



CHOBHAM PARISH COUNCIL

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The Review Officer
Local Government Boundary Commission
14th Floor
Millbank Tower
Millbank
London SW1P 4QP

9th October 2016

Dear Sir /Madam,

Proposed Changes to Surrey Heath Borough Council Ward Boundary/Electoral Division

I am writing on behalf of Chobham Parish Council regarding the proposed changes to Surrey Heath Borough Council electoral division. My Council has considered the on line documentation and the three main statutory criteria to which the Boundary Commission must adhere. My Council acknowledges the Boundary Commission proposals to reduce the number of Surrey Heath Borough Councillors from 40 to 34. However, we strongly oppose a reduction from two to one Borough Councillors for the ward of Chobham.

The ward of Chobham has approximately 3100 electors which equates to 1.9 Borough Councillors under the present system with 40 Borough Councillors and 1.6 Borough Councillors under the proposed system of 34 Borough Councillors. The proposed reduction of Borough Councillors would result in the ward of Chobham having a shortfall of electorates to equate with two Borough Councillors. However, my Council considers the assigning of ward boundaries purely as a number crunching exercise as unreasonable. The sense of belonging to a community such as Chobham, with its unique character and history, should be given equal weighting.

Chobham is a rural community, with an area of 2,313 hectares representing 24.3% of the total area of the Borough Surrey Heath. It is the largest ward in terms of area, and includes Chobham Common (a National Reserve Area and a Special Protection Area) to the north. The additional demands of managing such a large area including Chobham Common are not reflected in the calculation of the number of Borough Councillors allocated to each ward. My Council considers it unreasonable for a single Borough Councillor to undertake these distances and additional responsibilities.

Chobham is a unique vibrant village, with its own active Parish Council. The village has many clubs and associations which brings together the residents from all of Chobham. For example, the Old Folk Club has fortnightly meetings in the Pavilion, with a pick up and drop off service for parishioners throughout the village. The village has a High Street with shops and eateries, and other facilities in the village including

a medical centre, chemist, post office, playgroups, two primary schools and two churches. Most parishioners use the amenities of the village and there is a real sense of belonging to the community which is evident in the attendance of annual events such as Chobham Carnival and the Flower and Music festival. There is no public transport from Chobham to the neighbouring villages of West End, Windlesham and Bisley, and just an hourly bus service to Woking during the working day. This makes movement between villages difficult. Chobham residents have excellent facilities within their community, as outlined above.

My Council strongly recommends that the boundary of the ward of Chobham should reflect its "natural community". There are parts of Chobham that, while naturally affiliated to the community of Chobham, actually lie outside the parish boundary, for example "Halebourne Lane", and part of the "Bagshot Road". In each case, residents on both sides of the parish boundary have adopted Chobham as their "natural community". My Council have drawn up a list of roads, see Appendix A, which we believe should be resolved by moving the parish boundaries to include them within the parish boundary of Chobham. My Council have given careful consideration to include only those roads which have a natural affiliation with the village of Chobham and forms an identifiable boundary. This would result in the number of electorates for the ward of Chobham to increase.

We respectfully request that our comments are taken into consideration at the next stage of the boundary review.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Barber', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Annette Barber
Parish Clerk



CHOBHAM PARISH COUNCIL

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Appendix A

Roads which should be included within the boundary of the ward of Chobham:

Woodlands Farm
Windlesham Park
Ryegrove Lane
Hookmill Lane
Burnt Pollard Lane
Black Stroud Lane East
Hookstone Lane
Coldharbour Lane
Halebourne Lane
Windlesham Road (North of A319)
Bagshot Road (up to Benner Lane)
Penny Pot Lane (rest of)
Beldham Bridge Road
Scotts Grove Road East side
Chobham Lakes
Guildford Road to Carthouse Lane
Bisley detached