

Bracknell Forest

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Comment text:

Objection to the proposed BFC submission regarding boundary ward changes that impact Bullbrook & Harmans Water: It is acknowledged that change will often lead to anxiety and a yearning to maintain the status quo. The work undertaken by the Boundary Review Working Group was certain to engage with the latter issue. This objection is a pragmatic review that does not intend to undermine the overall outcome. An arbitrary rule of thumb may have been to have divided the total electorate by 40 which would have immediately identified the existing wards that met the criteria and sought change on those that remained. Hence, my recommendation is that Bullbrook & Harmans Water wards remain unchanged. A visual inspection of the proposed boundary changes (updated on 2nd March) upon the existing wards of Bullbrook & Harmans Water immediately expose minor variations to the overall footprint. Indeed, it can be summarised by the loss of The Warren (circa 850 electors) and the Wick Hill Estate (Lynwood Chase et al, circa 164 electors). Using the most recent data sets the cumulative electorate is 13,431 (a ratio of 1 councillor per 2,686 electors, almost identical to the proposed Hanworth ward ratio of 1:2,634) and comfortably within the parameters of the perfect council/elector ratio. Preserving the existing Bullbrook & Harmans water wards would have a negligible effect on the proposed neighbouring wards of Whitegrove (a reduction of 164 electors albeit maintaining a ratio that exceeds Warfield & Wildmoor and Owlsmoor) & Savernake (a reduction to 6405 electors, 8.46% less than the equivalent trio Councillor ward of Sandhurst). Having been a previous resident of both Martins Heron (Radnor Road) & The Warren (Fordwells Drive) I strongly maintain that these estates identify as one community. I have purposely focussed upon the logic of my argument albeit it would be folly to ignore the considerable and understandable bitterness that has been unleashed from within the local political memberships that is an important community barometer. Recognising the challenge of the overall process, I maintain that this analysis supports the following key underlying principles of the Boundary Review Working Group: • Communities are recognised and kept intact where possible. • The total number of councillors does not exceed the Commissions proposed number of 40. • Wards only cross the parliamentary boundary where there are robust reasons to do so such as to maintain community links. • Identifiable boundaries such as railways, main roads, etc. have been used as ward boundaries where this is appropriate and does not interfere with community cohesion. In conclusion I am, regrettably, unable to support the draft recommendation to support the proposals as they currently stand.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded