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Community Governance Review  
Bracknell Forest Council  
Time Square  
Market Street  
Bracknell  
RG12 1JD

7<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Sirs

## **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW : BRACKNELL FOREST COUNCIL**

Winkfield Parish Council (WPC) welcomes the opportunity to provide a response to the draft proposals outlined in the second stage Community Governance Review consultation.

Having reviewed the draft proposals, WPC intends to respond only to the proposals relating to Winkfield Parish.

### **Stage 2 - Draft Recommendations for Consultation**

**Point 3.5** - WPC is disappointed that so few responses were received to the consultation.

**Point 5.38** - WPC notes that aside from the three responses received (Winkfield Parish Council and two members of the public), further responses from members of the public in Warfield are very pertinent to Winkfield.

**Point 5.40** – WPC welcomes this comment re-enforcing its initial comments that Forest Park, Martins Heron and The Warren are intrinsically linked and share a common sense of place and community.

**Point 5.42** – WPC would re-iterate its original comment that absorbing the Warfield East parish ward of Warfield Parish Council into Winkfield Parish Council would provide a more cohesive sense of place and community to those residing in the settlements of Hayley Green, Maidens Green and Nuptown.

The LGBCE final recommendations mentioned three well-evidenced representations to include the area of Hayley Green in a Winkfield ward, citing community identity and access to amenities as key examples of their connections to Winkfield. They also highlighted the geographical separation between Hayley Green and other villages in Warfield and having carefully considered the evidence provided, the LGBCE agreed that the boundary proposed by residents in Hayley Green provided for a better reflection of communities.



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This is further endorsed by two Warfield resident public comments to the stage one consultation who state that they would prefer to be part of Winkfield and that the area of Hayley Green is better connected to settlements in Winkfield Parish and has better community cohesion with them. They cite that ‘there is a sense of geographical and social alienation from Warfield Parish’ and that ‘the area is isolated from the rest of Warfield Parish to the detriment of residents who have little interaction on any salient matters, and feel our needs are lost. The common issues shared with settlements in Winkfield Parish would be more effectively and conveniently addressed by Winkfield Parish Council.’

WPC notes that in the original draft proposals, the Working Group states a preference for the Warfield proposal, but provides no rationale for this. WPC would welcome an explanation of the rationale for this preference which makes no mention of the needs of the community in this area.

WPC also notes the additional proposals issued on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2022 which incorporate the Warfield East ward into Winkfield parish. WPC supports this additional proposal for the reasons stated in its original response and above, and to avoid parish wards crossing a borough boundary.

**Point 5.43** – WPC is pleased that the Working Group supports the merging of the North Ascot ward with the Ascot Priory ward and that it supports the view that single Councillor wards offer operational challenges.

In light of the additional proposal issued on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2022, WPC supports the move of the Swinley Forest area from Ascot Priory ward to Martins Heron & The Warren ward to avoid parish wards crossing a borough boundary, and supports the proposal of increasing the number of Councillors in this ward to three in order to equalise the Councillor/Elector ratio.

**Point 5.45** – WPC did not propose any change to the southern boundary with Crowthorne Parish Council and would recommend that this area remain within Winkfield parish. This is coterminous with the new BFC Ward boundaries of Crowthorne and Swinley Forest, and the proposed Parliamentary Constituency boundaries.

**Point 5.47** – WPC did not propose that the Ascot Priory ward name be amended to Swinley Forest ward and supports the retention of the Ascot Priory name.

WPC has not assessed other boundaries within the remainder of the Borough except for the areas adjoining Warfield Parish and Crowthorne Parish.

Yours faithfully

Mrs M Milsom  
Clerk to the Council