

## **Bracknell Forest Borough Council**

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**Organisation Name:** -

### **Comment text:**

The consultation documents are very clear. I am pleased to attach my comments in the attached file, suggesting one change with supporting evidence.

### **Uploaded Documents:**

**Download ([https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download\\_document?file=draft%2F1599479509\\_Bracknell+Forest\\_MurphyR+comment.docx](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1599479509_Bracknell+Forest_MurphyR+comment.docx))**

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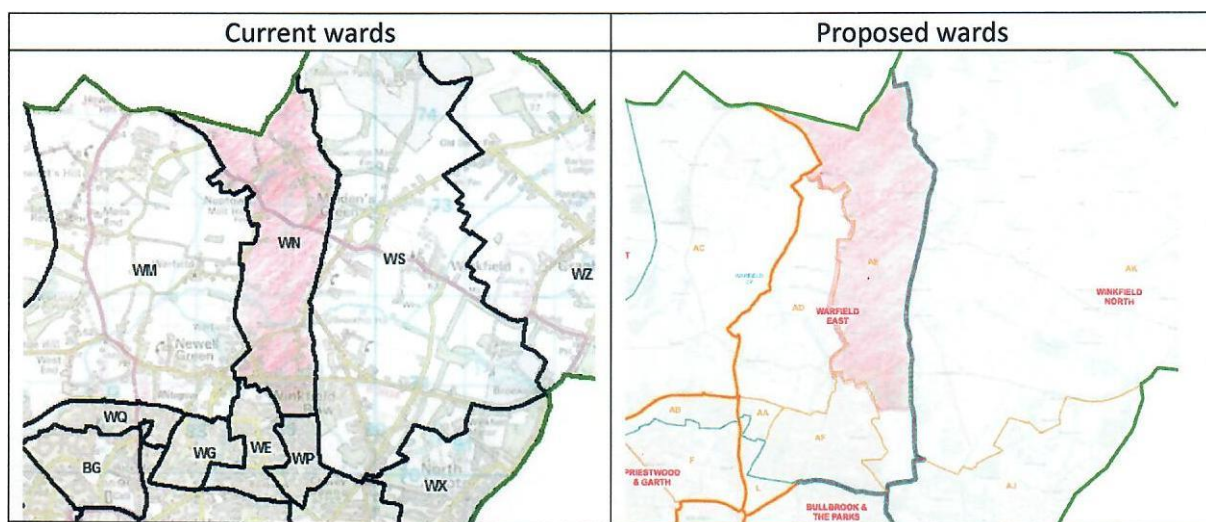
7 September 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

### Bracknell Forest borough ward review

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed ward boundary changes. The equality of representation is very striking in the proposals. I take an active interest in parish and borough matters. I have lived in Hayley Green for 30 years. I have one suggestion to make.

**PROPOSAL: Move CURRENT PARISH WARD “WN” (the northern part of proposed parish ward “AE”) from Warfield East to WINKFIELD NORTH.** In text below I refer to this as “WN”, in preference to the less precise “northern part of AE”. The maps (red shading) indicate relevant parish ward/area.



In terms of **REPRESENTATION**, my proposal:

1. Has no significant impact on numerical representation in Winkfield North: it changes minor over-representation (–2%) to minor under-representation (+3%), comparable with other proposed wards.
2. Contributes some spare capacity in Warfield East (helpful if areas are added to that ward), but deviation is within that for other proposed wards: representation changes from 0% to minus 4.75%.

In terms of **COMMUNITY INTERESTS AND IDENTITIES**, my proposal:

Reflects the relationship between closely adjacent village communities in existing parish ward “WN” and proposed Winkfield North. Examples:

(A) **GEOGRAPHY**: Hayley Green is closer to Winkfield Row than to Warfield Street (the closest village in Warfield to the west). Hayley Green Woods, Westmorland Park and the Bull Brook river corridor form a strong settlement gap and landscape buffer separating Hayley Green from Warfield areas to the west and south. Similarly, Nuptown is close to Maiden’s Green.

(B) **TRANSPORT LINKS**: A quiet rural lane links Nuptown and Maiden’s Green. Similarly, Hayley Green, Winkfield Row and Brockhill have easy walkable road and PRow links and a bus service. Hayley Green lacks easy westward links: road crossing is hazardous, and there are no direct bus services or PRow.

(C) **COMMUNITY LINKS**: Hayley Green is relatively isolated from Warfield to the west and south, and I have little interaction with other areas, notably other villages. Warfield’s centre will understandably gravitate west with development of Woodhurst and a new community hub. Hayley Green is set to

become even more of an outlier. In contrast, our physical closeness to Winkfield Row and Brockhill facilitates social and economic links. I attend community events such as fairs in Winkfield Row, I've hired halls in Winkfield Row, my children went to school there and I was a parent-governor. Many of our links are informal and intangible, but are evident in helpful interactions on Winkfield Row social media. Outcomes also demonstrate our community links; for example, cooperation led by Winkfield Row Residents' Association, including shared meetings, information exchange and joint campaigning when necessary, provides effective mutual support among the three villages.

In terms of **EFFECTIVE AND CONVENIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT**, my proposal:

1. Facilitates efficient intervention on common issues affecting "WN" villages and closely adjacent settlements, i.e. Hayley Green and Winkfield Row/Brockhill; and Nuptown and Maiden's Green/Winkfield. Local government for these villages will be most conveniently and efficiently administered in Winkfield North. Significant community concerns for "WN" villages are shared with nearby villages in Winkfield North rather than with Warfield East. This allows councillors in the two wards to focus efficiently and effectively on collective prevailing concerns. Two varied examples to illustrate:

(A) **TRAFFIC**: a top shared concern is increasing commuter traffic on roads through our linear settlements and accidents at junctions of our shared road network. Unlike in Warfield East, there are no routes or options to bypass roads in front of our homes, so it's a question of negotiating mitigation, and managing expectations of residual impact.

(B) **SEWERAGE**: Hayley Green is on the 'Winkfield' aged network, which experiences significant issues, while Warfield sewerage is separate. Winkfield councillors tackle our shared problems robustly and effectively on an area-wide basis with Thames Water and other stakeholders.

2. Has a neutral impact on other areas, settlements and developments of Winkfield North and Warfield East. No future ward is rural, reflecting the necessary ongoing development of Bracknell Forest, but adding "WN" villages to Winkfield North will not impact adversely on rural or larger settlements/developments in either ward.

3. Does not provide coterminous borough and parish boundaries.

I believe the collective benefits of my proposal outweigh this sole dis-benefit, especially as (report text): *"Due to the considerable amount of development taking place in Warfield parish, it is not possible to recommend a warding arrangement completely coterminous with the parish boundaries."* The existing ward and parish boundaries are not coterminous here. It seems most convenient to allow these boundaries to continue to diverge and maintain what is already effective local government in this location.

Moreover, in terms of the **BOUNDARY**, my proposal:

Maintains a borough ward boundary which is clear and identifiable on the ground, while the proposed coterminous boundary is not. Report text refers to using *"clear and identifiable boundaries"*. The current borough ward boundary follows a main watercourse and roads and is easily understood, while the parish boundary is largely indiscernible on the ground.

Villages in current parish ward "WN" are inevitably on the edge of a ward. This why it is important that we have strong linkages *into* the ward. For reasons explained above, I feel strongly we are best represented and served by local government if we are located in Winkfield North.

Best wishes

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]