

Local Boundary Commission Draft Recommendation Response - [REDACTED]

Having woken up to the publishing of the '*Draft Recommendation*' report, I am delighted that the Local Boundary Commission have taken my views into account in the first round of consultations.

I have studied the proposals, and that I 100% AGREE with the recommendations that have been made for the Avenue ward and that I can see that the Local Boundary Commission have created a ward that actually works and that there are now clear, definable boundaries in this area of Fareham, such as including of the Nicholas Crescent estate with this area for the first time, rather than the absurd arrangement that is currently in-place with themselves being attached to Fareham North with no natural connections existing between the two areas and is currently separated by the West Coastway railway line.

I **100% AGREE** that the Catisfield Road area is to be included within the new Avenue ward that is being proposed, and that I have given a few examples from where this new arrangement makes logical sense:

Having read the report, I agree with the commission's conclusion that there are **NO** definable boundaries at present and that, more often or not, they are cutting-through the back gardens and/or party walls of dwellings, and in the most extreme of cases, they simply 'isolate' roads from being part of one ward which in my view is confusing.

- As you can see from an annotated screenshot of the Catisfield Road area (*extracted from Google Maps*), I have highlighted where the current arrangements cut-through back gardens at-present (*highlighted in Turquoise*) and the recommendation (*highlighted in Lime Green*):

As you can see from the annotated screenshot above, whilst the recommendation may seem audacious to some who live in the Catisfield Road area at present, the new arrangements will keep the area as a whole and that the same ward councillors will be able to represent the views of people that currently served by separate councillors.



Furthermore, the new Avenue ward has a fair amount of local amenities that are within walking distance, and that are well used and are valued by local residents, such as:

- The '5-point' stars indicate local shops, parks, youth organisations and schools.
 - A newsagent based at Anjou Crescent provides newsprint distribution to a fair chunk of the Avenue ward and that is within easy walking distance of most of the new ward.
 - Blackbrook Park is a regular dog-walking area that is used from far-and-wide.
- The 'Lime Green' arrows depict footpaths that connect areas together.
 - These are natural connections that aid the movement of people around the community of this end of Fareham.
- The Orange line shows the natural connection that connects Highlands Road with Catisfield Road with The Avenue.
 - Whilst Catisfield Road is often used as a 'rat-run' between Highlands Road and Peak Lane, this shows that the road network in the area aids vehicular movements very well.
- The '4-point' star represents the *Catisfield Memorial Hall*, though this is now 'out-of-ward', it can still be used by all parties whether they are living in the ward or not.



I have also reviewed the response that has been devised by *Fareham Borough Council (FBC)* and that I do have some concerns that I feel that requires highlighting.

Having looked at a presentation from the Council's website for the *Licensing and Regulatory Affairs Committee* meeting that took place on the 11th October, I can see that they are advocating to keep the somewhat 'status-quo' that is currently in-place and that they are wanting to further divide the area in an even more 'jagged' community such as:

- The Heathfield Avenue area would be included in the 'Meon' ward for the first time, even though the Woodbourne Close/Heathfield Avenue junction is closer to the limits of the town centre than the actual River Meon itself.
- I can also see that they are further annexing the Hayling Close area that they have included this in the Fort Fareham ward instead, though the housing in that area has a solid brick wall that defines that area as being part of the estate where they are on at the moment.

Whilst I do recognise that FBC does wish for the Catisfield Road area to remain a part of the old 'Titchfield' ward (*now referred to as the 'Meon' ward*) and that they feel that this is somewhat "historic", we do have face reality that as more development occurs in the Fareham area in the next 2 decades, we cannot simply keep the existing boundaries the way they are currently, moreover, we may be in a similar situation in 20-25 years time (*based on the duration of the last review back in 2000*) and that Fareham will be more populated than it is now and that these proposed boundaries will address this to some extent.

I have also noted that the boundary commission has recognised this in Paragraph 63 of the draft report and that they have already taken the views of the *Catisfield Village Association* into account already in this proposed arrangement with keeping the Catisfield Lane area in the new Meon ward, and that by reassigning the farmers fields that are located at the rear of the Abbeyfield Drive estate from Fareham West to Meon, this will also give plenty of expansion to the population numbers that the Meon ward will need to absorb for any future development that may be undertaken in that area and that area has more of a connection to Titchfield Abbey than the estate behind.

Furthermore, I feel that the submission that FBC is making will effectively be endorsing the 'breakup' of the current Fareham constituency and that the Catisfield Road area is now likely to be included as part of 'Hamble Valley', rather than the Fareham constituency now, however, I do recognise this is out of the scope of this consultation, but I feel this needs to be made clear in this consultation to further avoid the 'carving-up' of this area of Fareham.

However, I do make one reservation of the naming of the ward as 'Avenue' as that other names (*such as Blackbrook for example*) may be more fitting with the arrangement as there is an underground stream that is located in that area and that provides a natural valley between Oak Road and Meadowbank Road/Heathfield Avenue areas.

I have also studied other areas of Fareham for which I often visit around Fareham and that I can say that I agree with the proposals that are for including the Red Barn Lane area from Fareham North to Fareham Park as this is another peculiarity of the existing plan.

However, I do have reservations of what *Fareham Borough Council* is proposing for the Fareham Town ward and their recommendation to transfer the High Street to the 'Wallington and Downend' ward, I can see this being a very bad idea as although the area is to the east of the town, it is firmly in the Town Centre area and that the 'Lysees' car park is often used by people wishing to visit the Town Centre and that they will either use West Street or Civic Way to enter the main shopping area, and that although this is accessed from A32 Wallington Way, it is slightly to the west of the River Wallington.

In conclusion to the points above, I hope with the reasons given above the Local Boundary Commission will take my viewpoints into account and will keep the Catisfield Road area in the new Avenue ward when the *Final Report* is released.

Thank you for reading.