the ward. Using the name 'Heath' would therefore, to my mind, have a small additional descriptive benefit over the term 'Heathlands'. Unless the Local Government Boundary Commission has received starkly different representations to those received by WBC during this initial consultation period (which seems highly unlikely), I would urge the Commission to go forward with the excellent boundary plans now being formally proposed by WBC, plans which have, already, received and 'recognised' considerable local input from residents, community groups and councillors. Yours faithfully, Jonathan Lord Jonathan Lord MP Member of Parliament for Woking