

Bracknell Labour Party submission to the 2022-2023 Bracknell Forest Community Governance Review

Crowthorne

Parish boundary

We believe the following adjustments should be made to the boundary of Crowthorne parish:

1. An adjustment to the western boundary of Crowthorne parish, centred on Derby Field by Wellington College. We propose that the border, currently running along the railway line, should be moved west to encompass Derby Field and nearby houses (illustrated in the appendix as Figure 1).

Derby Field has been proposed as a site for development under the Draft Local Plan. It currently exists under Sandhurst parish, yet its community link is identifiably with Crowthorne. For example, from the top-centre of Derby Field, it takes around 2 minutes to walk to Crowthorne station, yet to walk to Sandhurst station takes around 36 minutes. Another example is its proximity to local amenities. To walk from the top-centre of Derby Field to the shops along Dukes Ride would take approximately 3 minutes. On the other hand, to walk the distance to the parade of shops in Little Sandhurst along the High Street would take around 33 minutes. In fact, it would be quicker to walk to the shops on Crowthorne High Street! Residents in this area look to Crowthorne, not to Sandhurst, and the parish boundary should be altered to reflect that.

We also propose that the small number of houses along Wokingham Road up to Ambarrow Lane be included in this new Crowthorne parish for much the same reasons, which would have the added benefit of bringing the Sandhurst-Crowthorne parish border up to Ambarrow Court – a natural and much more logical division between these two parishes.

Whilst we accept this would cause a conflict with the Sandhurst and Crowthorne borough ward boundaries, it must be acknowledged that the borough ward boundaries were predicated on the existing parish boundaries – a change must start somewhere.

2. We propose a small technical change to the parish boundary that does not affect any voters. Figure 2 illustrates that a small slither of Foresters Way comes under Sandhurst parish, despite it then immediately returning under Crowthorne parish before then coming under Sandhurst parish again. Either this whole section should come under Crowthorne parish or Sandhurst parish – we are neutral as to which.

Ward boundaries

The current ward arrangement of Crowthorne parish is not sustainable. An 8-member Crowthorne (main) ward and a 2-member Crowthorne South ward was only set up to accommodate the borough boundary changes of 2002. As the borough ward of Little Sandhurst & Wellington is set to be abolished, this illogical division between a main ward and a much smaller Crowthorne South is no longer required. We believe two options present themselves: to abolish the ward system and create one at-large Crowthorne parish ward, or to institute a more rational ward division.

We do not believe creating one at-large ward is appropriate. Crowthorne is forecast to have an electorate of 6,787 by 2027 - such an increase in population no longer makes a single parish ward viable, especially as the growth of Crowthorne has developed distinct sub-communities around Broadmoor and Buckler's Park. These areas deserve a chance to elect their own representatives to the parish council. It is our proposal that Crowthorne parish should be divided into multiple parish wards. Of those, we push especially for a new parish ward to represent the growing community of Buckler's Park, and another representing the Broadmoor estate, illustrated by Figure 3.

N.B. 'Broadmoor Ward' in Figure 3 is so named for purely illustrative purposes. To avoid negative connotations, we would propose such a ward be called Wildmoor Heath, in keeping with the local primary school that adopted its name for much the same purpose of avoiding negative connotations.

Bracknell

Parish boundary

We believe the following adjustments should be made to the boundary of Bracknell parish:

1. An adjustment to the north-western boundary of Bracknell parish, centred on Jennett's Park. We propose that the Binfield-Bracknell border be moved north along the Berkshire Way/A329M as this is a natural boundary that cannot be crossed by residents. The existing boundary excludes the northern-most part of Jennett's Park (commonly known as Wykery Copse) from the rest of the estate. Repeated responses to public consultations as part of both the parliamentary and borough ward reviews demonstrate the strength of feeling in Wykery Copse that they see themselves as part of the Jennett's Park estate and desire common representation. All houses south of this major road were initially described as being in Jennett's Park and share the same school, the same local shop and same community centre. Residents identify with Jennett's park, not with Binfield. The houses cannot be accessed from Binfield, only from Bracknell. As the new borough ward of Binfield South & Jennett's Park includes both Wykery Copse and the rest of the Jennett's Park estate, such a change to the parish boundary would not conflict with the borough ward boundary.
2. The playing fields of Easthampstead Park School should be included in the same parish ward as the main school buildings. Their boundary should therefore be moved from Jennett's Park into Great Hollands South ward.
3. Jock's Lane Recreation ground should be moved from being part of Binfield into Bracknell Parish with the Bracknell Town boundary following the edge of the playing fields. This facility is owned by Bracknell Town and therefore it makes sense that it is in the Bracknell Town area.
4. The end of Kennel Lane should be moved into Bracknell Town area, and into Garth as these few houses cannot be accessed from Warfield, but only from Bracknell. The boundary would then be realigned to coincide with the new boundary between Priestwood and Garth and Binfield North and Warfield West, as proposed by the LGBCE
5. The Bracknell Town Boundary, north of The Elms Park, should follow the Warfield road- a distinctive boundary. The houses in the roads affected would then join Warfield. The two northern triangles of the existing Bullbrook ward, based on Lynwood Chase and Priory Lane, which will be transferred to Priestwood & Garth under the LGBCE proposals, plus the roads to the south of Holly Spring Lane and north of the Elms Park should be transferred from Bracknell Town to Warfield Parish. At the time of the 2002 LGBCE boundary review, local residents from this area argued for this on the grounds that they

"share few historical or geographical ties with either the Bullbrook or Garth areas and shared community links with the Shorland Oaks [Lawrence Hill] area of Warfield Parish." Similar representations were made in the latest LGBCE review, as the Commissioners' draft proposals involved the transfer from Bullbrook to Warfield East ward of these two triangles plus the third triangle between Holly Spring Lane, Park Road and Warfield Road to create a Lynwood & Priory Bracknell Town ward: "Residents from Spring Meadow, Flint Grove and Kenilworth Avenue also proposed that residents on the south side of Holly Spring Lane be included in a Warfield ward", the Commissioners reported. These draft proposals were amended in the final report of the LGBCE on this occasion, but a revision of the parish boundaries now would improve the chances of the BFBC ward boundaries in this area being changed to reflect the views of residents at the next review. The northern boundary of Bracknell Town at this point should therefore be amended north of the Elms Park to transfer to Warfield Parish the two northern triangles currently in Bullbrook (Lynwood Chase and Priory Lane) plus Holly Spring Lane and the roads to the south of it (Spring Meadow, Flint Grove, Kenilworth Avenue, Westbrook Gardens and houses on the east side of Warfield Road), forming a 'Lynwood & Priory', or alternatively a 'Wick Hill' ward. If this is unacceptable, at the very least the whole of Shorland Oaks should be included in Warfield Parish - currently two houses at the southern end of the road stray anomalously into the existing Bullbrook ward.

We are content with all wards, including Bullbrook, having 2 councillors, except for the Town Centre Ward whose numbers justify 3 councillors.

We agree with all other boundary changes proposed by the Boundary Commission.

Appendix

Figure 1 (Green line represents existing boundary, red represents proposed change)

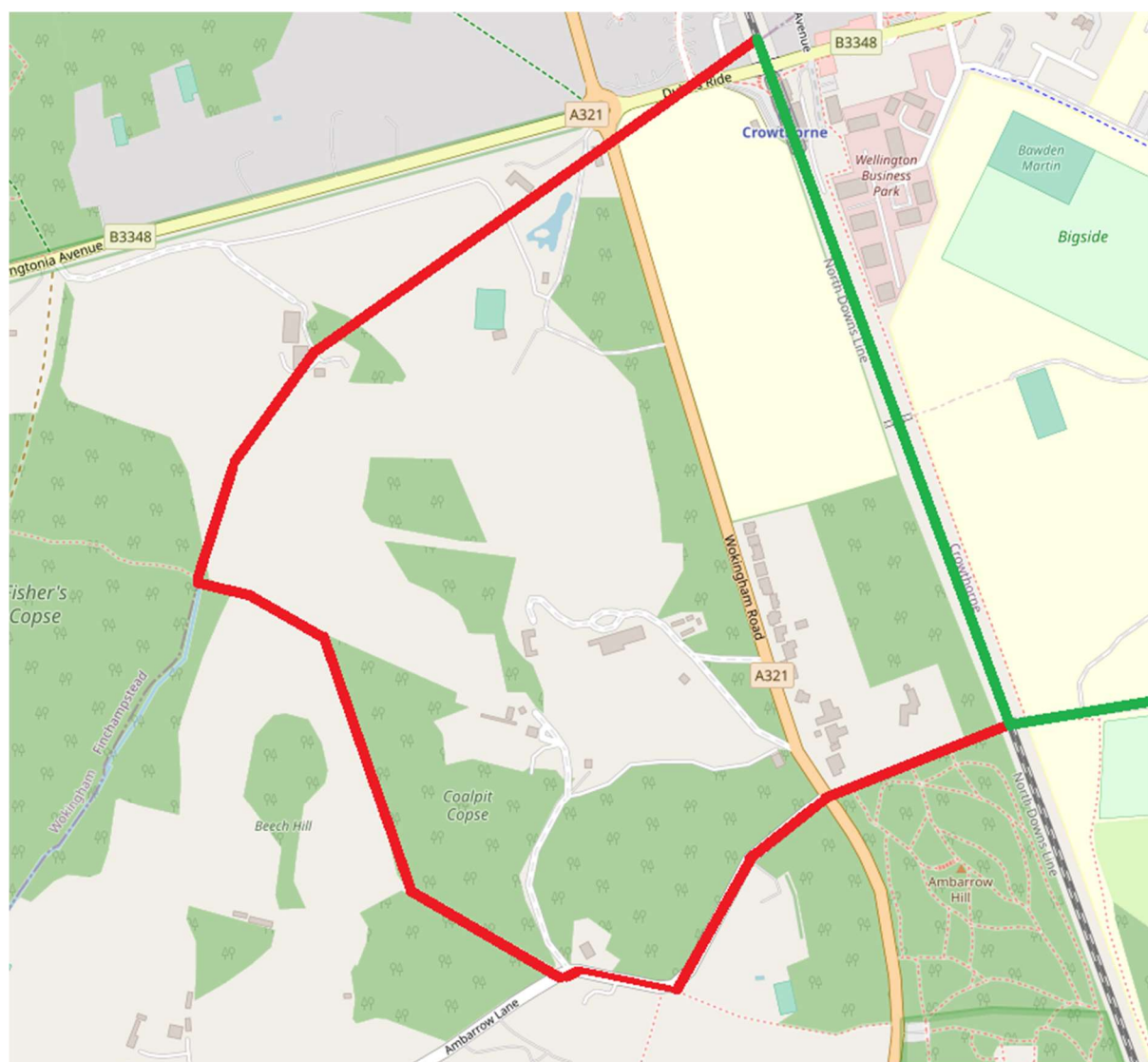


Figure 2

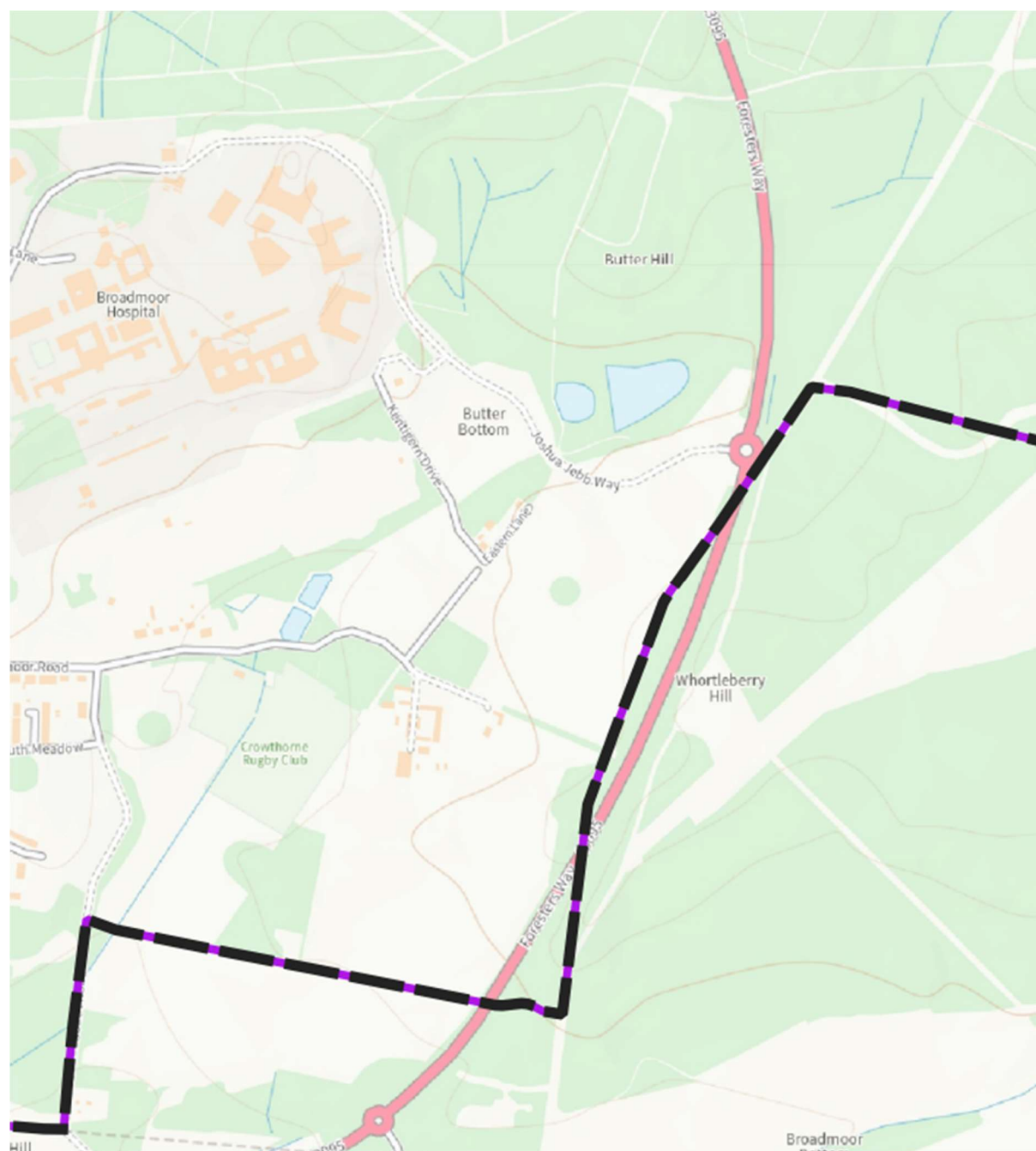


Figure 3

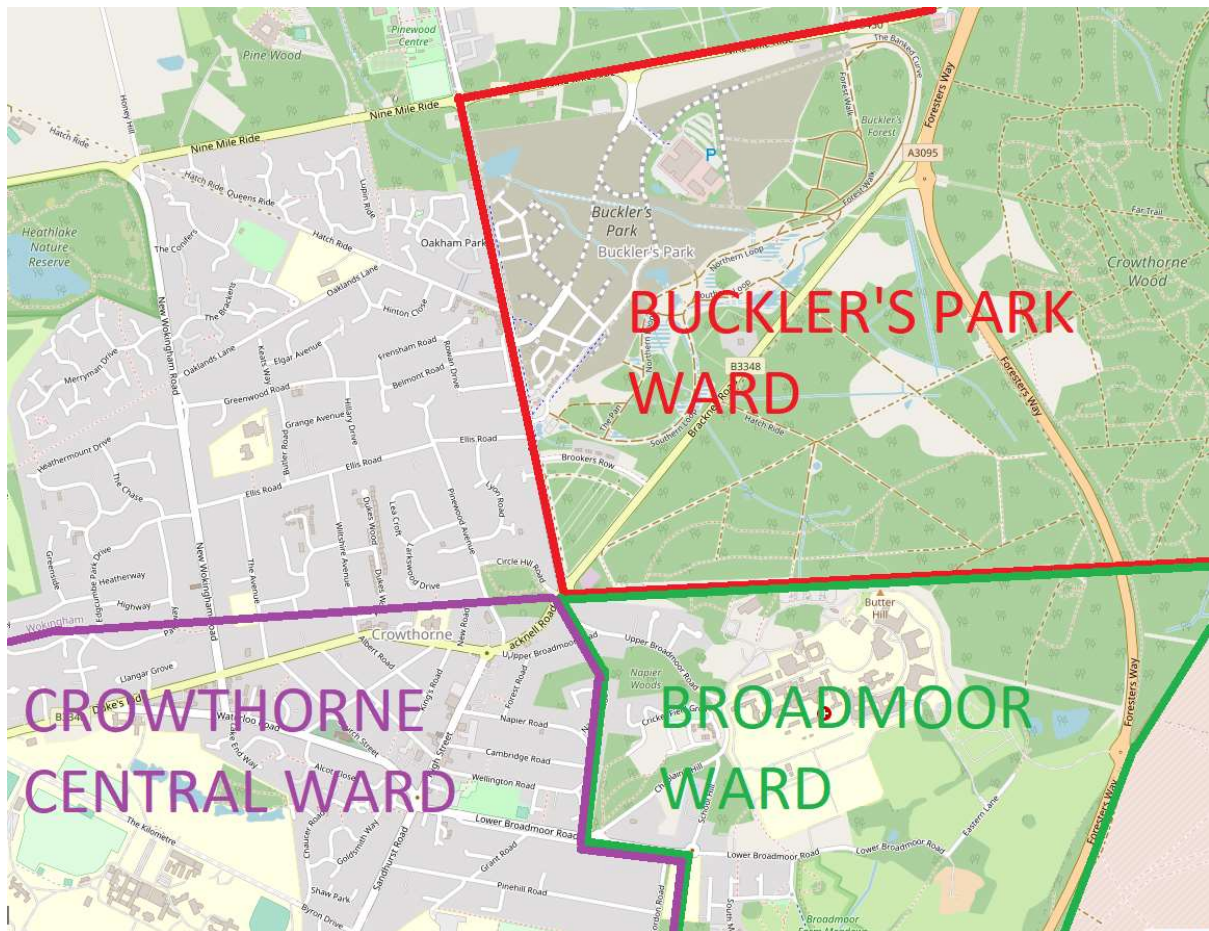


Figure 4 (Green line represents existing boundary, red represents proposed change)

