

Mansfield, Simon

From: FREEMAN, Andrew [REDACTED]
Sent: 12 November 2021 09:52
To: reviews
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Mole Valley Boundary Review- Response from the Bookams' Residents Association
Attachments: LGBCE - BRA response to Mole Valley boundary review - Final.pdf

Categories: Submissions, Simon

Dear Sir,

Please find attached the response from the Bookhams' Residents Association to the Mole Valley boundary review. If you have any queries, please let me know.

Kind regards

Andy Freeman
Secretary, Bookhams' Residents Association

This message may contain confidential information. If you are not the intended recipient please:

- i) inform the sender that you have received the message in error before deleting it; and
- ii) do not disclose, copy or distribute information in this e-mail or take any action in relation to its content (to do so is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful).

Thank you for your co-operation.

NHSmial is the secure email, collaboration and directory service available for all NHS staff in England. NHSmial is approved for exchanging patient data and other sensitive information with NHSmial and other accredited email services.

For more information and to find out how you can switch visit [Joining NHSmial - NHSmial Support](#)

Local Government Boundary Commission for England'

Review of Mole Valley

Bookhams' Residents Association Response

The Bookhams' Residents Association represents two villages – Little Bookham and Great Bookham (the Bookhams), and the comments below represent those of the Association's committee, and not necessarily representative of all residents.

In response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's review of Mole Valley, we would like to make the following points:

- 1) The Bookhams are bordered to the west by Guildford Borough Council and is regarded as fixed for the purposes of this response.
- 2) To the south of the Bookhams the area is very rural and includes a small community around Polesden Lacey (National Trust property) and a hamlet in Chaple Lane. Both of these naturally look towards Bookham as it's closest village centre. Further south the Bookhams are bordered by the Ward of Leith Hill and the Association doesn't see the need to alter the existing boundary.
- 3) To the north and east the two Bookham villages are bordered by Fetcham (the existing Wards of Fetcham East and West) and the historical boundary between the Bookhams and Fetcham has been lost over time and are amorphous. The majority of residents living in each village easily identify in which village they live through their use of shops, village halls, recreation grounds and churches.
- 4) The current Mole Valley or political border between the Bookhams and Fetcham has introduced a number of anomalies over time with a number of roads being split between the two, e.g. Salix Close with 7 houses with three in one Ward and four in the other. Other anomalies exist in The Copse, Keswick Road, and several other roads.
- 5) Other natural geographical boundaries/features include:
 - a. 'Lower Road' which is essentially the existing boundary between Bookham North and Bookham South and a through road from Fetcham through to Effingham in the borough of Guildford.
 - b. the A246 which is a busy through road, and the village straddles this with shops and housing on either side.
 - c. the railway line which runs through the middle of the existing Bookham North Ward, although the housing to the north is quite rural and these dwellings would look to Bookham as their closest village centre.
- 6) The Bookhams expected number of electors in 2027 is 9,973. Given that the aim is for each Ward to have 5,800 electors, plus or minus 10%, then the Bookhams, taking the lower end of 5,280 electors, would be closely aligned as a two-Ward village, although some expansion into Fetcham would be required if these averages are to be met.
- 7) The anticipated number of electors in 2027 takes into account some future developments, most of which are more likely to be in the existing Bookham North Ward. Therefore, if there is to be an equal north/south divide, then logically some

roads within Bookham North would need to be redesignated as Bookham South and/or irregular encroachment into Fetcham.

- 8) As mentioned above, the Bookhams comprise of two villages – Little Bookham and Great Bookham. The boundaries of each village is clearly defined following a fairly recent exercise undertaken with the Post Office to define each residence as being in a particular village, as to previously being identified as 'Bookham', to help preserve local historical boundaries.

Conclusions

- 1) The Association would not recommend any changes to the boundaries to the west with Guildford Borough Council or to the south with the Leith Hill Ward.
- 2) That, where practical, all houses in a particular road should be within the same Ward, the exception perhaps being through roads such as the A246 and Lower Road.
- 3) That there are two Wards for the Bookham', i.e. 6 councillors. To achieve the minimum 5,280 electors per Ward then the area between the Bookhams and Fetcham can be manipulated to meet these demands, as residents are perhaps less concerned about political boundaries, which are already anomalous in some areas, than they are with political boundaries. It should also be borne in mind that there will continue to be a gradual growth in the population through new infill developments, etc.
- 4) Southern part of Fetcham East: This is a rural area, as indicated on the map below, which would be better aligned to the Bookhams, indeed there is no access to this area directly from Fetcham.

