

## Binfield Parish Council Response to Bracknell Forest Community Governance Boundary Review

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Community Governance review.

Binfield Parish Council asks for the Binfield parish boundary to remain unchanged as we feel it demonstrably meets all the criteria laid out in this review. We have reviewed our response against the three criteria and legislative guidance:

1. Community identities and interests
2. Effective and convenient local government
3. Identifiable and enduring boundaries

### Evidence to support the existing Binfield parish boundary

#### Community identities and interests and effective and convenient local government

##### Neighbourhood Plan

Binfield has a strong community identity as a village with residents sharing many interests and activities. Binfield was the first parish in the area to complete a Neighbourhood Plan and it encompasses the whole of the existing parish footprint. During the consultation process evidence showed that residents from all areas of the parish want to have an identity with Binfield, and valued being part of the village rather than an extension of Bracknell, and extracts are copied below:

*2.5 The centre of the parish has good facilities with a retail centre and five (sic, now 4) pubs, the library, primary school, scout hut, Memorial Hall and GP surgery. The residents of the developments to the south of the parish in Temple Park, Farley Wood, Amen Corner and Jennetts Park adjoin Bracknell and are separated from the centre of the village by the busy London Road, and in the case of Jennetts Park, the A329M. Although physically dislocated from the village centre because for most people it requires a car journey to use the facilities in the village, these residents have said they would like to have more facilities in walking distance and maintain a strong identity with Binfield parish rather than Bracknell Town.*

##### LGBCE boundary review

The LGBCE review acknowledged residents in Wykery Copse felt more closely aligned with Binfield and the A329M was not suitable as a boundary in their decision: Excerpts of the final report copied below:

##### Binfield South and Jennett's Park

*69 Of these submissions, four were supportive of our proposals. Residents agreed that the Jennett's Park area has little affinity with Great Hollands. Furthermore, as the parish boundary extends into Jennett's Park, residents of the area argued that they are more closely aligned with Binfield despite the barrier of the A329.*

*72 Having carefully considered the evidence provided, we confirm our draft recommendations as final (with the exception of the suggestion to name the ward Binfield South & Jennett's Park, as discussed above). While we are conscious that the two areas either side of Berkshire Way do not share many access routes, we are of the view that this arrangement ensures no communities are split across the west of the borough and provides for good levels of electoral equality in 2025. This was also supported by the Council, which agreed that there is no easily identifiable way to use Berkshire Way as a boundary, meet electoral equality, and avoid splitting communities in the Great Hollands area.*

##### Parliamentary boundaries

The whole of Binfield parish sits within the Windsor constituency. The latest parliamentary boundary review puts Binfield into the Maidenhead constituency. It further adds to governance convenience if the parish boundary remains unchanged, especially for the Wykery Copse area to remain in Binfield parish and be consistent with parliamentary boundary.

##### The heart of Binfield community

Binfield has many community clubs, facilities and activities that are widely used by residents from all areas of the parish. Volunteers from the parish provide Brownies, Cubs and Scouts, Binfield Football Club, Binfield Cricket Club, several tennis clubs, Gardening Club, U3A, WI, Binfield Environment Group (BEG), and many more. There is also a Neighbourhood Action Working Group (NAWG) actively monitoring traffic and speedwatch.

There are community centres in the village centre such as the Memorial Hall, Binfield Club, and Foxes Den the community café in the parish office premises; the community hall and sports pitches at Farley Wood; and new community and health facilities under construction at Blue Mountain which will support all the new development in the parish.

Binfield has well attended village events every year such as the scarecrow trail, easter egg hunt, and Binfield 10k, all provided by volunteers. The parish churches also have a very strong identity issuing a parish magazine 10 times a year, and are very active in the community.

#### **Parish Council**

The parish council has a high profile in the village and encourages local groups by providing meeting spaces for them to meet. It supports the Binfield Environment Group, NAWG, and Binfield 10k run with funding; and grants to other clubs. Local groups are able to apply for funding from the parish council to support their club or activity to develop with the growing population in the parish.

The parish council offices are open for residents to visit with enquiries and organises a big Christmas lights switch on event every year that is very popular with residents. The parish council is also organising a big platinum jubilee party event.

#### **CIL**

As Binfield has significant strategic development sites the parish council has received CIL income. The work done on the neighbourhood plan has helped identify areas for CIL spend and this has been supplemented by a more recent resident's survey to ask about their priorities and what additional facilities are needed. From this the parish council has created a comprehensive strategy and 5-year plan. CIL income will be used to meet residents wishes where possible to maintain the identity of the whole parish as a village, and provide new facilities.

This includes improvements to the underpass and paths that connect the Jennets Park SANG and Amen Corner. The underpass provides an easy pedestrian and cycling route to the main village and schools in addition to the bridge near Peacock Farm.

#### **Identifiable and enduring boundaries**

The development in Binfield has not changed the existing boundaries which remain identifiable and will endure as either main roads or green gaps.