Local resident submissions to the Woking Borough Council electoral review

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Surnames R-S
Hello, I have been a resident of Woodham in Woking for nearly 5 years, living at [redacted]. I recently received your draft recommendations which detailed the proposal to change the boundary for electoral arrangements, specifically to take Woodham out of the Horsell Ward, and instead join it with Sheerwater to form a Sheerwater Ward.

I strongly oppose 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 strongly 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 which are located in Horsell.
- 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.

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.

We are aligned with Horsell: We have many friends in Horsell, non in Sheerwater. We use the facilities in Horsell, we never have used the facilities in Sheerwater. We walk out dogs in Horsell, we don’t walk our dogs in Sheerwater. We visit Horsell, we never visit Sheerwater. There are community links with Horsell, there are non with Sheerwater. We visit pubs in Horsell, we don’t visit Sheerwater. We have no alignment with Sheerwater

I strongly oppose 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 strongly against the removal of the name Woodham from the proposed names of the new wards.

Please confirm receipt of my email objection to the proposed changes

With regards,
Melanie Rasmussen
Hello, I have been a resident of Woodham in Woking for nearly 5 years, living at [Redacted]. I recently received your draft recommendations which detailed the proposal to change the boundary for electoral arrangements, specifically to take Woodham out of the Horsell Ward, and instead join it with Sheerwater to form a Sheerwater Ward.

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- 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.

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- 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.
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- Woodham has few facilities and transport links and has no direct bus route service to Sheerwater.

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- 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 which are located in Horsell.
- 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.
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**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.

**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.

We are aligned with Horsell: We have many friends in Horsell, non in Sheerwater. We use the facilities in Horsell, we never have used the facilities in Sheerwater. We walk out dogs in Horsell, we don’t walk our dogs in Sheerwater. We visit Horsell, we never visit Sheerwater. There are community links with Horsell, there are non with Sheerwater. We visit pubs in Horsell, we don’t visit Sheerwater. We have no alignment with Sheerwater

I **strongly oppose** 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 **strongly against** the removal of the name Woodham from the proposed names of the new wards.

Please confirm receipt of my email objection to the proposed changes

With regards,
Steve Rasmussen
Dear Sir

PROPOSED ELECTORAL BOUNDARIES FOR WOKING BOROUGH COUNCIL

I am writing on behalf of my wife and myself to express our strong disagreement to your proposed changes to the recommendations made by Woking Borough Council regarding the residents of Woodham.

I am strongly opposed to the amendment made by the Local Government Boundary Commission to take Woodham out of the Horsell Ward and instead join it with and form a Sheerwater Ward. I also object to the removal of the name Woodham from the proposed names of the new wards, as if it does not exist as a distinct area.

The reasons for my objections are as follows:-

1. This proposed amendment is a variation of the proposal made by Woking Borough Council, who are familiar with the geography and demographics of the area.

2. Woodham's local characteristics are closely linked with Horsell and there is a strong sense of community between Woodham and Horsell.

3. The future population growth in Horsell and Woodham is likely to be below average, thereby retaining the population close to the target population, whereas the population of Sheerwater, with its proposed redevelopment, is likely to grow much faster such that the inclusion of Woodham with Sheerwater would make its population significantly above the target.

4. The Basingstoke Canal separates Woodham from Sheerwater and is only crossed at the extreme ends of the proposed Sheerwater Ward. As a consequence, there is little or no communality of interests and certainly no sense of neighbourhood between the two areas. This is evidenced by the fact that the Diocese of Guildford intends to create a new parish of Sheerwater, distinct from Woodham, reflecting not only the lack of any community but also the growing population of Sheerwater.

5. Travel between Woodham and Sheerwater is difficult because the A245 between the two areas is a major route which suffers from heavy traffic loads and congestion at peak periods.
6. Woodham has few transport links and there is no direct bus route to Sheerwater.

7. There are many community affinities between Woodham and Horsell as both are predominantly prosperous, residential leafy suburbs containing mostly detached houses, with many private roads. By contrast, Sheerwater comprises mostly terraced properties and has been a source of small and cheaper accommodation, and has been identified as the most deprived area in the whole of the county for health deprivation and disability, income and employment.

8. Residents of Woodham shop in Horsell, but not in Sheerwater.

9. There are many demographic opposites between Woodham and Sheerwater which seriously impede any sense of community.

10. Crime levels in Woodham are very low, whereas the crime reporting level in Sheerwater is over ten times that in Woodham. 20% of reported crime in Sheerwater is of criminal damage, arson, violence and sexual assault, whereas these types of crime have not been reported in Woodham.

11. Woodham is a wholly residential area, whereas Sheerwater contains the largest concentration of industrial areas in the borough.

For all these reasons, your proposed amendment to the recommendations made by Woking Borough Council are wholly inappropriate. The two areas are like chalk and cheese, which is why Woking Borough Council, who clearly appreciate all of the above considerations, made the recommendation which they did.

We therefore strongly object to your proposed change, and must ask you to seriously consider the inappropriateness of your proposal, and leave the electoral boundaries of Woodham and Horsell as one community.

Yours faithfully

A G RATCLIFFE
To the Officers of The Local Government Boundary Commission For England.

We wish to comment on the Boundary Commission's changes to Woking Borough Council's recommendation on two of the wards.

Central Woking Ward has been changed and renamed Sheerwater. This is a bad mistake and could only be made by people not familiar with Woking. A better title would be Central Woking and Sheerwater. But we notice that an area of West Byfleet has also been included in this ward which is quite unreasonable for these residents whose community is obviously West Byfleet.

As residents of The Grove we regard the inclusion of The Grove, Ferndale, Broomhall Road and Lane, parts of Brewery Road and Chobham Road and associated apartments into the Sheerwater ward as a mistake when they have always been in Horsell. To include these roads just to get the voting numbers right is insensitive to all the residents of this area.

The Commission is failing to realize the boundary that the Basingstoke Canal offers between the centre of Woking and Horsell. The canal is a very real boundary, as is a railway, where it can only be crossed where there is a bridge. There are not many bridges.

The feeling of community in our area is with Horsell, the Horsell Residents Association and The Grove Group residents group covering the Wheatsheaf Common area. As part of a residential area, The Grove is very different in character to the centre of Woking that is just on the other side of the Canal, and there is no natural affinity for us with the other parts of the Central Woking / Sheerwater ward. Our affinity is with our locality, our village Horsell.

Colin and Ruth Ray.
Dear Sir/Madam,

We are very much against Old Avenue being included in the Ward of Sheerwater rather than the Ward of Byfleet and West Byfleet.

This is because our community identity is with West Byfleet. We feel very much part of this village using all of the shops and facilities on a regular basis – usually visiting the village on a daily basis. We therefore feel part of West Byfleet and take a real interest in any proposals to develop and enhance 'our' Village.

By contrast the last time we went to Sheerwater was about two years ago when we visited a specialist shop.

Yours faithfully,

Tony and Oona Reed
Hello,

As a resident of [redacted], I would like to respond to the proposed boundary changes. Hollies Avenue should be aligned with wherever the centre of West Byfleet is aligned with, I believe currently proposed to be "Byfleet and West Byfleet ward". We, and I'm confident all the residents, primarily use: the train station, shops, supermarket, library, park and church in West Byfleet. By contrast, there is no interest or engagement with any public service or community initiatives in Sheerwater. In fact, the only time we ever even go through Sheerwater is when there are major roadworks on the Old Woking Road.

Thank you,

Alex Reeve.
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Catherine Reeve
E-mail: 
Postcode: 

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I live in [redacted], locally known as the Woodham area. There is a distinct geographical boundary between us and Sheerwater, the Basingstoke canal. I have no affinity with Sheerwater, never go there or shop there and would prefer to be in Horsell ward. The map looks quite ridiculous taking all the odd houses into the Sheerwater boundary on the other side of the road from us. Please draw some clear lines for the boundary along the canal.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Good Morning

I forgot to mention that the Grove Area submission includes also that area including, but not limited to, Broomhall Road and Broomhall Lane on the side of Chobham Road other than the Wheatsheaf Common side.

Thank you

David Reeve

Further to my e-mail submission below, at the AGM of The Grove Area Ltd residents association last night the membership unanimously agreed with the individual submission below

Thank you

David Reeve
Chairman
The Grove Area Ltd
Subject: Woking borough council boundaries  
Date: Thu, 24 Jul 2014 10:25:54 +0100

I write re proposed changes to the district ward re The Grove and Ferndale Road. 
With regret, I am not in favour with the proposal that The Grove and Ferndale Road be included in Sheerwater.

The following considerations support this view : factors which you may not have been aware of when formulating your proposal.

1. There is no common communality of interests between the The Grove and Ferndale Road ("2 Roads") and Sheerwater. The identities are totally different. We are cut off at the first instance by the main A320 which links with the M25. There is a direct bus link no 48 with Horsell Village (less than 1 mile away) 100 metres, via Brewery Road from The Grove: to get to Sheerwater the nearest bus link is 400 metres away (no 446), and a longer journey.

2. Many people in the 2 Roads shop in Horsell Village. They appreciate independant shops, restaurants and public houses, and GP practices very close to the Village.

3. The Grove Area Ltd (membership 100 households plus) is the popular and effective residents association for voters living in the 2 Roads (and also Orchard Drive, Wheatsheaf Close and other local minor roads which you propose to retain in Horsell Ward).

4. The Grove Area Ltd enjoys close links with Horsell Residents Association which also has strong membership in the 2 Roads. The aims of the two residents associations are different but complimentary.

5. Horsell Care (please see website), linked with Surrey Community Transport, has volunteers (and clients) resident in the 2 Roads.

6. The 2 Roads are conservation areas. I am not aware of this in other areas of Sheerwater.

7. Geographically, the Basingstoke Canal (also it could be argued the A320) separates Woking Town Centre from Horsell. Thus there is a strong geographical reason for keeping the 2 Roads within Horsell ward.

If the 2 Roads were to be included in Sheerwater it is difficult to see (bearing in mind the relatively small number of voters in the 2 Roads compared with the rest of the proposed Sheerwater ward) how local democracy, effectiveness and accountability could be enacted and effective re residents in the 2 Roads.

I submit the above in an individual capacity though a Director of The Grove Area Ltd and a volunteer for Horsell Care.

David Reeve
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I submit the above in an individual capacity though a Director of The Grove Area Ltd and a volunteer for Horsell Care.
David Reeve
**Woking District**

**Personal Details:**

Name: Nigel Reeve

E-mail: [redacted]

Postcode: [redacted]

**Organisation Name:**

Comment text:

As a resident of [redacted] (Woodham) I consider that the proposal to incorporate our area (north of the canal) into Sheerwater is inappropriate. I feel very little affinity with Sheerwater and no part of the community there whereas Horsell is an area I do feel part of. I therefore support the alternative proposal that Woodham should join with Horsell.

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded
Dear Sir / Madam,

**Re: Proposed changes to Ward Electoral Boundaries**

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.

Unless you have visited this area, you will be unaware that the Basingstoke canal separates Woodham from Sheerwater and as a result there is little or no communality of interests and no sense of neighbourhood between the two areas. In fact the standard of living is vastly different between Sheerwater and Woodham/Horsell. The later being a predominantly prosperous, residential, leafy suburb containing mostly detached housing with many private roads vs Sheerwater being of ethnic majority and council housing. The travel between Woodham and Sheerwater is via a major route A245 which suffers from particular heavy traffic and this proves travel between the two areas difficult and timely.

Therefore I am **against** the commissions proposal to take Woodham out of the Horsell Ward and join it to Sheerwater. There is no doubt that both Horsell and Woodham share similar wooded surrounds and has no relation to Sheerwater.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs F. Richards
**Woking District**

**Personal Details:**

**Name:** Michael Richards  
**E-mail:**  
**Postcode:**  

**Organisation Name:**

**Comment text:**

I live in [redacted] and wish to object to being included in Sheerwater on community grounds. My GP, Bank, Library, Supermarket, Newsagent, Church, Garage, Station, Social Club, Restaurants & Takeaways are all located in West Byfleet - as is my postal address. In the 45 years I have lived in the area I can recall visiting Sheerwater only 3 times - to Stanleyvision for TV repair (since closed), to Sheerwater Glass for some replacement panes to a greenhouse (no longer in use) and a factory visit to McLaren (since moved). My house is totally different in design, size and value to those on Sheerwater - and there is no bias against 'council housing' since I was brought up and lived on an estate until marrying in my mid twenties. If there was a local election it would be quite likely that I would abstain for the first time in my life since I would have no interest in the issues being raised. I am sure I am not alone in feeling a complete lack of community compatibility with Sheerwater and request serious consideration be given to including Hollies Ave in West Byfleet where long standing association is established.

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded
Dear Sirs,

We are writing to protest STRONGLY against the Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford proposed ward boundary changes.

My family have lived in Hollies Avenue, West Byfleet, happily for 13 years. WE DO NOT LIVE IN SHEERWATER and we do not consider ourselves a part of the Sheerwater community.

We feel a VERY strong affinity to West Byfleet village and my family are active members of the community and the Catholic Church, Our Lady Help of Christians. We have no ties to Sheerwater at all and WE DO NOT LIVE IN SHEERWATER. We live in West Byfleet and as such, we DESERVE A RIGHT TO SAY WHAT HAPPENS HERE – WHERE WE LIVE. Should the proposed changes to the wards go ahead, we will have no say in the community which we live, are a part of now and plan to be a part of for the rest of our lives. Sheerwater is too far away from us for us to feel part of that ward. WE LIVE IN THE HEART OF WEST BYFLEET, not the outskirts of Sheerwater.

My children were schooled here where we live, West Byfleet, at the Marist, our GP surgery is Parishes Bridge Practice, in the West Byfleet Health Centre and all our community services are here; West Byfleet post office, West Byfleet train and bus stations, West Byfleet library, West Byfleet park and West Byfleet village shops. Our local shopping centre is WEST BYFLEET!! We are a 5 minute walk from our village and all our local amenities whereas we are a 5 minute drive to Sheerwater. Sheerwater is not our local village. It makes no sense at all. The natural boundary line is Sheerwater Road. It does not make any sense for such a small area to be split between 3 wards: Sheerwater, West Byfleet and Pyrford wards.

The natural boundary line should be the Sheerwater Road itself, from the mini roundabout on Woodham Lane right up to the Old Woking Road. The area to the East of Sheerwater Road is NATURALLY within the West Byfleet and Byfleet ward. This makes more sense and this is how we, the local residents of Hollies Avenue and Woodlands Avenue, feel – WE ARE PART OF WEST BYFLEET, not Sheerwater. The area to the West of Sheerwater Road naturally falls within the Sheerwater ward. All areas south of the train line and bridge (half way up Sheerwater Road) is naturally part of the Pyrford Ward. Anything south of the junction between the Old Woking Road and Oakcroft Road (B367) naturally falls within the Pyrford ward. It has always been this way and makes sense so why propose to change that now?

Looking at your map of the proposed changes, it just LOOKS wrong – your proposed boundary changes extend the Sheerwater ward too far, absorbing an area which is too far away from Sheerwater to work or to be incorporated naturally. I am surprised that this was not noticed before this proposal got to this stage.

We urge you to reconsider and allow the West Byfleet residents to remain part of our local community.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards
Maria and Mark Rider
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: robert rider
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I cannot see the sense changing the existing boundaries as the Basingstoke canal forms the perfect boundary. Further, the existing boundary separates two distinctive communities. Woodham was developed to house families who own their own home, and Sheerwater was developed as a high density way of housing overspill Londoners after the second world war. The two communities are distinctly different and should remain so. There seems to be no logical reason for changing the boundaries and Woodham should remain allied to Horsell for the obvious reasons.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
**Woking District**

**Personal Details:**

Name: Alan Ridgwell  
E-mail:  
Postcode:  
Organisation Name: Resident

**Comment text:**

I can not see any logic in the proposed boundary change placing Woodham and Sheerwater into the same ward and strongly object to the proposed arrangement. Its my believe that communities operate best when they are located close together and have common social needs and interest. The Basingstoke canal physically divides Woodham and Sheerwater, with only two crossings of the canal some mile and half apart. The two communities have no common demographics and I would be very surprised if this were to change in either the short, medium or longer term. I personally would feel no community identity or engagement with the new proposed ward. I urge the LGBC to reconsider this proposal and allow Woodham & Horsell to join as a ward, as our elected representatives proposed. Thank you A.Ridgwell [REDACTED]

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded
To The Review Officer (Woking),

LBCE,
Haydon House,
London, EC1M 5BQ.

22/08/2014.

Dear Sir/Wadam,

re: Ward Boundaries Commission

It has been brought to our notice that it has been suggested that our voting area is to be taken out of the Horsham West area, which we strongly object to.

Having lived in the Horsham area since my totally blind sister was aged 8 and myself 6. She is now 88 and I am 86 years old. I married into one of the oldest families of Horsham and have felt very proud to belong to the Horsham area. I now feel very depressed to even think you are contemplating to move us into the Sheerwater ward at our age.

Please, please reconsider and leave us in the Horsham area ward where we belong. We have been long before Sheerwater was even thought about also there is nothing to connect the two wards.

We have always been very satisfied with our Horsham councillor.

We trust you will give this serious thought and please two elderly ladies (also)
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: ____________________________________
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.

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.

__________________________________________ Date 3/10/14

__________________________________________

Name printed...

__________________________________________

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

Sir

We have lived for over twenty five years on Woodlands Avenue West Byfleet. We strongly oppose the inclusion of Woodlands Avenue into the Sheerwater Ward. There are approximately 360 voters in Woodlands Avenue and Hollies Avenue a number that is well within the variance set for ward electoral equality. The expected growth in voter numbers in the redevelopment of the Sheerwater Ward will compensate for this interim electoral variance.  
Woodlands Avenue is fully integrated into the West Byfleet community with little or no involvement with Sheerwater. The Sheerwater Road is the natural boundary between the West Byfleet and Sheerwater Wards and all facilities for shopping, medical services, leisure services, rail transport and bus routes are all delivered through West Byfleet.  
The West Byfleet Catholic and Anglican churches are the used by many of the residents of Woodlands Avenue.  
The local residents association: Byfleet, West Byfleet & Pyrford Residents' Association does does not cover the Sheerwater Ward. Historically the houses along Woodlands Avenue were built for the railway workers of West Byfleet and this historic connection is reflected today in the links for transport. community, leisure facilities and local interest.

Yours Faithfully

Peter and Catherine Roche-Kelly
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 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 lose 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: 01.02.14

Name printed: [Redacted]
**Woking District**

**Personal Details:**

**Name:** Louise Rowe  
**E-mail:** [Redacted]  
**Postcode:** [Redacted]

**Organisation Name:**

**Comment text:**

I live on The Grove currently in Horsell. The proposal to be joined to Sheerwater makes little sense - there is no feeling of community between the two areas. My three children all went to school in Horsell and there has always been a special affinity with the village. I shop locally: ordering meat from the butchers, dropping my books at the second hand bookshop and catching up with last minute shopping at the Co-op. The family enters exhibits for the summer fair, sings in the local choir and has a long and fruitful relationship with the local village community. Please don't take this away.

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded
Dear Sir/Madam,

With reference to the proposed ward boundary changes, we wish to make the following comments. Woodham and Sheerwater are separated by the Basingstoke Canal, which forms a natural barrier between Sheerwater and Woodham and is crossed only at the extreme ends of the proposed ward. 

It is natural barriers such as the canal that the Boundary Commission themselves consider should identify electoral boundaries.

Furthermore, there seems to be little communality of interest or sense of neighbourhood between Woodham and Sheerwater. The preferred solution from Woking Borough Council is that Woodham should join with Horsell to form a three councillor ward. This arrangement would provide a cohesive locality and there are many broad similarities, both of a demographic and geographic nature in the combined wards. This solution seems far more sensible.

Additionally, all our requirements such as shopping, health service, bank, library, post office and restaurants take place in West Byfleet; Sheerwater is never a consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Mr & Mrs M. Rubin
Revew Officer (Woking)
LG BCE
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London EC1M 5LG

Dear Sirs,

Sheerwater Merges

I was appalled to read that there is a possibility that West Byfleet will be merged with Sheerwater.

I worked very hard to purchase my property in West Byfleet. I was widowed at 42 with three children at school and worked until I was 68. I chose West Byfleet for its Village ambience and a safe neighborhood to live. I do not wish to be linked with Sheerwater which has a bad reputation and is a deprived area.
I enclose an extract from the Woking Informer which states some very real facts. I do not want my bungalow devalued. If I was looking for a property to buy I certainly would not choose Sheerwater. Leave West Byfleet boundary as it stands. West Byfleet is completely separate from Sheerwater and there seems no reason to merge it with Sheerwater and lose its Village status.

Yours faithfully
Woodham shuns Sheerwater merge

**Guy Martin**

RESIDENTS in Woodham have spoken out against proposals which would see them become part of the same borough council ward as Sheerwater.

All those who expressed a view to the *Woking Advertiser* were against the proposals of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

The commission has recommended changes to wards proposed by Woking Borough Council and the alterations would put Woodham and two streets by Wheatheaf Common, into Sheerwater.

A consultation is taking place to get feedback on the commission’s draft proposals for new ward boundaries. The recommendations are to reduce the borough’s number of councillors by six to 34, and introduce 10 wards, each with three members.

The existing ward boundaries would be changed, including grouping Woodham and streets The Grove and Ferndale Road, with Sheerwater. That is something Hosell East and Woodham councillor Anne Murray said “a lot of residents were unhappy about”, in Woodham.

She denied this was due to snobbery, saying Sheerwater, parts of which are classed as among the most deprived in the country and much of which is about to be built on by the council’s regeneration project, simply had “no community of interests” with Woodham.

The Advertiser asked residents in Woodham what they thought.

Peter White, who lives in Silver Birch Close in Woodham, said: “I think it’s ridiculous. The north of the ward is essentially owner-occupied detached properties, there is no connection with Sheerwater which is ex-council properties.

“Due being part of Hosell makes more sense, or West Byfleet. That’s where I tell people who aren’t local. I live in West Byfleet station and we go to West Byfleet shops. I don’t go to Sheerwater.

“They’re trying to equalise the size of the electorate. I don’t think it’s worth it for the sake of a small change.

“It can’t be any logic to it. I don’t think there’s any element of snobbery about it, there’s an element that the population’s values would not be so well represented under these proposals.”

Another Woodham resident, who did not wish to be named, said: “I think it’s appalling. Woodham has got nothing to do with Sheerwater. What’s the point of changing it? The majority of people are distinctly different in Sheerwater from the ones who live in Woodham.”

Another woman who lives in Woodham was pleased to be over the boundary of Hosseleld and, thus, unaffected by the proposals.

“I wouldn’t like it, you’re putting big houses with what was a council estate,” she said. “I read it in the paper and I felt a bit sorry for other people in Woodham. Will it drop the price of houses?”

David Ho, a resident of Sheerwater for more than 15 years, had little sympathy.

“People in Woodham think they’ll be dominated by people in Sheerwater but that’s not true because more people vote in Woodham than Sheerwater. They need to understand that a lot of the new homes going into Sheerwater are four-bedroom houses worth half a million.

“At the end of the day it’s about geography and numbers of people in wards.”

Max Caller, chairman of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, said it did aim to reflect the interests and identities of communities in its proposals and urged people to have their say in the consultation, which ends on October 6.

“If you don’t want to be annexed,” he said. People can visit consultation.lgbc.gov.uk for detailed maps of proposals and make a submission.

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10th August 2014

Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Sheerwater/Woodham Boundary

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.

Kind regards

Amanda Sanders
Dear Sir or Madam

Re: Sheerwater/Woodham Boundary

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.

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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.

Kind regards

Colin Sanders
Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to object to the risible proposal to make my street, Ferndale Road, and other parts of Horsell, part of an extended Sheerwater Ward. People are not numbers, they belong to communities with identities and a mature democracy has an obligation to recognise that. Ferndale Road is, and always will be, part of Horsell and as far as we are concerned, must be represented by a Horsell Councillor. If you proceed with this nonsensical change, we will feel unable to take part in local elections in the future. As far as we are concerned, the only meaningful effect of this proposal is an erosion of democracy.

Yours faithfully,

Niraj Saraf and Becky Whale
As a resident of West Byfleet for the last 30 years, Byfleet for the previous 19 years and an active LibDem in the area, I write to express my horror at the suggestion that West Byfleet ward should be removed as an entity in its own right and split between Byfleet, Pyrford and Sheerwater. West Byfleet is not just an extension of the other three wards, it has its own character, history and interests and justifies having its own Councillors. The fact that it is called WEST Byfleet does not mean it is subsidiary to Byfleet. In fact one could argue it is the more important part of the 2 wards considering the number, type and concentration of shops and restaurants at its centre and the position of the railway station, also at its centre, with fast trains from West Byfleet to Waterloo every half hour (of the other three wards only Byfleet boast a railway station which it a) shares with New Haw, b) is a considerable distance from Byfleet centre, and c) is not served by fast trains). Furthermore, the postal address of Byfleet is now Byfleet, WEST BYFLEET. So, if Royal Mail, South West Trains and certain main retail outlets consider West Byfleet is a centre of some significance, the Boundary Commission should also.

What is even more ludicrous is the suggestion that part of West Byfleet be absorbed into the Sheerwater ward, as anyone who was aware of the history of the two districts and their relevant needs would know. West Byfleet and Pyrford are the more affluent parts of the four wards, Byfleet is mixed but Sheerwater, as a result of its history of resettlement from the London slums after WWII and the high density of Asian immigrants has a totally different demographic and very different social needs from the others, and certainly from those of West Byfleet, and anyone who had done their homework would know this. I fail to see how any Councillor could cater for the needs of both nor should they if both areas are to have equal representation on the Borough Council.

I really think the current proposals are ill-thought-out and urge you to think again, look elsewhere for your cutbacks (if you must) and leave West Byfleet ward as it is.

Yours (most) sincerely
Valerie Sargent (Mrs)
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: ANTHONY SAUNDERS
E-mail: 
Postcode: 

Organisation Name: 

Comment text:

Re Sheerwater proposal: To include areas to west of A3046, north of Victoria Way and the town centre of Woking is ridiculous, Borough Wards should be decided on basis of needs, local residential and business make up and environment, as well as population size. The proposed amalgamation of the above areas into Sheerwater would join up a number of incompatible parts of Woking. This would make the task for the local Concillors impossible--having to decide on priorities which would be very different for each section of the new ward. Better boundaries for Sheerwater would be Chertsey Road, the Canal, Railway, Sheerwater Road. If the proposed Sheerwater and other boundary changes are unacceptable because of above mentioned incompatibilities, then perhaps an extra ward would be needed to maintain eveness of resident numbers together with compatibility of areas within the ward boundaries.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
As a homeowner I was very surprised to receive the attached today.

Having just been emailed this notification, it is the first time I have seen it and to my knowledge no one in Hollies Avenue has knowledge of these proposals.

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.

I strongly oppose these proposals.

Yvette Savarino
Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford Residents’ Association

Ward Boundary Changes

The Boundary Commission has now issued its draft proposals for changes to Electoral Ward Boundaries in the Woking Borough.

It is proposed that the present West Byfleet Ward will in future be divided between 3 new wards:

“Byfleet and West Byfleet Ward”, “Pyrford Ward” and “Sheerwater Ward”.

In general terms, Dartnell Park and the centre of West Byfleet would be aligned with Byfleet, most of the remaining areas would be aligned with Pyrford and the three roads of Hollies Avenue, Woodlands Avenue and Old Avenue would join with Sheerwater.

For more information, and maps to find out exactly which ward you would belong to, please visit the Boundary Commission’s website: www.lgbce.org.uk

The changes are being made to reduce the number of Woking wards from 36 to 30, and to ensure an equal number of electors within each of the new wards. Other criteria which must be taken into account are “community identity” and “strong, easily identifiable boundaries” for the new wards.

The Boundary Commission is inviting comments on its draft proposals by October 6th 2014

You can send your comments:-

By email to: reviews@lgbce.org.uk

Or in writing to:

Review Officer (Woking), LGBCE, Layden House, 76-78 Turnmill Street, London EC1

Further information is available at West Byfleet Library. There will also be an informative display, with a large map, at The Residents’ Association Drop-in at St John’s Church Cornerstones Centre on Saturday September 13th from 2pm until 5pm.

Please do come along.
04th October 2014

Mr & Mrs Savarino

Review Officer (Woking)
LGBCE
Layden House
76-78 Tummill Street
London
EC1

To whom it may concern,

**RE: WARD BOUNDARY CHANGES - West Byfleet to Sheerwater**

I am writing regarding the above.

I have already emailed you, however that was a rather knee jerk reaction and I wanted to follow up with a more detailed reasoning for our objections.

My husband and I moved from London to West Byfleet in August 2007 with our young son. I am originally from London but my husband grew up in Woking so knew the area very well. It was very important for us to move somewhere that had a good community, amenities and facilities for our growing family and we felt that we had found all of those things in West Byfleet.

We worship at Our Ladys Church in Maderia Road and are active members of the parish. From 2008 to 2010 I ran the church toddler group, I completed my four year term as a foundation governor at The Marist last September and I was also a member of the Parish Committee between 2011 and 2012. As you can see I have a very strong bond to the village and community, I and many of my neighbors, are fearful that the consequence of changing these boundaries will have a detrimental impact on these community bonds.

Our doctor’s surgery is in West Byfleet, dentist in Byfleet, school and church are in West Byfleet, We do our shopping at Waitrose in West Byfleet and we use the local shops, services and facilities. Even with the addition of Asda (which we don’t shop in) in Sheerwater, we will have no reason to visit or use the facilities there.

I therefore find it difficult to understand how you can justify such a boundary change and how you foresee that a Sheerwater councillor will be able to effectively represent us. The majority of his constituents will live in Sheerwater and use all the facilities and amenities there and their concerns will be very different to ours. I would go as far as to
say that there would be little or no point in our voting when we have no confidence in being represented.

I feel that by making these changes, we will be forced into a minority position and we will no longer be heard, where before we have been part of a strong thriving village community with a very definite voice.

Yours faithfully,

Mr & Mrs Savarino
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Shirley Selden
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I wish to object to the proposed Horsell and Sheerwater ward boundaries. The proposal has taken The Grove and Ferndale Road (and a couple of other small roads nearby) out of a Horsell ward and, with no visible logic, added them to the new Sheerwater ward. This very small area is significantly closer to Horsell village than many of the other roads that remain in the new Horsell ward and the majority of the houses fall into a conservation area. The residents of this area would undoubtedly identify and have more in common with the households in the Horsell ward rather than the Sheerwater ward. It would seem to make logical sense to use the Basingstoke canal as the ward boundary at this point (or Brewery Road and Victoria Way) and leave this small area included in the significantly more appropriate Horsell ward.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Shirley Selden
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I wish to object to the proposed Horsell and Sheerwater ward boundaries. The proposal has taken The Grove and Ferndale Road (and a couple of other small roads nearby) out of a Horsell ward and, with no visible logic, added them to the new Sheerwater ward. This very small area is significantly closer to Horsell village than many of the other roads that remain in the new Horsell ward and the majority of the houses fall into a conservation area. The residents of this area would undoubtedly identify and have more in common with the households in the Horsell ward rather than the Sheerwater ward. It would seem to make logical sense to use the Basingstoke canal as the ward boundary at this point (or Brewery Road and Victoria Way) and leave this small area included in the significantly more appropriate Horsell ward.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Peter Semon-Ward
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

Dear Sirs I have read through your recommendation regarding the change of wards. I wish to put forward my objection regarding the proposal for Woodham to be incorporated into Sheerwater Ward. Your proposal I quote "We are concerned that this area does not share sufficiently clear transport links with the majority of communities in Horssell and note that it has access via the A245 Sheerwater Road to the Sheerwater area to its south. We have therefore decided to include this area in Woking Central ward". Road links or transport to Sheerwater have no bearing on people using Sheerwater, they choose not to go there. Improving road and or transport links to this area would not change this. Indeed the recent road improvements in Maybury do not make me go to Maybury! People choose to use services of an an area that they feel comfortable with and for what it offers. The insufficient transport links to Horssell does not deter people from using the shops, Doctors, Clubs and Pubs (your reason for splitting the areas, is of little consequence to the current residents as most residents use a car). Horssell is accessible to residents currently by bus, car, cycle or foot. The residents on the Woodham Hall Estate are members of many clubs in Horssell including guides, Brownies, Scouts, Cricket club, Children’s clubs etc. The resident’s use both the Sands Pub considered as our local and the Red Lion Pub. The Nuffield Hospital in Horssell is used by many residents, as are Schools, Doctors and Dentists. Your recommendation has the potential to exclude Woodham residents (due to catchment areas) should our ward position change. I understand your reasons for incorporating Sheerwater into Woking Central Ward with Woking Town centre due to its high building density and mixture of industrial, office and densely populated housing. However in complete contrast Woodham is a low-density area with woodland, very in keeping with that of Horssell. Your report also quotes "Our review aims to deliver electoral equality for local voters. This means that each councillor represents a similar number of electors so that everyone’s vote in council elections is worth roughly the same regardless of where you live. The communities of Horssell and Woodham are very similar most importantly the fair representation of voting rights that works well within the current ward and has done for many years. If Woodham becomes a ward of Sheerwater the residents of Woodham will not be fairly represented. There is a community on the Woodham Hall Estate with a long-standing and active residents association, Book Club, Gardening club etc. Horssell Common is on our doorstep and I use it daily along with many of the other residents- some of which support the Horssell Common Preservation Society. The church Hall of All Saints serves the residents of Woodham and those in East Horssell as a polling station which works well. People in Horssell and Woodham have worked hard to establish such communities making it a safe and pleasant place to live. Sheerwater is a much more urban area with industrial /office areas and social housing that has no relation to the woodland setting of Woodham. The population is much higher and set to increase. The turnover of residents is higher and the crime rate in the area is also high. The natural boundary of the Basingstoke canal is I believe the best ward boundary. I urge you to reconsider these points prior to a balancing of a number exercise which by staying within Horssell would not amount to a vast percentage increase especially as the growth within our area is minimal. I strongly disagree with the proposed ward name change. One final note I would like to mention is your comment on not taking into consideration Yours Sincerely P Semon-Ward

Uploaded Documents:
None Uploaded
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: V Semon-Ward
E-mail: 
Postcode: 

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

Reasons for not becoming Sheerwater: Woodham loses its identity and name Local Councillor representation will be jeopardized for Woodham residents due to its relatively small number of residents compared to Sheerwater. Sheerwater is facing major changes to its regeneration project and its political position is changing as seen in the 2014 local elections. Sheerwater is a highly populated area with many homes, Flats, Business Parks, Garages and commercial premises a complete contrast to Woodham. There is no community between the two areas and never has been. The distance to travel by road to Sheerwater shops is in excess of 2 miles (West Byfleet shops are nearer) using already congested routes. The impact the restructure may have on School catchment and other services such as GP services? The crime rates of Sheerwater are far higher than those of Woodham! Reasons for Keeping Woodham as a part of Horsell: Woodham has a low-density population with many trees much like the natural affinity of Horsell common to which parts adjoin. The Basingstoke Canal provides a natural boundary line. The surrounding common provides residents amenity use for leisurely pursuits Inc. Woodham Walkers. Residents of Woodham support Horsell Common Preservation Society. The current voting representation of Woodham residents is clearly represented and of a similar pattern to that of Horsell East. Woodham provides Horsell East with the polling station. Residents of Woodham have children participating in activities in Horsell that include, Scouts, Brownies, Guides, Dance classes, cricket etc. all of which form friendships and communities. The Sands Public House is well favoured amongst Woodham residents who support it and use it for residents association meetings. It is the nearest pub to many of Woodham’s residents. Likewise, many Woodham Residents frequent The Red Lion in Horsell. Residents of Woodham use the GP services of Horsell, Woking or West Byfleet.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
8 September 2014

To: Review Officer (Woking)

LGBCE

Dear Sir or Madam,

WOKING PROPOSED WARD BOUNDARIES

I wish to protest at the decision to include Chobham Road along with other parts of Horsell within the proposed Sheerwater Ward for Woking Council. The decision appears to be wholly irrational and based on nothing more than a crude attempt to create Wards with equal numbers of voters while wholly ignoring geographical, social and other factors.

My wife and I have lived at our present address for 14 years and for about 17 years before that lived just a few yards away in a smaller property in Broomhall Road. Throughout we have always regarded ourselves as residents of Horsell.

Reasons we want to stay in a Horsell Ward

1. Our friends and acquaintances live in Horsell.

2. We use a GP and dentist in Horsell.

3. We use the local shops in Horsell.

4. We use other trades people from Horsell (plumber, IT consultant, electrician).
5. We are Lifetime members of Horsell Residents Association.

6. We were members of the former Horsell Moor Conservation Group and served on its committee.

7. We have lobbied on specific issues affecting Horsell residents, such as the maintenance of a bus service through Horsell.

8. Our postal address has always included "Horsell".

9. We regularly have delivered the magazine "Horsell Matters", described as "The village magazine from your parish church".

10. For 30 years we have voted at the Polling Station at Trinity Methodist Church, the polling station for both Horsell West and Horsell East. This Polling Station is on the other side of the fence at the bottom of our back garden! And at our previous address we had to do no more than cross the road to vote.

11. About 10 yards walk from our house in one direction is Wheatsheaf Common on which a number of sporting and other events are held which are often advertised as taking place on "Wheatsheaf Common, Horsell, Woking".

12. About 10 yards walk from our house in the other direction is the road bridge over the canal which many still call "Horsell Bridge" (and which is so described in "War Of The Worlds" by H.G.Wells).

13. We have been lucky to have had a number of long-standing Councillors all of whom, regardless of their party, have staunchly represented the issues affecting Horsell.

**Reasons we do not wish to be included in a Sheerwater ward.**

14. The Basinstoke Canal and the dual carriageway are something in the nature of a "Berlin Wall" separating Horsell from the Woking Town Centre and the more distant Sheerwater proper. Since retiring my wife and I have little occasion to cross the "Wall", in particular we make very little use of shops or services in the Town Centre and absolutely no use of any shops or services in Sheerwater.

15. We have no friends or acquaintances in Sheerwater.
16. The whole character of the Sheerwater Ward seems to us different from Horsell. Sheerwater has the Town Centre with its many shops and a number of tower block flats, a good deal of light industry, and social housing. In contrast Horsell is principally older residential properties.

17. We have a serious concern about future planning developments if parts of Horsell are included in the Sheerwater Ward. We believe this could potentially be a Trojan Horse letting in commercial and industrial developments to Horsell which are not currently envisaged in the existing Borough Plan.

Yours faithfully,

David Severn
Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Linda
Date: 2 September 2014 12:59:14 BST
To: "reviews@lgbce.ork.uk" <reviews@lgbce.ork.uk>
Cc: Ken Sewell
Subject: Ward Boundaries Changes West Byfleet

To whom it may concern.

I would like our views to be taken into consideration with regard to the proposed ward changes in Woking, specifically in opposing the proposals for the new ward of Sheerwater.

I currently live in Old Avenue in West Byfleet which will be affected by these proposed changes to ward boundaries, and do not feel that the needs of the residents of Old Avenue are being taken into consideration. I feel that the same can be said for the residents of Hollies Avenue and Woodlands Road.

Firstly I would like to point out that West Byfleet itself is a vibrant village and yet these proposals will strip it of it's identity as it looks set to be split up and divided into the proposed Byfleet and West Byfleet Ward, Pyrford Ward and Sheerwater Ward. Despite having a West Byfleet address it appears from the proposals that we will be a part of Sheerwater Ward which we have no connections with what so ever.

Old Avenue is a conservation area, one of West Byfeet's old roads containing houses of architectural interest and importance. It is part of West Byfleet's heritage.

We have lived in the avenue for fifteen years now and identify strongly with West Byfleet village centre which is where we shop, where our doctors, churches, schools, banks and other services are located. This is the social and retail centre that we regularly visit and that we feel a part of. We have strong links with many of the retailers in our village. It is also where our train station is located.

We have no connection with Sheerwater at all. It may look from the perspective of a map that the two communities are adjacent to each other but we are very separate. It is our wish to remain within the boundaries of West Byfleet as that is the heart of our community, the community that we strongly identify with.

We are aware that there is a major project underway for the regeneration Sheerwater and
wonder if that has been taken into consideration when attempting to tally the numbers of voters in each ward. The regeneration of Sheerwater includes 500 new dwellings being provided which will of course significantly alter the number of voters in the ward.

Sheerwater estate was originally built in the 1950s and has always had an identity of its own. It would make more sense to keep Sheerwater aligned with Woking Central.

It does seem very unfair that West Byfleet is sliced up to its detriment but to the advantage of smaller neighbouring communities.

Many residents of Old Avenue belong to the Byfleet, West Byfleet's and Pyrford Residents Association which has represented our interests over many years. Residents of Old Avenue particularly look upon West Byfleet as their village and it is recognised that we are a part of the three villages of Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford. We are also a part of the Byfleet, West Byfleet and Pyrford Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team and wish to remain so.

To conclude please give consideration to the points raised within this letter.

Your faithfully

Linda and Ken Sewell

Sent from my iPad
To The Review Officer (Woking)
Local Government Boundary Commission For England,
Lyden House,
76-78 Turnmill Street,
London
EC1M 5LG

**REF: Review consultation on ward pattern for Woking Borough Council**

Dear Sir/Madam

My wife and I are residents of Old Avenue and we object to the Boundary Commission’s proposal of taking out Hollies Avenue, Woodlands Avenue and Old Avenue and placing them in Sheerwater ward. I consider that the existing parish boundaries which have existed for many decades should be respected since they are part of West Byfleet’s history and community fabric.

The residents of Hollies Avenue, Woodlands Avenue and Old Avenue look upon West Byfleet as “their village” where they find their everyday needs and requirements and this feeling of community has strong bonds.

The additional number in population on the Sheerwater Estate, which will increase significantly over the next few years could mean that there will not be a balanced electorate for the ward and the concerns and needs of some areas such as Woodlands Avenue, Hollies Avenue and Old Avenue would not be fairly reflected.

Unfortunately, Sheerwater Estate does not enjoy a good reputation and that could be to the detriment of roads now being considered for inclusion in the proposed new ward.

I ask that you consider the points raised and that much thought should be given to community interests and identities which are strong in this area.

Yours faithfully,

Hormoz Shakrokh Shahi
Concerning
(Woking) Local Government Boundary Commission
for England Review

18th Sept 2014

Dear Sir,

Having looked at the new electoral boundaries that have been proposed for Woking, I would like to register my opinion.

As a Horsell resident, I think the proposed exclusion of Ferndale Road, The Grove and the area near the Methodist Church into the Sheerwater Ward is totally illogical. People living on Ferndale Road and The Grove associate themselves with Horsell Village and the surrounding area, not with Sheerwater.

I would suggest that the canal forms a natural boundary.

Yours faithfully,
Dear Sir

Re: The proposal to lose Woodham and put it under the Sherwater banner is just not on.

I thought Albert Drive was the end of Sherwater and once went over the bridge that became Woodham/Woking.

Certainly the proposal to join Woodham to Horsham is more acceptable if of course there is a need to change in common with most people I'm sure nobody around here finds this acceptable.
Ref: Ward Boundary Changes which impacts Woodlands Avenue

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to strongly object to the proposals to change my ward from West Byfleet to Sheerwater. I live at 85 Woodlands Avenue and have lived here for over 8 years. I bought this house as part of the West Byfleet ward and refute any proposal to change the ward. Not only will it devalue the value of my property I cannot believe that any such changing can be allowed to happen. It is like pulling the rug from under the table and I strongly object. It also breaks the community identity which is currently West Byfleet and that I am currently part of. I cannot believe that such a change could ever be allowed.

I have tried submitting my counter proposal on the https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk website but it does not allow me to draw any lines. The proposal is to keep Woodlands Avenue and Hollies Avenue as part of West Byfleet with the Sheerwater boundary remaining as the opposite side of Sheerwater road from the traffic lights near the end of Woodlands Avenue.

I currently live in the West Byfleet ward and want to remain in the West Byfleet ward.

I, along with other residents of woodlands avenue will be taking legal action and seeking compensation for lost value on our properties which will occur if any such ward change were to happen.

If it was not for neighbours telling me about the proposed ward changes then I would not have known to raise my objections. I believe this is all in an attempt to move a change which 100% of effected West Byfleet residents are strongly against.

I have also signed a petition with the residents of Woodlands Avenue and surrounding areas of West Byfleet who, like me, want to remain part of the West Byfleet ward.

Regards,

Robert Shore
We live in Woking Borough. Woking Borough Council's preferred recommendation is that we join with Horsell to form a three councillor ward. This we are in favour of for the following reasons.

1 Historically our area has always been linked with Horsell. Indeed, the Deeds to our house state us to be resident in the Parish of Horsell.
2 Geographically, we are linked more with Horsell than the other proposal - Sheerwater. We feel the Basingstoke Canal IS a boundary already separating the Wards.
3 With regard to the acknowledged higher crime rate in Sheerwater over Horsell ... this will, we are certain, have an adverse effect on insurance premiums and property purchase desirability.
4 Sheerwater, given it's high population and housing ratio, together with the ongoing expansion programme, should be a stand alone Ward...or possibly linked with Maybury and bordering areas on that side of the Basingstoke Canal.
5 With regard to the usage of the areas, we often visit Horsell, but rarely need or wish to go to Sheerwater. The shopping area of Dartmouth Avenue doesn't exactly fill one with inspiration. It is run down with many of the shops boarded up. Vandalism is rife.
6 Our locality is akin to Horsell with regard to community, housing and neighbourhood interests. We feel our community has nothing in common with Sheerwater.
7 We wish, therefore, to register our opposition to the Boundary Commission's proposal that Woodham be taken out of Horsell Ward and be linked with Sheerwater.

Signed: Barry Sibley and Maureen Sibley
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Jeremy Sigger
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]

Organisation Name: 

Comment text:

I am surprised that the recommendations for the Sheerwater ward have not taken into account the many objections that were raised when the proposal was first circulated by Woking Council. The area north of the Basingstoke Canal has very little in common demographically with the area to the south, or with the Town Centre. The Woodham Hall Estate north of the Canal (The Riding, The Gateway, Woodham Waye, Woodham Lane etc) is far closer to Horsell in demographic terms (housing type, housing value, resident’s incomes etc) and it seems perverse to link it to the Sheerwater estate to the south which is recognised as an area of deprivation in local plans. I fear that the plans will largely disenfranchise residents of the Woodham Hall Estate as I doubt that councillors elected by voters in Sheerwater and the Town Centre will pay much heed to the concerns of Woodham Hall residents. In practice there are few links between the areas to the north and south of the Canal, other than residents shopping in the Town Centre.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Jose Silva
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 Horshell 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 Horshell 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 Horshell) There are many community affinities between Woodham and Horshell 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 Horshell. Residents of Woodham frequent the shops and leisure amenities located in Horshell. The Sands, The Red Lion and The Cricketers are our local public houses. Horshell common is frequented by dog walkers and many members of The Horshell Preservation Society live in Woodham. Residents associations use the facilities in Horshell 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. 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 Horshell and Woodham.

 Uploaded Documents:
None Uploaded
Dear Sir/Madam,

It has come to my attention that the Boundary Commission has proposed to take Woodham out of Horsell Ward, remove the name ‘Woodham' and instead join it with Sheerwater to form a three councillor Sheerwater ward.

I am completely against this, and outraged for the lack of respect shown for the Woodham community, identity, and history, that this boundary proposal would destroy.

Simply by removing ‘Woodham’ you are destroying the community identity, history, and local character, and you will destroy the spirit of this local community, and removing its voice.

The boundary proposal would destroy the identity of the Woodham community. Woodham has its own identity and community spirit. Woodham has its own local history, and network of leafy private roads of mainly detached housing, of which either back onto the Horsell common or the north side of the Basingstoke Canal. By taking away our identity, you destroy local history, and community spirit. We wouldn’t be known as Woodham, our community would be lost under the larger ward, ‘Sheerwater’, which is a very different area and community on the south side of the Basingstoke canal, which, forms a natural boundary.

The Sheerwater community is one which we are not part of in any way, we do not have the same identity, Sheerwater, is mainly ex-council housing and flats, we do not have the same interests and do not share any of the same infrastructure or facilities. We are divided geographically by the Basingstoke Canal, and there is only access at the very far ends, which we never use, and is heavily used by HGV’s and vans for the light industry also situated there, increasing heavy traffic, and the local residents of Sheerwater who actually live there. We therefore as the Woodham community have no interest to go there. We do not have similar surroundings, even with the new proposals for redevelopment of the sheerwater area. We do not use any shops or schools in Sheerwater, or have any connections with the community there. We simply do not step foot in Sheerwater, and are and would never be part of the community there because of all the reasons above and of natural boundaries and conflicting views and interests.

Woodham connects with Horsell very well, in identity, community spirit, close proximity and access. Both are mainly leafy residential roads, many of which are detached housing, on private roads. Both are on the north side of the Basingstoke canal, and are connected through the Horsell common. We use and support the local high street shops, pubs, and restaurants in Horsell high street. We walk and cycle through the Horsell common and have a common interest what happens to the common, how it is managed and maintained. We use the schools in Horsell, we are integrated with the community, and we are interested in what activity goes on in Horsell, and our vote is important for this community and is not lost, especially since our interests are the same as those in Horsell, as we are similar communities joined together.

If we lose our Woodham identity to the larger Sheerwater ward, our vote and therefore our voice, will be lost within a much larger ward, where there are other priorities required in
other parts of the ward, where we do not go or have interest in, our vote, our concern, in reality, would simply be ignored, or put to the bottom of the pile, and forgotten/disregarded. Therefore, as a community, we would feel that we are not being listened to, that we are not important enough within the larger ward. Our vote would simply be wasted, and the result would be very unhappy residents, and destroyed community and identity.

Finally, we would not have a vote or say in what happens with the community that we actually are actively participating, and have an interest in, Horsell. We would not have a say in proposals directly on our doorstep involving the Horsell common, of which many of our houses, including mine, back on to. We would not be able to support any proposals to do with the high street, facilities, infrastructure, or new housing etc, affecting Horsell, which we use daily and have a direct link, and interest with, and which would impact us directly. We would therefore be voiceless.

I ask that you reconsider your proposals to destroy our community, and removing the name of Woodham from the proposed new wards. That Woodham remains untouched, and kept within the Horsell ward where we are best represented within our community and local environment.

Yours Faithfully,

Jennifer Simonian
Dear Sir/Madam,

I’ve been made aware that the local government boundary commission intend to remove Woodham Hall estate from the East Horsell Ward and join it with Sheerwater, to form a three councillor ward.

I’m strongly opposed to this decision and I will explain my reasons below.

1 I don’t have any interest into what happen to Sheerwater as I just simply never go there and know nobody there. The physical border that represent the canal and the lack of road to cross it, maintain two very distinct community, which don’t/can’t mix together. The only road between the two area are, the 6 cross roundabout on one side and Sheerwater road on the other. Once there, the woodham resident actually go either to west byfleet or to Horsell, two area with which we share much more in common, than with Sheerwater. I regularly go to Horsell to use the local shop, restaurants and visit friends there, alternatively I go to West byfleet Hight street, but I never to sheerwater.

2 Woodham is mainly made of privately owned detached house, lots of them are located in tree lined private road. Horsell is very similar to Woodham, while Sheerwater is mainly made of ex-council housing. This just illustrate how Sheerwater and Woodham community profoundly differ, while Woodham and Horsell are alike.

3 The Woodham resident do not send their children to Sheerwater, but mainly to the Horsell Schools. This reinforce the feeling that the Horsell and the Woodham resident belong to a same community, with the parent association.

4 I live in a property backing onto the Horsell Common. Sheerwater has no boundaries with the Horsell common, while most of the rest of the Horsell Common is in the Horsell ward.

5 Removing the name of Woodham and simply call the new ward Sheerwater, would simply destroy the Woodham identity. Woodham resident sometime describe where they live as Horsell or West byfleet, depending which part Woodham they are. However we never use the name of Sheerwater. Woodham has it own local history, which is linked to the conversion of the old Woodham Hall estate into a set of private road. It would be a shame to loose this local identity.

For all the reason above, like many Woodham resident, I have a strong interest into what happens in Horsell, and I would like to keep my right to vote for the councillor of the Horsell area.

In comparison I have no interested into what happen in Sheerwater, as I simply never go there. The lack of road to cross the canal, maintain a strong physical barrier between the two area and maintain each community on each side of the canal.

Woodham will become a small enclave on the north of the Canal, within a larger Sheerwater ward. The removal of the name of “Woodham” will destroy our own identity.

Sheerwater being at the centre of a major redevelopment and the voters there being more numerous, the councillor will be elected with a mandate focused on the interest of the sheerwater resident. This change of boundaries will lead to my vote and my concerns being lost, amongst the Sheerwater voters and unlikely to be addressed.

The two community share very little in common and for this reason, I don’t believe that any Sheerwater councillor would be able to adequately represent me and to properly address my day to day concerns.
Comparatively I believe that my concerns have a lot in common with the concerns of the Horsell's resident, as both communities are very similar, share many of the same facilities (School, Common, shops ...), and therefore create a uniform group.

I understand that the purpose of the commission is to create some ward with a similar number of voters. But arbitrarily breaking up a long established group (Horsell and Woodham), and patching it up with another community with which, there is no interest in common, for the purpose of vote arithmetic, would be simply wrong.

All the people in Woodman I’ve been talking to are strongly opposed to be removed from the Horsell Ward, to be merged with Sheerwater, as we simply never go there.

So I hope that you will consider the Woodham resident’s opinion, as well as the Woking borough council, to not destroy the historical link that exist between Horsell and Woodham and keep us as part of Horsell.

Regards,

Michel Simonian
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Mary Sinnott
E-mail: 
Postcode: 

Organisation Name: 

Comment text:

I have lived in Woodham since moving to Woking 15 years ago and would be very sad to see Woodham disappear as a ward name. Our area has always been well served by the councillors of East Horsell and Woodham. Locally there was agreement to merge Woodham with Horsell as the areas are very similar in terms of demography and geography. It makes no sense to merge Woodham with Sheerwater as there is no shared sense of community identity at all. Woodham is a residentail area that consists of mainly large detached houses in a very leafy environment with my road (and many others) backing onto Horsell Common. The Basingstoke Canal is a major geographical feature which very obviously splits Woodham from Sheerwater and the only access between the 2 areas is via one road at the extreme ends of the proposed ward. I can honestly say that I never go to Sheerwater for shopping, medical facilities, leisure or any other reason. Sheerwater has much higher density housing with smaller houses and lots of blocks of flats. It has the largest concentration of industrial areas in the borough. It has also been identified as a CS5 Priority Place with parts of Sheerwater deemed the most deprived area within Surrey. Crime statistics for Sheerwater are also very different from Woodham. The concerns and issues that Sheerwater residents have are likely to be very different from those in Woodham. I feel any councillors might find it difficult to represent the views of the two disparate groups if the areas were combined. As a point of interest, Sheerwater and Maybury ward is the only Woking ward that sometimes returns a Labour candidate. At the moment it is Conservative but it is always a close run outcome. Woodham has a huge Conservative vote which would very much skew the outcome of future elections in Sheerwater. A cynic might think.........

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Dear Sir/Madam,

Woking Borough Council Boundary Review

I am writing as a director of The Riding and Paddock Way Residents Association Ltd.

Our two roads, incorporating 82 homes, are part of The Woodham Hall Estate which is bounded by Horsell Common and the north side of the Basingstoke canal.

We have been well served by the councillors of Horsell East and Woodham for many years and share a communality with Horsell. The areas are very similar demographically and geographically as both are predominantly prosperous, residential leafy suburbs containing mostly detached housing with many private roads. Residents share the same interests and concerns and have worked together on a number of local issues. Earlier in the year Woking Borough Council recommended that Woodham should merge with Horsell to form a new 3-councillor ward and we would fully endorse this view.

The Boundary Commission response which takes Woodham out of the Horsell ward and joins it with Sheerwater doesn't make any sense to us as there is no sense of community between the areas.

The Basingstoke Canal is a very obvious natural boundary between Woodham and Sheerwater. There are no public transport links between the two areas and the only access is at the extreme ends of the proposed ward where a bridge crosses the canal.

Sheerwater has a very different demographic from Woodham with a high density of smaller houses and flats. It has the largest concentration of industrial areas in the borough. The Surrey Strategic Partnership has identified Sheerwater as a CS5 ‘Priority Place’ with parts of the area among the most deprived areas nationally and the most deprived in the county. The crime rates in Sheerwater are also very different to those in Woodham and Horsell.

The issues and concerns of the residents of Sheerwater are likely to be very different to those of the Woodham residents. It could be difficult for any councillors to be able to fully represent the disparate interests of the two areas.

I believe changes to wards are intended to deliver improved levels of electoral equality for local voters. Although Sheerwater is currently a Conservative ward it has been the only ward in Woking that sometimes returns a Labour councillor, with any elections always being very closely run. Woodham is a very strong Conservative seat so merging the two areas could greatly distort the voting outcome for Sheerwater.

The parish of Woodham has existed since August 1902 when King Edward VII signed the Order of Council to create it. We feel it would be a great shame to lose the name of Woodham from the proposed new wards and would ask you to reconsider this.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Sinnott
To the boundary commission,

In response to Anne Murray & Michael Smith's (Horsell East & Woodham borough councillors) letter on the wards proposed - my property falling into a proposed Sheerwater ward but actually in the Woodham area.

I completely agree that the Woodham area should not fall under a Sheerwater ward. This is on the basis of the following:

1) There is no reflection between the two areas of Sheerwater & Woodam.
2) Sheerwater & Woodham have two VERY different identities with no community interests or links.
3) There is a distinct boundary between Woodham & Sheerwater in the Basingstoke canal and no access points other than at extreme ends of the ward proposed.

My view is that the Woodham area should retain its identity and be in a ward called Horsell & Woodham (as it is now) and the boundary between Woodham & Sheerwater should remain as the Basingstoke canal (as recommended by the council on this area) Anything else is clearly misrepresenting the Woodham area and it's identity.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Skilton

Sent from my iPad
Dear Review Officer,

This is regarding the Woking draft proposals for the new wards. I have read the proposals and looked at the boundary maps and I am very unhappy with the new proposals in my area where my house is located. I live at [redacted]. I am specifically unhappy that the boundary has moved north of the canal and now in a ward with, and called Sheerwater. The Area my property is in should have a ward called Woodham or at worst go into the Horsell ward as it was previously. It is absolutely not right to enter this into a Sheerwater ward - It has absolutely no identification with Sheerwater and should not be associated with it.

I would like my views known at the highest level on this new ward proposal and would like the wards adjusted as outlined.

Yours,

Mr M Skilton.
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: M Skilton
E-mail: 
Postcode: 
Organisation Name: 

Comment text:

I strongly disagree with the new Sheerwater boundary proposal for Woodham to be part of the Sheerwater ward. I am a Woodham resident living in Laurel Crescent, Woodam so affected by this new proposal. Woodham needs to be part of the West Byfleet ward or Horsell & Woodham ward. Woodham has no relation with Sheerwater and two completely different areas, different housing and different residents separated, by a canal. I use West Byfleet personally & professionally and never go to Sheerwater - this is very much the case for all Woodham residents as I’m sure you are now realising - The new ward proposal needs to be amended so Woodham is not part of the Sheerwater ward. Below is my response to the article in the Informer newspaper this week (Guy Martin wrote the article) with the heading 'Woodham shuns Sheerwater merger'. Dear Guy, I am one of the affected Woodham residents, who has just seen your piece in the Informer paper. I would like to say that I am also very upset and angry with the new ward proposals for Woodham to become part of Sheerwater. The two areas have no affiliation with one another and are completely different in all aspects, and I feel strongly that it will have a negative impact if this ward boundary goes ahead (I seem to share this thought with other Woodham residents). Woodham and Sheerwater have a clear divide with the canal with different housing and different residents- I use Sheerwater for nothing. I use West Byfleet personally and professionally. It is clear that the ward proposal needs to change and Woodham is not part of Sheerwater ward. It should be part of West Byfleet ward, or if not West Byfleet ward part of Horsell & Woodham ward. Kind regards, [Redacted], Woodham resident (please keep my details confidential). Sent from my iPad

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Pamela Skinner
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]
Organisation Name:

Comment text:

We are very concerned by the proposals to include Hollies Avenue, West Byfleet within the ward of "Sheerwater". Our address is West Byfleet, we use West Byfleet station, shop in West Byfleet, our doctor is in West Byfleet and regularly use the restaurants and local amenities of West Byfleet. We strongly feel therefore that Hollies Avenue should remain within the Byfleet & West Byfleet ward to ensure that our community interests and identity are properly reflected. To include Hollies Avenue within the ward of Sheerwater would seem inappropriate and not correctly represent the residents of our street.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Review Officer (Woking)  
LG BCE  
Layden House  
76-86 Turnmills Street  
London EC1M 5LG

Dear Sir,

I am writing in response to the Commission's draft recommendations for the proposed three member wards for Woking Borough Council.

Woodham should remain part of the Horsell ward as proposed by Woking Borough Council and not become part of the Sheerwater ward as proposed by the Boundary Commission for the following reasons:

1) Woodham and Sheerwater are separated for their entire lengths by the natural boundary of the Basingstoke Canal. The road access between the two is only at the extreme ends of the proposed ward. This effectively produces a detached ward which the Boundary Commission itself does not favour.

2) The separation of Woodham and Sheerwater by the canal does not make for a cohesive community identity.

3) Woodham Lane (north of the canal) and Albert Drive (south of the canal) run parallel to each other. Therefore one would not logically drive from Woodham Lane to any destination via Sheerwater.
4) The Woking Borough Council proposed warding pattern already fell within the 10% variance required by the Boundary Commission and was based on local knowledge and opinion.

5) There appears to be a discrepancy in the figures given for the growth in the electorate from 2013 to 2019 between Woking Borough Council and the Boundary Commission.

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<th>Woking Council Electorate Figures</th>
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| Woking Council Horsell           |      |      |          |
| " " Woking Central              | 8158 | 8298 | 59       |
| Boundary Commission Sheerwater   | 6317 | 7171 | 784-     |
| " " Horsell                     | 7919 | 7994 | 75-      |
| 7312                            | 7360 | 48   |

* In view of the proposed regeneration of Sheerwater an electorate increase of 75 estimated by the Boundary Commission seems very strange when compared with the Woking Borough Council estimate of 784.

It would be wrong to make policy decisions based on incorrect data and poor assumptions.

Yours faithfully,
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Mark Smedley
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]
Organisation Name: [redacted]

Comment text:

I would like to object to the recommendation to combine the Woodham Ward in Woking with Sheerwater. It would make much more logical sense to combine Woodham with the Horsell Ward if there is to be a combination of wards. The Sheerwater area has a natural boundary provided by the Basingstoke Canal and the areas of Woodham and Horsell have many similarities and would in my view make a much more logical combination.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Dear Members of the Boundary Commission

I am opposed to the amendment made by yourselves 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 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 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 predominately prosperous, 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.

Sincerely,

Alan Maitland Smith
I do not wish to be included in the ward of Sheerwater purely because I live, shop and socialise in West Byfleet.

Best regards
Beverley & Roger Smith

Sent from my iPad
Dear Madam / Sir,

I am a resident of Woodham in Woking Borough and am writing to tell you that I strongly object to the proposal of merging the community of Woodham with that of Sheerwater as part of the electoral boundaries review.

Sheerwater is one of the most deprived areas in Surrey, whereas Woodham is not. Both areas have their unique problems, aspirations and local issues.

Merging the two areas into one electoral unit will inevitably favour one of the opposing local agendas over the other, or end up in unstable and ineffective local representation over time.

Merging Woodham with the Horsell ward makes a lot of sense to me.

Kind regards

Ewa Brachel Smith
Dear Members of the Boundary Commission

I am opposed to the amendment made by yourselves 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 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 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 predominately prosperous, 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.

Sincerely,

Helen F Smith
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: J Smith
E-mail: [Redacted]
Postcode: [Redacted]
Organisation Name: [Redacted]

Comment text:

The proposed Sheerwater boundary line at its eastern end cutting through Silver Birch Close and around Holm Close is haphazard and does not clearly demarcate the wards. The boundary should follow a clear physical boundary line such as Sheerwater Road, between the junction with the railway line and the junction with Woodham Lane. Everything to the east of this line should then be absorbed into one / separated into two or three, of the adjoining wards, for example Woodlands Avenue and Hollies Avenue into Byfleet & West Byfleet, and Silver Birch Close and Holm Close into Horsell, thus also representing the property types and demographics more closely.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
As a resident of , I am unhappy about being moved into the Sheerwater electoral ward in the proposed re-drawing of electoral boundaries. We are a very definite part of West Byfleet geographically and the village is our nearest location for shopping and transport links. I would like to still have an influence in any development or changes in the village which I feel would be lost or diluted if we were contained in another ward. In the recent publication issued by the LGBCE under the heading "A good pattern of wards should be.." it is stated that wards should be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries, which is certainly not the case in the suggested redrawing of boundaries to include Woodlands and Hollies Avenues in the Sheerwater ward. Sheerwater Road creates a very clear and obvious boundary, in that all roads to the right of it should be contained in the Byfleet & West Byfleet ward. I feel very strongly about our road being moved to the Sheerwater ward and wish to register my objection to this proposal.

Stuart Smith
To The Review Officer (Woking),

I write to express my concerns about the proposed new council ward boundaries for Woking. I live (along with my family) in West Byfleet which currently sits in the West Byfleet ward. Under the proposal, we will be moved into the Sheerwater ward. I am strongly against this and do not think this is sensible for several reasons:

- We never go to Sheerwater and have no need to do so. West Byfleet is the community that we are engaged in, is a 3 minute walk from our house and is where we do our shopping and spend our time locally.
- We do not have any particular views of what goes on in Sheerwater and should the proposals go ahead as planned then we would find ourselves with a say on matters that don’t really affect the community we live in.
- We would have no say on the area that we are involved in including shops, station, schools and church.
- West Byfleet and Sheerwater contain quite a different demographic, both economically and culturally. Combining these would lead to difficulties in decision making as the needs of the electorate are quite different. They are both separate villages with their own facilities and communities and therefore their own issues. Combining these for the sake of levelling ward numbers is nonsensical and would break up communities that have been established over many years.

Two of the three criteria for this proposal are “Reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links” and “Be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries”. This proposal satisfies neither of these, particularly for the residents of Woodlands Avenue.

I hope you take the time to consider our opinion. It is our view that a more sensible boundary would be where Woodlands Avenue meets Sheerwater Road and that Woodlands Avenue remain in West Byfleet, which is where it is...

Kind regards,

Graham Spenceley
Dear Boundary Commission

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.

Adrian Spencer
From Roland Sperryn-Jones

04/10/2014

Dear Sirs

I write with my comments about the proposed boundary changes and specifically how they might affect Woodham, Woking.

In general, I agree with the principle of 30 councillors representing 10 wards (3 per ward) for Woking.

Sheerwater, Woking was originally built as a LCC estate on land between the South Western main line railway and the Basingstoke canal after WW11. Many of the original tenants moved there from the East End and South of London and by the early 1950's some 1,300 homes had been built housing some 5,000 people. It is contained within the physical boundaries of the railway line and the canal with access points at each end - off the A245 at West Byfleet and at Mabury in Woking.

Woodham, Woking is a distinct area of Woking approximately one mile North of Woking comprising residential development on the site of the old Woodham Hall estate from around 1935 and extending either side of Woodham Lane (A245) down and across the 'Six Cross Roads' roundabout until it runs into Horsell. The area immediately to the east and North (and around six cross roads) is Horsell common (a preservation Trust). I would add that myself and many of my neighbours are members of the Horsell Common Preservation Society mainly because we can walk out of our doors and be on the common within minutes.

Unless you can walk on water, there is no access point between the properties off Woodham Lane and the properties on Sheerwater and to travel from one to the other you would need to cross either the canal bridge at Mabury or the canal bridge on the A245 at West Byfleet. There is therefore little social or other interaction between the two areas.

The Surrey County Council transport plan recognises that the greater Woking area is divided by two substantial boundaries - the railway line and the Basingstoke canal and that there are limited crossings for both of these divisional structures. It also recognises that there are two arterial routes to and through Woking - the A245 and the A320. The later two roads meet at the Six Cross Roads roundabout. Woodham flows naturally through to Horsell and both Horsell and Woodham adjacently share access to Horsell common.
It is hard to understand why the boundary commission did not accept the original recommendation from Woking Borough Council to put Horsell East in with Woodham as there was natural linkage between the two. Perhaps by just looking at a map it might draw the eyes to follow the boundaries within roads but that does not recognise the physical barrier on the ground created by the Basingstoke canal.

I believe it will be a mistake in the longer term not to give Sheerwater a separate identity. It has a self-contained community of its own and is to undergo a substantial up-grade to the existing housing stock with the addition of up to a 1,000 new housing units. While the existing expansion plans are available you might argue that as full planning permission has not yet been processed you are unable to take it into account at present. However there seems little doubt locally that it will happen and that it will automatically add substantially to the number of voters in the Sheerwater (or canal side) ward which will create an imbalance which would only need to be addressed again perhaps within the next couple of years. Since this falls within a highly probable (rather than simply possible) category of event then I believe this should be taken into account now as a common sense foreseeable event. Sheerwater will become of a sufficient size to stand alone without artificially attaching Woodham to it although on the map at first sight it seems to be adjacent. There is a moat between the two areas and no draw bridge.

Yours faithfully

Roland Sperryn-Jones.
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: Frances Stanbury
E-mail: [Redacted]
Postcode: [Redacted]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I live in Woodham and feel that our neighbourhood has much stronger links with Horsell than Sheerwater. The Basingstoke Canal forms a natural boundary between Woodham and Sheerwater. Woodham joins onto Horsell Common and thence Horsell village and the communities are similar, whereas there is no natural link or sense of neighbourhood with Sheerwater on the south side of the canal.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
**Woking District**

**Personal Details:**

Name: Mark Stevens  
E-mail: [REDACTED]  
Postcode: [REDACTED]

**Organisation Name:**

**Comment text:**

Regarding the new Sheerwater ward, the plan to incorporate properties north of the Basingstoke Canal will produce a ward with no cohesion, as the natural barrier of the canal also marks changes in the community type and facilities used. The properties to the North of the sit better with the Horsell ward, and moving them would I expect even out the discrepancy in ward population size between the two. I made these comments at the woking borough stage of the consultation but these comments have not been included in the set of previous comments elsewhere on this site, which I find disturbing

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded
As a long standing resident in this area, I felt I needed to raise my objection to the proposed changes to the West Byfleet ward boundary. Looking at the proposed boundaries, they are in effect splitting West Byfleet up completely. In this age where community really needs working at to retain, I feel this would be another blow to our village and sense of community. Division rather than bringing people together.

We need a councillor representing the people and needs of West Byfleet, which has it's own identity and services - different health centre, churches, schools, community groups etc. This goes for Pyrford and Sheerwater too. I'm quite sure those residents rather have their own communities cared for without having the add-ons from a different community.

Please - Keep West Byfleet whole. If there must be boundary changes, there must be more effective and sensible ways of doing it.

Andrea Stockford
Dear Sir/Madam,

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
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 predominately prosperous, residential leafy suburbs containing mostly detached housing with many private roads. In Sheerwater, on the other hand, there is a high proportion of social housing.

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.

I am also concerned that if Woodham is joined with Sheerwater, our insurance premiums could rise, as Sheerwater is a deprived area with high crime levels.

Thank you
Your faithfully,

(Mr)
Dear sirs,

I am writing to express my concerns over Hollies Avenue joining the Sheerwater boundary. As new residents to the area and as a young commuting couple, we use West Byfleet Station on a daily basis which is a 6 minute walk. We are also registered as patients at the GP centre in West Byfleet and we do our weekly grocery shopping at the Waitrose in West Byfleet, banking and other errands.

I believe this new structure the local government have in mind will demolish the community identity that currently exists here in Hollies Avenue which is one of the many reasons we purchased a house in this area and particularly on this road for the community identity it holds of being West Byfleet.

One other point I wish to raise about the new structure is that West byfleet has somewhat of prestigious name to it, in comparison to Sheerwater and I feel I paid a premium price to live in West Byfleet and to hear the local government plan to name Hollies Avenue under Sheerwater was frankly very upsetting. We are NOT Sheerwater - we are a far walk from their centre and do not use their town centre, so it doesn't make sense. My husband and I are extremely against this decision and hope you will think long and hard about this plan you propose to put in place.

An update on this would be much appreciated.

Your sincerely,

Shanjida Amy Suleman
Dear LGBC
I have been reviewing the ward boundary proposals and do wish to raise some concerns.

As a resident of The Grove, it appears we are being moved from East Horsell/Woodham to be included in the Sheerwater Ward. I note from your brief that a good pattern should “reflect community interests and identities and include evidence of community links”, and “be based on strong, easily identifiable boundaries”.

My concerns are:

- The proposed ward of Sheerwater includes a very small number of roads in the Wheatsheaf Common area (The Grove, Ferndale Road etc). These are to the north of the canal and border Horsell Common. The canal appears to be an obvious natural boundary and inclusion of these roads in the new ward makes these roads appear isolated and at risk of being marginalised in ward priorities.
- By comparison, these roads are an integral part of the Wheatsheaf Common area, which is a community in its own right but closely linked to Horsell for shared community links and facilities.

Please keep me informed of any further developments or if there are any hearings at which residents can meet and discuss proposals further.
With kind regards
John Summers
Woking District

Personal Details:

Name: G Sweeney
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

Proposed Woking Electoral Changes I am objecting to the proposed move of Woodham from Horsell into the Sheerwater ward as there is no commonality of interests and identities of Sheerwater and Woodham local communities specifically as:• The economic, social and housing needs are totally different in that Sheerwater is in the 14% most deprived areas within the UK whereas Woodham and the rest of Woking is within the top 10% of areas (Woking Council’s website http://www.woking.gov.uk/planning/majordevelopments/anewvisionforsheerwater/sheerwaterfaqs ). This is typified by Sheerwater being originally social housing and industrial with Woodham being private detached housing generating very different requirements in terms of employment, policing, housing and regeneration. • Sheerwater and Woking are further physically separated by the Basingstoke Canal and only connected by two road bridges with no public transport links between the two with the buses taking totally separate paths into Woking. This means that there are no common community groups with people in Woodham using the medical services, schools and shops in West Byfleet, Woking or Horsell and would not consider using those in Sheerwater. • The population of Woodham is much smaller than Sheerwater it would be lose its ability to be adequately represented as it would become dominated by the totally different needs of Sheerwater residents. • Woodham would cease to exist in name as a discrete electoral area which will diminish its identity and community. I would recommend that Woodham would ideally remain with Horsell as there has always been a natural demographic and geographic linkage with the same needs. As an alternative Byfleet & West Byfleet could be considered as this still gives a much better alignment than Sheerwater.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded