

# THE LOCAL BOUNDARY COMMISSION

## Wokingham Borough Council review

Woodley Cllr Keith Baker MBE - 2/11/22

### BACKGROUND

This submission relates to the Town of Woodley only and no other area. I am the Leader of Woodley Town Council and also Borough Councillor for Coronation Ward (North Woodley). I am speaking on behalf of myself.

Woodley consists of 5 Wokingham Borough Wards, namely:

- Bulmershe & Whitegates – 3 members
  - Bulmershe is in Woodley Town and Whitegates is in Earley Town
- Sonning – 1 member
  - Sonning consists of Sonning Village and Warren Parish Ward which is part of Woodley Town
- Coronation – 2 members
  - Totally within Woodley
- South Lake – 2 members
  - Totally within Woodley
- Loddon – 3 members
  - Totally within Woodley

Knowing the presumption is for 3 member wards this is an opportunity to address the “overlaps” from the Bulmershe & Whitegates and Sonning Wards. My objective, which is shared by Wokingham Borough Council (WBC), is to normalise the Woodley Borough Wards to be fully within the Woodley Town Council (Parish) boundaries.

This would mean removing Bulmershe and Warren from their current wards and incorporate them within the existing Coronation, South Lake and Loddon wards. This would necessitate to normalise them to 3 member wards.

Woodley Town has a boundary that goes alongside the Railway to the North; the River Loddon to the East; the A3290 to the South and a line parallel to the B3350 and Pitts Lane to the West (both roads are in Earley Town).

The main arteries to enter and exist are:

- Loddon Bridge Road
- The Bader Way
- Woodlands Avenue
- Reading Road
- Butts Hill Road

WBC produced an initial proposal (now known as the Minority report), which I support, with the boundaries marked in black (see attached Map).

## SUMMARY

The movement of the residents between the wards are:

- Coronation
  - Retain existing residents
  - Addition of Bulmershe residents (partial)
  - Addition of Warren residents (partial)
  - Addition of Loddon residents (partial)
- Loddon
  - Retain most of existing residents
  - Loss of residents to Coronation
- South Lake
  - Retain existing residents
  - Addition of Bulmershe residents (partial)
  - Addition of Warren residents (partial)

The overall benefits are:

- Removes the mixed wards which cross two Town or Parish Councils
- Satisfies the 3 member per ward requirement
- Minimises movement between wards therefore keeping existing ward communities together
- Removes many of the boundaries going down the middle of Arterial Roads
- Ensures consistency with existing Parish ward boundaries

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### BULMERSHE part of BULMERSH & WHITEGATES

In these proposals Bulmershe is split between Coronation and South Lake wards. A total of 1,962 residents have moved into the new Coronation Ward. A total of 1,755 residents have moved into the new South Lake Ward.

The benefits are:

- There are 2 “mini” communities – east and west – separated by the Town Centre. This proposal keeps these “mini” communities together albeit in 2 different new wards
- Arterial road Loddon Bridge Road (partial) is fully included in the new Coronation Ward instead of having a boundary down the middle of the road
- Arterial road Woodlands Avenue is fully included in the new South Lake Ward instead of having a boundary down the middle of the road

### WARREN part of SONNING

In these proposals Warren is split between Coronation and South Lake wards. A total of 568 residents have moved into the new Coronation Ward. A total of 730 residents have moved into the new South Lake Ward.

The benefits are:

- Arterial road Reading Road is fully included in the new South Lake Ward instead of having a boundary down the middle of the road

### LODDON WARD

This new ward, based on WBC information has =>

- Property count of 4,176
- Total Electorate of 7,110
- Cllr Electorate of 2,370

Which satisfies the numbers requirement of the new boundary. The characteristics of the new ward are =>

- There are two small retail areas within the ward, one in the North East (Loddon Vale) and one in the South West (Coppice Road)
- It is served by 2 Primary Schools (Rivermead & Woodley Church of England) and 1 Secondary School (Waingels)
- It is served by Reading Bus 13 and 14

The benefits are:

- Existing boundaries are unchanged as is apart from a small area in the North East of the ward where approximately 379 residents move into neighbouring Coronation Ward. These join the existing 228 residents in Coronation Ward from the Loddon Airfield Estate
- This keeps the Loddon community largely together
- Arterial road Loddon Bridge Road (partial) and The Bader Way are fully included within the ward instead of having a boundary down the middle of the road
- Continues consistency with Parish Boundaries

### SOUTH LAKE

This new ward, based on WBC information has =>

- Property count of 3,733
- Total Electorate of 6,708
- Cllr Electorate of 2,236

Which satisfies the numbers requirement of the new boundary. The characteristics of the new ward are =>

- There is one retail shop (Kingfisher Drive) within the ward
- It is served by 2 Primary Schools (South Lake & Highwood) and 1 Secondary School (Bulmershe)
- It is served by Reading Bus 13 and 14

The benefits are:

- Existing boundaries remain unchanged with additions to the North from Bulmershe and Warren wards
- In Bulmershe there are 2 “mini” communities – east and west – separated by the Town Centre. This proposal keeps the west “mini” community together by incorporating within the new ward
- The inclusion of the part of Bulmershe which has the Bulmershe Secondary School in will bring together the school catchment area which was split under previous boundaries
- Arterial road Woodlands Avenue is fully included within the ward instead of having a boundary down the middle of the road
- Continues consistency with Parish Boundaries

### CORONATION

This new ward, based on WBC information has =>

- Property count of 3,752
- Total Electorate of 6,804
- Cllr Electorate of 2,268

Which satisfies the numbers requirement of the new boundary. The characteristics of the new ward are =>

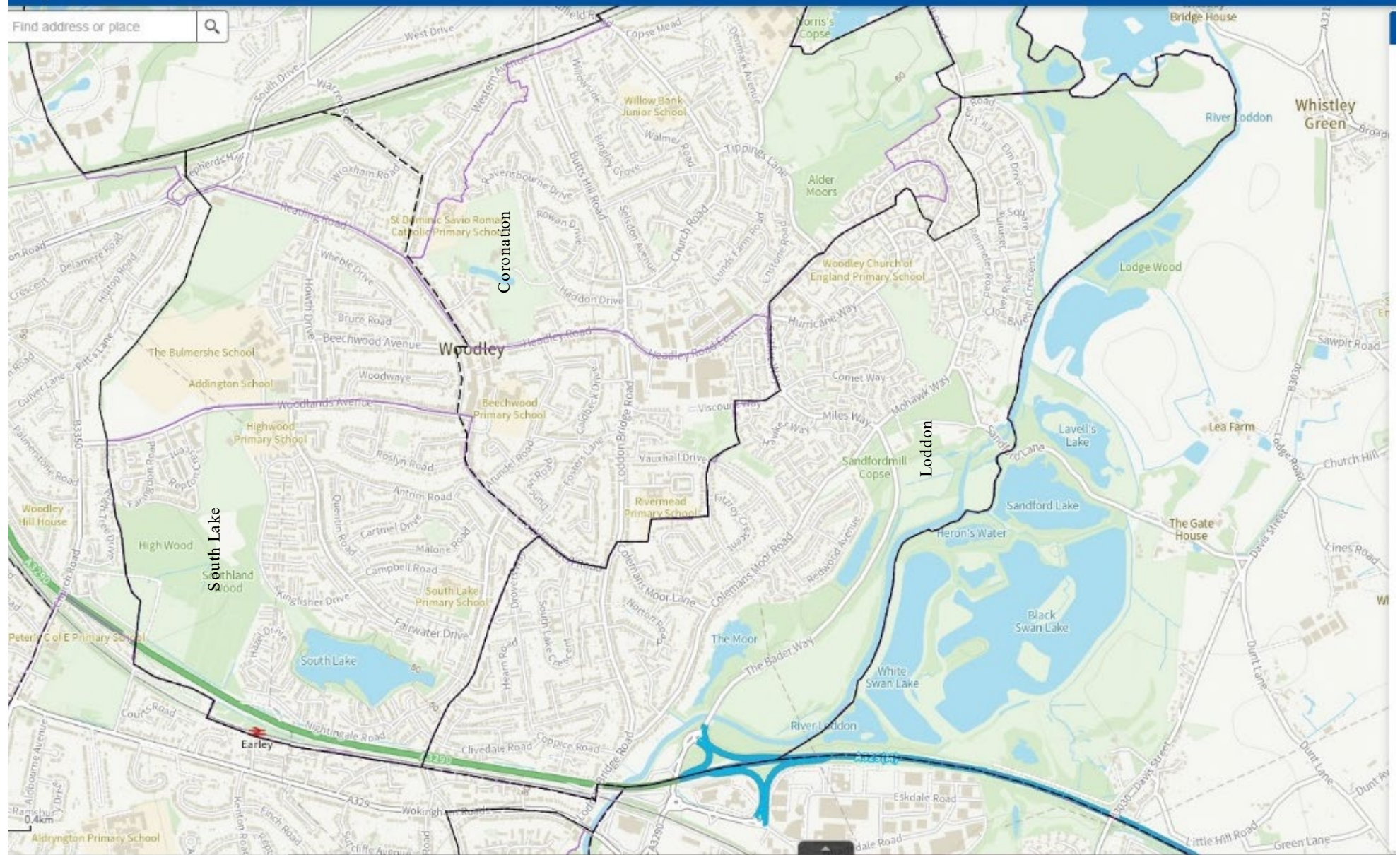
- There is a small retail area (Ravensbourne Drive) within the ward
- It is served by 2 Primary Schools (Willowbank & St Dominics) and 1 Secondary School (Bulmershe)
- It is served by Reading Bus 13 and 14

The benefits are:

- Existing boundaries remain unchanged with additions from Bulmershe to the South and Warren wards to the North
- In Bulmershe there are 2 “mini” communities – east and west – separated by the Town Centre. This proposal keeps the east “mini” community together by incorporating within the new ward
- Continues consistency with Parish Boundaries

# Boundary Review

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## Wokingham Borough Council

### Personal Details:

**Name:** keith Baker

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**Organisation Name:**

### Comment text:

I have submitted, via the word document uploaded, my views on the existing 4 Woodley Wards. I have based the content around keeping the overall Woodley Town outer boundaries intact. By this I mean there is a direct correlation between the Borough Boundaries and the Town Boundaries. At the moment two town council wards (Bulmershe & Warren) are combined with wards from other town or parish council wards to create two borough wards which include non Woodley Town Council town wards. I have used as my "model" the initial proposal put together by Wokingham Borough Council officers which has now been submitted by them as a "minority" proposal. In this proposal all new borough ward boundaries are all fully contained within the outer boundary of Woodley Town Council. In summary, the movement of the residents between the wards are: CORONATION WARD o Retain existing residents o Addition of Bulmershe residents (partial) o Addition of Warren residents (partial) o Addition of Loddon residents (partial) LODDON WARD o Retain most of existing residents o Loss of residents to Coronation SOUTH LAKE WARD o Retain existing residents o Addition of Bulmershe residents (partial) o Addition of Warren residents (partial) The overall benefits are: • Removes the mixed wards which cross two Town or Parish Councils • Satisfies the 3 member per ward requirement • Minimises movement between wards therefore keeping existing ward communities together • Removes many of the boundaries going down the middle of Arterial Roads • Ensures consistency with existing Parish ward boundaries

### Uploaded Documents:

**[https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download\\_document?file=draft%2F1667753541\\_THE+LOCAL+BOUNDARY+COMMISSION+submission+KJB+021122.docx](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1667753541_THE+LOCAL+BOUNDARY+COMMISSION+submission+KJB+021122.docx)**