

6<sup>th</sup> December 2021

To whom it may concern,

**RE: Boundary review for Mole Valley DC – Leigh Parish Council Supplementary Information**

Thank you for inviting asking for residents and parishes help in drawing up a new pattern of electoral wards in Mole Valley. Leigh Parish Councillors discussed it and would like to comment as follows:

**Leigh ward at present**

Leigh is currently in a MVDC ward with Capel and Newdigate with two district councillors. There are no concerns within LPC regarding this either changing or staying the same. There is an amicable, but no special relationship with either village they are in a ward with. LPC thought it would be useful to share information which may not be immediately obvious to the Commission regarding the community and relationships between the village and those immediately surrounding it. The following is an informal summary of these points.

**Leigh village itself**

Leigh is a rural community surrounded and interspersed by farmland. It is very green and popular with walkers and cyclists alike.

The village has two pubs, a church, a hall (owned by the WI), main bus stop, primary school, and a village green. The parish is geographically large with residents fairly stretched out. We have a large destination playground, a small woodland, allotments, and a recreation ground, currently let to an active Cricket Club.

Leigh is connected by roads, bus routes and footpaths with the villages of Newdigate, Brockham (Strood Green), Betchworth (Gadbrook), Norwood Hill and Ironsbottom (Sidlow) (R&BBC).

**Connections**

The main towns which serve Leigh are Dorking via the A25 and Reigate (accessed over Flanchford Bridge). A large stretch of Leigh borders Reigate and Banstead District Council. Residents drive through Brockham or Blackbrook to get to Dorking town.

Railway: the closest station is Betchworth station, with the main lines at Dorking or Reigate.

Bus routes run from Leigh into Dorking via Brockham and into Reigate via Sidlow/Ironsbottom; Leigh to Dorking via Blackbrook and into Horley via Charlwood; Leigh to Newdigate and Leigh to Dorking again via Brockham.

Airport – Gatwick is south just past Charlwood/Norwood Hill.

**Amenities**

The closest village shop to Leigh is Strood Green (Brockham) community shop or Bobs shop in Newdigate.

Brockwood Medical Practice is the closest gp practice (A Linked GP practice with sites at Brockham, Newdigate and Holmwood).

Schooling: Leigh has its own pre-school which runs out of the Village hall at Bunce Common Rd.

Primary - The North Downs School has three sites: Brockham, Leigh and Betchworth. Each site hosts different year groups, so all children pass through the different sites regardless of where they live. There is no transport provided between sites at present.

Secondary – State schooling would be Ashcombe or Priory in Dorking. The school bus metrobus picked up in Strood Green.

The closest post office would be at Betchworth Stores.

### **Community Groups and Charities**

The Poland Trust helps people who are in need, hardship, or distress in the parishes of Brockham, Betchworth, Buckland and Leigh providing support in the form of housing within their property, Poland House (Brockham).

There are many community groups within Leigh.

### **Governance**

Leigh currently shares the same Surrey County Councillor with the villages of Betchworth, Buckland and Brockham, Charlwood and Hookwood, Capel, Leigh and Newdigate, Beare Green and Ockley in Dorking Rural Division. This works well as they understand the area both in terms of challenges and opportunities. This would be unlikely to change.

### **Challenges Faced**

The village has several challenges, the main two being:

1. Traffic. There is a large amount of commuter traffic either going South towards Gatwick/Horley and Crawley or North towards Dorking. Leigh has an outstanding and long running Speedwatch initiative running at various sites to help combat this.
2. Flooding. There are constant issues with flooding in the area resulting in sewage issues and surface flooding.

These two issues are common problems with most of the surrounding villages, but especially Brockham, Betchworth and Charlwood.

In conclusion, Leigh PC currently has no overwhelming preference as to whom it is warded with as it has a rapport with connecting villages through the current network of parish clerks, District Councillors and County Councillor. They currently have two district councillors championing them and they would hope to be similarly represented in any recommendations made.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me,

Kind regards,

Laura

Clerk – Leigh Parish Council

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