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9 September 2022

Dear Phil,

Community Governance Review: Stage Two Consultation

Warfield Parish Council thank the Community Governance Review Group for their work to date and the proposals presented for stage two of the consultation.

The parish council welcomes and supports option A, the original proposals made by the review group as they apply to Warfield, namely:

1. to change the boundary between Warfield and Winkfield to move The Nook, Cocks Lane into Warfield Parish Council and Brockhill Cottages, into Winkfield Parish
2. to incorporate the Warfield East Parish ward into the Warfield Park parish ward
3. to move Garth North into the Garth Town Ward of Bracknell Town Council impacting approximately 70 dwellings (up to 150 electors). The one councillor allocated to that ward to remain on Warfield Parish Council and not be transferred to Bracknell Town Council.
4. to increase the overall councillor number by two to 15.

The parish council appreciates the difficulties the ongoing parliamentary boundary review presents in drafting options and understands this means the review group could not bring forward other proposals presented by the parish council from the stage one consultation.

The parish council has also noted the supplementary proposals introduced during the consultation period.

The parish council does not support the supplementary proposals that would see the Warfield Park parish ward with elements of the Whitegrove parish ward and to merge the Warfield East parish ward with the Winkfield and Cranbourne parish ward. We understand this proposal may

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be due to reticence from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to permit such a change following their recent Bracknell Forest electoral review.

Warfield Park, by its nature, is a separate community from the neighbouring Whitegrove. It has a different population profile and needs which may not be properly served by incorporating elements of Whitegrove.

The incorporation of Warfield East into Winkfield and Cranbourne would also lead to community separations. The two significant communities in the ward, Hayley Green and Nuptown both access schools, shop and recreation facilities within the parish of Warfield. These areas have a long history with the parish of Warfield.

While this review is concerned with electoral arrangements, there would be added complications in moving this area out of Warfield as the Warfield Neighbourhood Plan, which is due to be voted on at a referendum in October, proposes development within this ward area. Any changes to the boundary could affect future delivery of the development and the benefits of the neighbourhood plan to the parish of Warfield.

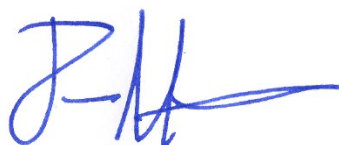
The parish council recognising the difficulties the review group may face with LGBCE has an alternative option that could provide a solution that could be easily implemented. The parish council would propose that as an alternative to the supplementary proposal, the review group retain the arrangements for Warfield East parish ward and Warfield Park parish ward as made by the LGBCE. The proposal to merge the wards could then be brought forward at a future community governance once the period to consult on changes with the LGBCE passes. This means this arrangement of wards may only last for one electoral cycle.

While this would leave the parish council with two single member wards, the council could operate an informal 'buddy up' system to support the members in these wards overcoming the concerns expressed by the parish council over single member wards.

We believe this alternative option is neat as it requires no change to be made to Warfield East or Warfield Park, as the LGBCE arrangements are laid down in the Electoral Change Order 2021.

The parish council thanks the review group for the opportunity to comment on the stage two consultation and looks forward to the final recommendations being published shortly.

Yours sincerely



Jason Mawer

Parish Clerk