

**From:** Tim Hall <tim.hall@surreycc.gov.uk>  
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**Subject:** Mole Valley Review  
**Attachments:** LGBCE - Submission.docx

**Categories:** Submissions, [REDACTED]

Dear Sirs

Please find enclosed my comments on the draft Consultation for Mole Valley District Council.

Regards

Tim Hall  
County Councillor  
Leatherhead and Fetcham East

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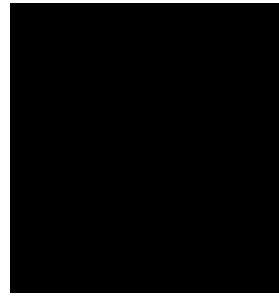
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LGBCE

Review@LGBCE



6<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

Dear Sirs

I wish to comment on the Mole Valley District Council Review Consultation being undertaken by the LGBCE. Which was undertaken mostly during the 2022 local elections. Which was not ideal.

I am both the County Councillor for Leatherhead and Fetcham East since 2005, and since 6<sup>th</sup> May the District Councillor for Fetcham East. Previously I served from 1988-2010 as District Councillor for Fetcham West.

It concerns me reading the Review that the proposals in the Commission Draft don't match two of the criteria set out by the Commission.

1. – Respecting Communities. The proposed boundaries especially in Fetcham and Bookham and in the vast rural wards don't do that.

2. – Effective Local Government. The size of the rural wards with multiple parishes and villages, makes them difficult for Councillors to represent. While the lack of recognition of the existing communities in certain urban wards also makes them difficult to relate to.

I appreciate that the Commission generally advises that any Council with 1/3 1/3 1/3 Elections should have roughly equal three Member Wards. But the Mole Valley is not geographically, and community designed for such three member wards and gives a very unequal geographical representation that does not match community boundaries. As was the seen in the 1999 Review, which is why in that Review by the Commission then rejected totally three member wards and totally single member wards and recommended the proposals set out then.

It would be better either to keep the present mixed patterns of single, two member and three member wards – but elected every four years. Or if not consider the same scheme that operates in Hastings or Oxford with two member wards everywhere and elections every two years – based on 40 Councillors in 20 Wards. I appreciate this might delay the changes until 2024 elections. But is much more likely to work both geographically and respect communities as the commission is required to do by its own rules.

Also, I am concerned that the electorate/housing numbers used in the Mole Valley Review underestimate the new housing figures in certain wards already. Plus, the Council has not been transparent with the LGBCE about the extra housing figures contained in its Transform Leatherhead Joint Venture announced/agreed in in March 2022 by the Council Cabinet for delivery by 2

Leatherhead -1. Transform Leatherhead – Bull Hill and Swan Centre – 589 and 150 households respectively. Probably 1,226 Electorate up on the 300 flats and 510 electors originally suggested.

2. New significant developments in Leatherhead - Former United Reform Church Site, Epsom Road – 62 Extra Care Apartments, Ambulance Station, Woodvill Road – 8 houses Former Children Centre, Aperdele Road – 62 Extra Care Apartments – Public Consultation in March 2022. Opus 1 is now 47 flats – so plus 17 flats. So 149 homes and 253 voters.

Possible Local Plan Developments not included but highly likely – 36-69 Randalls Road – 44 homes and 75 possible electors.

This is also true of Headley, Dorking and Hookwood. Where the figures suggested are obviously underplayed compared to Planning Applications and Local Plan Numbers.

Next that the boundaries between several wards are not totally logical.

In Fetcham and Bookham – the creation of the Eastwick Park ward involves removing sections of historic Fetcham by dividing The Ridgeway and Bell Lane being added to an area which is majority Bookham and a very artificial boundary in Fetcham West around the Glade and Kennel Lane that's not at all obvious or clear. If the Commission does wish to continue with its proposals for an Eastwick Park Ward– they should be called “Bookham East and Fetcham West”. So, recognising the reality that the ward is in fact a section of both the historic villages.

In Leatherhead the proposed boundary between North and South Leatherhead is not obvious and lacks any degree of logic. It leaves Leatherhead South with the whole of the Town Centre, including all those areas that are to be developed under Transform Leatherhead. While dividing both Kingston Road and Copthorne Road at arbitrary points.

While the rural ward of Leith Hill is indefensible as it stretches from Givons Grove at South Leatherhead to the Sussex Border. With no linkage or common road system.

If the Commission is despite this minded carrying on with its draft proposals. I would suggest the following minor alterations are essential.

1. Bookham – gain Bookham Common that border Effingham Parish. Lose the section of Commonsides (previously Bookham North)
2. Eastwick Park (Bookham East and Fetcham West – lose all Bell Lane and gain section of Commonsides (previously Bookham North)
3. Fetcham – gain all Bell Lane, lose the elements of Bookham Common that border Effingham Parish and are not accessed from Fetcham/Cobham Road

Yours faithfully

Cllr Tim Hall

SCC County Councillor – Leatherhead and Fetcham East

MVDC Fetcham East

