

## **Bracknell Forest Council**

### **Community Governance Review 2022**

#### **Draft Final Recommendations**

#### **1. The Community Governance Review**

- 1.1 A community governance review (CGR) is a review of the whole or part of the Council's area to consider one or more of the following:
  - a. The creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes
  - b. The naming of parishes and the style of new parishes
  - c. The electoral arrangements for parishes including: the ordinary year of election, council size, the warding (if any) of parishes and the number of councillors to be elected
  - d. The grouping of parishes under a common parish council or the de-grouping of parishes where relevant
- 1.2 The CGR must consider the impact of community governance arrangements on community cohesion and the size, population and boundaries of a local community or parish.
- 1.3 The Council is required to ensure that community governance arrangements within all areas under review also meet the following criteria:
  - a. That the arrangements are reflective of the identities and interests of the community in that area
  - b. That the arrangements are 'effective and convenient'
- 1.4 If the Council is satisfied that the recommendations from a CGR ensure that community governance within the area(s) under review will reflect the identities and interests of the community in that area and is effective and convenient, the Council will make a Community Governance Order.

#### **2. Impact of the 2019 Local Government Boundary Commission's (LGBCE) review of Bracknell Forest**

- 2.1 The LGBCE's review resulted in several changes to the electoral arrangements for Bracknell Forest Council. These included a reduction in the number of councillors elected to the Council from 42 to 41 and the creation, merging and renaming of several borough wards.
- 2.2 Changes were made to the parish electoral arrangements as a direct consequence of the revised warding arrangements for the Council. This was undertaken by the Commission in accordance with Schedule 2 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act), which provides that if a parish is to be divided between different borough wards it must also be divided into parish wards, so that each parish ward lies wholly within a single borough ward. The Commission does not have the power to recommend changes to the external boundaries of parishes/town councils as part of an electoral review therefore no further changes to council arrangements were made.

#### **3. Undertaking the CGR**

- 3.1 On 24 November 2021 the Council decided to commence a full community governance review of the Bracknell Forest Borough area to ensure that town and parish councils within the Bracknell Forest area are well aligned with the new arrangements as a result of the LGBCE review, and to make any changes taking account of the review criteria. A review of the whole of the borough also responds to suggestions made by some parish councils for a review due to population changes and large property developments.
- 3.2 Council delegated authority to officers in consultation with the cross-party Boundary Review Group to undertake the review and make recommendations to Council for any changes to the town/parish arrangements in time for any changes to take effect from the borough/parish elections in May 2023.
- 3.3 In undertaking this review the Council has been guided by part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007, the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972, Guidance on Community Governance Reviews issued in accordance with section 100(4) of the Local Government and Public Health Involvement in Health Act 2007 by the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Boundary Commission for England in March 2010, and the following regulations which guide, in particular, consequential matters arising from the review:
- Local Government (Parishes and Parish Councils) (England) Regulations 2008 (SI2008/625);
  - Local Government Finance (New Parishes) Regulations 2008 (SI2008/626).
- 3.4 The CGR Terms of Reference were agreed by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Boundary Review Group and were published on the Council's website on 28 February 2022. This document sets out the scope of the review, the timetable and the process that was followed.
- 3.5 Two phases of public consultation were undertaken with the first stage running from 28 February 2022 until Sunday 8 May 2022 and the second stage running from 4 July 2022 concluding on 11 September 2022. The first stage was used as an opportunity for any interested parties or stakeholders to submit views on the town/ parish warding arrangements put in place following the LGBCE review and the second stage used to solicit comments and submissions on the working group's draft recommendations.
- 3.6 Submissions at each stage could be made through the council's consultation portal, by email to a dedicated email address, by post and by delivery to the council office, libraries, and parish/town council offices. A full communications plan accompanied the launch of the consultation.
- 3.6 All submissions received at both stages were considered by the working group and full schedule of those responses can be viewed here: [Community governance review | Bracknell Forest Council \(bracknell-forest.gov.uk\)](https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/community-governance-review)

#### **4. Background Information**

- 4.1 There are currently four parish councils and two town councils in the Bracknell Forest area. The table below shows each parish/town council, the number of wards and the number of councillors for each. It also shows the current and projected number of electors for 2027, and the councillor/ elector ratio for each ward. The changes made by the LGBCE to Binfield, Bracknell Town, Sandhurst Town, Warfield and Winkfield as part of the 2019 review have been included.

Parish/Town Ward	Number of cllrs	Current Electorate	Current cllr/ elector ratio	2027 Electorate	2027 cllr/ elector ratio
<b>Binfield Parish Council – 11 councillors</b>					
Binfield North	4	2,679	670	3,056	764
Binfield South	7	4,763	680	5,010	716
<b>Bracknell Town Council – 27 councillors</b>					
Birch Hill and North Lake	2	3,280	1,640	3,640	1,820
Bullbrook	3	4,176	1,392	5,054	1,685
Crown Wood	2	2,901	1,451	3,196	1,598
Garth	2	3,666	1,833	4,037	2,019
Great Hollands North	2	3,301	1,651	3,534	1,767
Great Hollands South	2	2,984	1,492	3,378	1,689
Hanworth	2	3,722	1,861	4,105	2,053
Harmans Water	2	3,150	1,575	3,490	1,745
Jennett's Park	2	3,459	1,730	3,804	1,902
Old Bracknell	2	2,396	1,198	2,591	1,296
Priestwood	2	3,037	1,519	3,105	1,553
Town Centre and The Parks	2	3,999	1,333	5,412	1,804
Wildridings	2	2,809	1,405	3,019	1,510
<b>Crowthorne Parish Council – 10 councillors</b>					
Crowthorne	8	4,595	574	5,771	721
Crowthorne South	2	907	454	1,016	508
<b>Sandhurst Town Council – 24 councillors</b>					
Central Sandhurst	6	3,972	662	4,329	722
College Town	6	3,366	561	3,781	630
Little Sandhurst	5	3,400	680	3,738	748
Owlsmoor	7	4,049	578	4,535	648
<b>Warfield Parish Council – 13 councillors</b>					
Garth North	1	140	140	126	126
Quelm	1	1,563	782	1,709	855
St Michaels	2	1,672	836	4,680	2,340
Warfield East	1	322	322	353	353
Warfield Park	6	697	697	889	889
Whitegrove	2	4,435	739	4,724	787
<b>Winkfield Parish Council – 18 councillors</b>					
Ascot Priory	1	447	447	443	443

Forest Park	5	2,829	566	3,221	644
Martins Heron & The Warren	2	1,389	695	1,524	762
North Ascot	5	3,877	775	4,205	841
Winkfield & Cranbourne	5	2,915	583	3,184	637

## 5. Draft final recommendations

- 5.1 These following sections detail the working group's draft final recommendations for each parish/ town area. Each submission received was discussed and consideration was given to evidence provided that indicated that a change should be made to external boundaries, internal warding arrangements, councillor numbers and/or parish/ town ward names.
- 5.2 The Boundary Review Group took account of the relevant legislation and guidance in formulating their proposals and the deliberations from each stage of consultation are set out.

### *Councillor numbers*

- 5.3 The legal minimum number of parish councillors is five. There is no maximum number nor any other legislative guidance for the ideal number of parish/ town councillors. The working group considered the number of councillors on each parish/town council on its own merits, having regard to its population, geography, the pattern of communities and submissions for change. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the broad pattern of existing council sizes was taken into account, as it appeared to have stood the test of time and to have provided for effective and convenient local government. The working group noted that this approach might result in a disparity between the councillor/elector ratio across different parishes within the borough and were satisfied that this was reasonable as each area would be considered on its own merits. The pattern of elections, co-options and vacancies was also taken into account when considering requests to increase councillor numbers.

### *Parish/ward names*

- 5.4 The review is required to make recommendations whether the name of the parish and/or any wards should be changed. Each parish area was considered on its own merits, taking account of any submissions received. In the absence of evidence to the contrary parish/ town ward names were taken to be well understood and no changes proposed.

## **6. Binfield Parish Council**

### **Draft recommendations following stage one consultation**

- 6.1 Following the first stage consultation three submissions were received and considered. These were from Binfield Parish Council and members of the public. No changes were sought to councillor numbers or parish/ward names.
- 6.2 Binfield Parish Council proposed no change to either the external boundaries of the parish or the internal warding arrangements put in place by the LGBCE as they felt that the arrangements best served residents in the area.
- 6.3 One member of the public questioned the need for both councils. It was presumed this referred to both the parish council and principal area council. No information or evidence was provided for changes to the arrangements. Another member of the public suggested that residents living within Wykery Copse find it 'bizarre' that their area comes under Binfield Parish whilst the rest of Jennett's Park is part of Bracknell Town. The respondent suggested that this could be rectified by moving the boundary up to the London Waterloo to Reading railway line rather than dividing through the A329.
- 6.4 The working group considered Binfield Parish's proposal alongside the Bracknell Town Council proposal to move Wykery Copse into the Bracknell Town Council area.
- 6.5 The working group considered whether there was adequate evidence to suggest that Wykery Copse and Jennett's Park should be in the same parish area and if so, whether this should be within Binfield Parish or Bracknell Town. At this stage little evidence was provided to suggest that residents in Jennett's Park looked towards Binfield Parish Council for their community identity or facilities while the evidence to move Wykery Copse into Bracknell Town was not considered strong enough to make any changes to the Binfield Parish scheme put in place by the LGBCE, which relied on evidence that residents of Wykery Copse felt more closely aligned with Binfield Parish than Bracknell Town Council.
- 6.6 The working group discussed the names of the parish and of the two new parish wards provided by the LGBCE: Binfield North and Binfield South. The new ward names were considered to be appropriate and in the absence of any submissions or evidence to the contrary no changes are proposed.

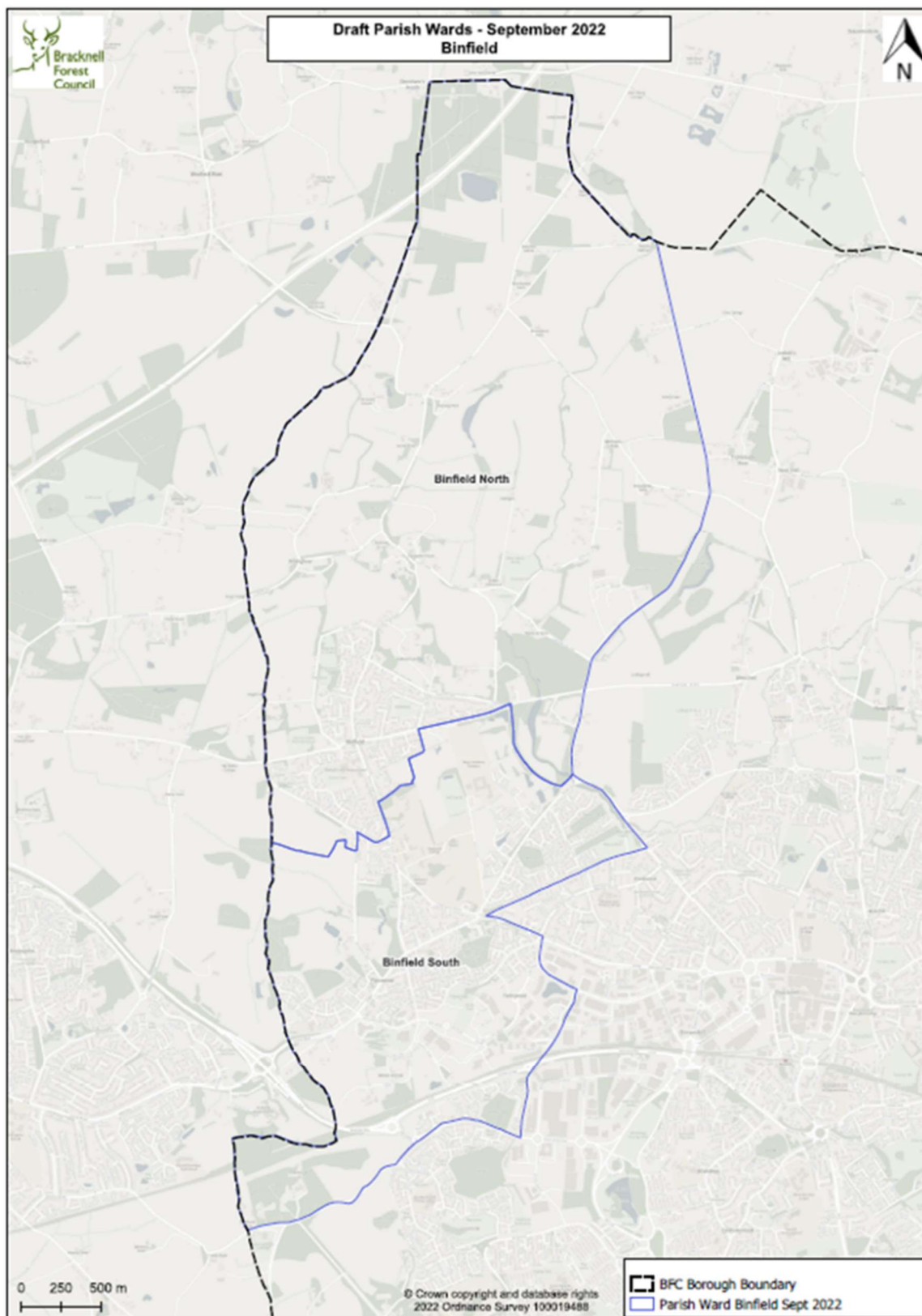
### **Response to draft recommendations following stage two consultation**

- 6.7 Binfield Parish Council reconfirmed their support for no changes in their stage two consultation response.
- 6.8 Four public responses from members of the public were received in response to the draft recommendations relating to the Wykery Copse area of Binfield Parish and its relationship with Bracknell Town. Three of these supported its continued inclusion in Binfield Parish providing community evidence indicating that they looked toward the parish for their identity while one response asked for the area to be merged with Jennetts Park.
- 6.9 While the working group acknowledges the sentiments expressed by those seeking changes in the area, the majority of community views received at this stage of the review did not support making any changes, as such the working group's draft recommendations remain unchanged.

### **The draft final recommendations are:**

- a) **that no changes are made to Binfield Parish Council. The scheme put in place by the LGBCE is unamended**

Parish ward	Councillor number	Councillor/ elector ratio
Binfield North	4	764
Binfield South	7	716



## **7. Bracknell Town Council**

### **Draft recommendations following stage one consultation**

- 7.1 Following the first stage consultation six submissions were received and considered by the working group. These were from Bracknell Town Council and members of the public. Few submissions were received seeking any significant amendments to the Bracknell Town Council area with most respondents concerned with issues around local amenities and not matters within the scope of the review. There were suggestions to subsume the entirety of Bracknell Town Council into the borough council and/or align warding arrangements as they felt these would be more recognisable to residents if they were the same.
- 7.2 There was a suggestion to amend the boundary between Harmans Water and Bullbrook along the railway line absorbing those properties north of that point into Bullbrook. This would create a very large Bullbrook Town ward and would not align with the LGBCE's borough warding arrangements and was therefore not supported.
- 7.3 Bracknell Town Council submitted suggestions for smaller amendments to warding arrangements as well as some slightly more significant warding/town boundary changes. Bracknell Town Council also requested the inclusion of Jocks Lane Recreation Ground in Priestwood Town ward, currently situated in Binfield Parish and the Easthampstead Park School playing field moved from Jennett's Park Town Ward into Great Hollands. Neither area contains any electors but would require permission from the LGBCE as they impact borough boundaries. Jocks Lane Recreation Ground sits the other side of the current parliamentary boundary and would require the creation of an 'inviolate polling district' which is a polling district where no or very few electors reside.
- 7.4 The remainder of the Bracknell Town Council submission was supported with the exception of the request to move Wykery Copse into Bracknell Town as discussed within the 'Binfield Parish Council' section of this document.
- 7.5 Bracknell Town Council requested an increase to the number of councillors in the Town Centre & The Parks Ward from two to three with one councillor in the Bullbrook ward being transferred to Town Centre and The Parks to retain an overall council size of 27. During the working group's deliberations, it was determined that the better solution equalising the councillor/elector ratio would be to retain three members in the Bullbrook Ward while increasing Town Centre and The Parks by one councillor. This results in an overall councillor membership of Bracknell Town Council of 28.
- 7.6 No representations were made to change the name of the Town Council therefore the working group has left these unamended.

### **Response to draft recommendations following stage two consultation**

- 7.7 Responses to the draft recommendations received during the stage two consultation were broadly supportive of the working group's initial proposals.
- 7.8 Some additional consultation responses were received at stage two from members of the public discussing a range of issues that fell outside of the scope of the review as well as some comments relating to the review process itself.
- 7.9 Four submissions discussed the area around Gough's Lane/ Dene Close which is currently allocated to the Garth ward of Bracknell Town Council. These submissions asked for this area to be moved into Warfield Parish Council with an amendment to the parish/ town boundary along Warfield Road and Holly Spring Lane. The working group considered these requests but, on balance determined that, due to the current

parliamentary constituency boundary in the area, it would be difficult to make the requested change without forcing the creation of an inviable polling district. As such the proposal will not be taken forward but, has been noted as an area that may warrant further review once the Parliamentary Boundary Commission has concluded its review in 2023.

- 7.10 A submission from a Bracknell Town Councillor was received asking the working group to reconsider their draft recommendation to redraw the town boundary between the wards of Easthampstead and Wildridings. While the working group acknowledged the arguments put forward it was felt that the alteration as originally proposed by Bracknell Town Council during the stage one consultation was more persuasive.
- 7.11 A small administrative change to the boundary between the Harmans Water and Crown Wood and Swinley Forest borough wards is also recommended to better define where some properties are located in this area. The change affects no electors.

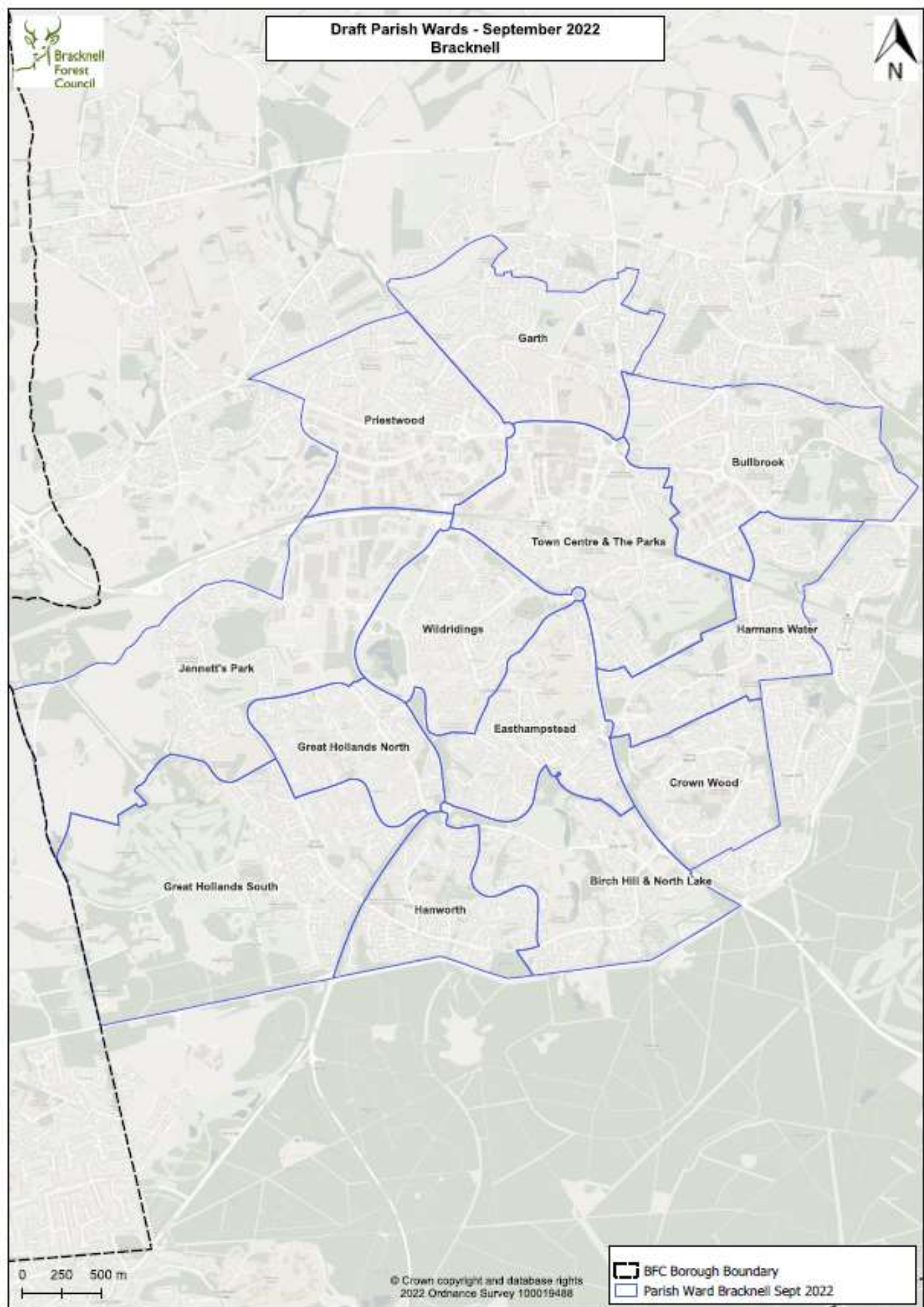
**The draft final recommendations are:**

- a) **to move Garth North from the Warfield Parish area into the Bracknell Town Council's Garth Town Ward impacting approximately 70 dwellings (up to 150 electors). The one councillor assigned to that ward is to remain allocated to Warfield Parish Council and will not be transferred to Bracknell Town Council.**
- b) **to redraw the town ward boundary between Wildridings and Easthampstead/Old Bracknell along Rectory Lane.**
- c) **to make a small adjustment to the borough/ parish/ town boundary between Crown Wood and Swinley Forest wards to better define the location of some properties in this area.**
- d) **to add one councillor in the Town Centre and Parks town ward increasing from two councillors to three increasing the overall membership of Bracknell Town Council to 28.**

**Of these recommendations, all will require consent from the LGBCE with recommendation c) requiring a related alteration to the borough ward boundaries.**

<b>Town ward</b>	<b>Councillor number</b>	<b>Councillor/ elector ratio</b>
Birch Hill & North Lake	2	1,820
Bullbrook	3	1,685
Crown Wood	2	1,598
Old Bracknell	2	2,019
Garth	2	1,767
Great Hollands North	2	1,689
Great Hollands South	2	2,053
Hanworth	2	1,745
Harmans Water	2	1,902
Jennett's Park	2	1,296
Priestwood	2	1,553
Town Centre & The Parks	3	1,804
Wildridings	2	1,510





## **8. Crowthorne Parish Council**

### **Draft recommendations following stage one consultation**

- 8.1 Four submissions were submitted and considered following the stage one consultation. These were received from Crowthorne Parish Council, Crowthorne Village Action Group, the Labour Party and a member of the public, who asked for their property, Edgbarrow Cottage, to be included in the Crowthorne Parish area as they looked towards Crowthorne for their community identity.
- 8.2 Crowthorne Parish Council submitted a detailed response to the consultation stating their preference for a ten-councillor single ward covering the entirety of the parish area. They were keen to incorporate the 'Cricket Ground/ Derby Field' currently in the Sandhurst Town Council area into Crowthorne as it was felt that any future development in that area would look towards Crowthorne Village for their community identity. This suggestion was also submitted by the Crowthorne Village Action Group and the Bracknell Labour Party who also suggested that some properties south of Derby Field should be included around Foresters Way. The Labour Party also submitted a three-ward proposal.
- 8.3 At this stage there was no support for the Crowthorne Parish Council's submission for a single ward. The working group considered a large single ward to be administratively undesirable and noted that the cost of any by-elections would be unnecessarily high. The Labour Party's three-ward proposal was also considered. The preferred option was to create two parish wards: Crowthorne East and Crowthorne West represented by five councillors each with a reasonably similar councillor/elector ratio in each. The proposal to move Derby Field from Sandhurst Town Council to Crowthorne was considered well evidenced and logical and would also give effect to the submission regarding Edgbarrow Cottage. This was previously identified as an area change requiring permission from the LGBCE as it would also necessitate a change in the borough boundary.
- 8.4 Along with the changes to the southern boundary of Crowthorne Parish proposed around Derby Field and Edgbarrow Cottage, the working group determined that the current boundary separating Crowthorne Parish and Sandhurst Town councils was no longer easily identifiable and followed no obvious point of division. The working group proposed that a new boundary is established following a defined track. Similarly, the eastern boundary between Crowthorne Parish and Winkfield Parish is not currently well defined and the working group proposed that this was moved to follow the A322 Bracknell Road. The area contained within is primarily the Crown Estate with no electors being impacted.
- 8.5 No representations were made to change the overall councillor number. The working group considered the councillor/elector ratio and decided that it was acceptable. No proposal for change to the numbers is proposed.

### **Response to draft recommendations following stage two consultation**

- 8.6 Submissions were received from a range of stakeholders in response to the draft recommendations with one submission from a member of the public also discussing the broader, unitary authority boundary around Crowthorne which is a matter that falls outside of the scope of this review.
- 8.7 Crowthorne Parish Council reiterated their preference for a single, ten (10) councillor ward to cover the entirety of the parish area. The working group again considered this proposal within the evaluation criteria and resolved that the best option to ensure 'effective and convenient' local government for residents remained the creation of two parish wards of broadly equal electorate. There was no additional evidence provided that persuaded the working group to change its recommendation and while

the working group recognised the arguments put forward by Crowthorne Parish Council, with the parish characterising itself as “one homogeneous community... with similar governance profiles” however, the conclusion drawn by the working group was that this meant that, in absence of any particular community needing specific recognition when drawing parish wards, the most effective approach to balance the review criteria was to establish administratively competent parish wards that would ensure good representation for electors and good value for money when conducting elections.

- 8.9 The change to incorporate Derby Field into the Crowthorne Parish area was not supported by one member of the public who felt that the railway line was the natural boundary between Sandhurst and Crowthorne and while the working group recognised the argument it was determined that this boundary was reasonably permeable with any future residents in Derby Field primarily looking towards Crowthorne for their community identity and facilities. The draft recommendation to make the change was supported by Crowthorne Village Action Group and Crowthorne Parish Council who also suggested including fifteen properties next to Derby Field in the Sandhurst Town Council area. The working group was not persuaded by the evidence put forward to support this larger alteration and decided not to amend their draft recommendations in this area.
- 8.10 In relation to the external boundaries of Crowthorne Parish the working group have revised their draft recommendations and decided not to recommend any external changes to the Crowthorne Parish area other than the two adjustments around Derby Field and Edgbarrow Cottage. This is due to the potential issues it may cause around the current parliamentary boundary review. As such there will be no change to the boundary between Crowthorne Parish and Winkfield Parish and only small amendments to the boundary between Sandhurst Town.

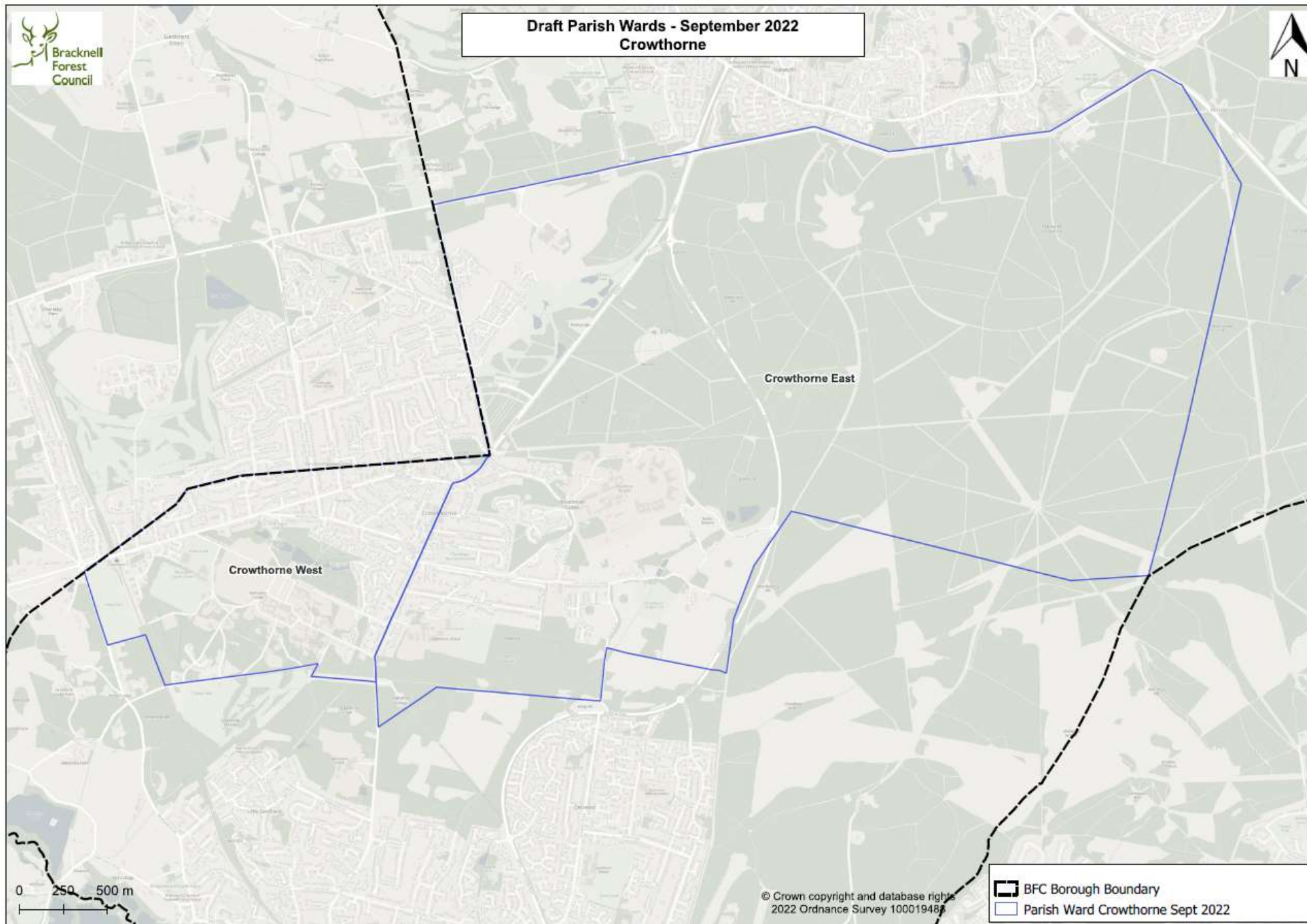
**The draft final recommendations:**

- a) to create two parish wards each represented by 5 (five) councillors:
- the existing Crowthorne South ward to be enlarged to encompass all properties west of Sandhurst Road/Crowthorne High Street and renamed Crowthorne West.
  - the rest of Crowthorne Parish to be contained within a newly designated Crowthorne East ward.
- b) To move the external boundary to the south to incorporate Derby Field and Edgbarrow Cottage into Crowthorne Parish.

Of these recommendations, consent is not required from the LGBCE in relation to the redrawing of the internal parish wards (recommendation a). Recommendation b) will require consent as well as a related alteration to make necessary adjustments to the borough ward boundary.



Parish ward	Councillor number	Councillor/ elector ratio
Crowthorne East	5	705
Crowthorne West	5	652

Draft Parish Wards - September 2022  
Crowthorne



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2022 Ordnance Survey 100019488

 BFC Borough Boundary  
 Parish Ward Crowthorne Sept 2022



## **9. Sandhurst Town Council**

### **Draft recommendations following stage one consultation**

- 9.1 Two submissions were received and considered following the stage one consultation. These were from Sandhurst Town Council and a member of the public.
- 9.2 The Town Council's request for all town wards be represented by six councillors was discussed and supported. This required a redistribution of one councillor from the Owlsmoor Town ward to the Little Sandhurst ward which the LGBCE allocated seven and five councillors respectively which further equalises the councillor/elector ratio. No change was proposed to the overall number of councillors which remains at 24.
- 9.3 The submission from the member of the public proposed the merger of Owlsmoor and College Town wards which would have the effect of creating a ward with approximately 8000 electors represented by 12 councillors. This proposal was considered to be administratively unmanageable and was not supported.
- 9.4 There were no requests to consider name changes for the Town Council or its wards therefore no change is proposed.

### **Response to draft recommendations following stage two consultation**

- 9.5 No responses were received from members of the public regarding the proposals and Sandhurst Town Council provided a submission reiterating their support for the draft recommendations.

#### **The draft final recommendations are:**

- a) to amend the northern boundary to give effect to the changes proposed for Crowthorne Parish Council outlined above in 8.9.
- b) that each of the four town wards are to be represented by six councillors.

**Of these recommendations, all will require consent from the LGBCE with recommendation a) requiring a related alteration to the borough ward boundaries.**



<b>Town ward</b>	<b>Councillor number</b>	<b>Councillor/ elector ratio</b>
Central Sandhurst	6	722
College Town	6	630
Little Sandhurst	6	623
Owlsmoor	6	756

**Draft Parish Wards - September 2022**  
**Sandhurst**



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 BFC Borough Boundary  
 Parish Ward Sandhurst Sept 2022

## **10. Warfield Parish Council**

### **Draft recommendations following stage one consultation**

- 10.1 Following the first stage consultation three submissions were received and considered. These were received from Warfield Parish Council and members of the public. In addition, the working group considered the proposal within the Winkfield Parish Council submission relating to the boundary with Warfield and the proposal within both the Bracknell Town and Warfield Parish Council submissions to move Garth North from Warfield into Bracknell Town.
- 10.2 Both Warfield Parish Council and Winkfield Parish Council submitted a response regarding the boundary between the parishes, which the working group considered together. Warfield Parish Council submitted a request to change the boundary between Warfield and Winkfield to take in one property from Winkfield Parish (The Nook, Cocks Lane) while moving another (Brockhill Cottages) into Winkfield Parish to better reflect the areas each of those properties identify with. The Warfield Parish submission also proposed the merging of the Warfield East Parish ward with the Warfield Park parish ward. Winkfield Parish Council proposed a more significant change, incorporating the whole of Warfield East into Winkfield Parish to align the parishes with the borough boundary more closely.
- 10.3 A second member of the public provided a range of detailed and extensive information to support the transfer of the Hayley Green community of Warfield Parish to Winkfield Parish Council. This was similar to the Winkfield Parish Council proposal, where the entirety of the Warfield East ward of Warfield Parish Council was merged with the Winkfield and Cranbourne ward of Winkfield Parish Council.
- 10.4 The working group weighed up the proposals at this stage. Warfield Parish Council's proposal was the preferred option as it was determined the residents in the area have an existing affiliation with the parish council, access their facilities and look to the parish for community identity. The merging of Warfield East with Warfield Park would also resolve the issue of two single councillor parish wards that had been established by the LGBCE as part of their final recommendations for Warfield Parish Council. At this stage officers advised that the creation of this new parish ward would cross two borough wards and the working group considered it within this context.
- 10.5 Both Winkfield and Warfield Parish Councils requested an amendment to the boundary around Warfield Park so that all dwellings in that area are included in the same parish. This was also identified by Bracknell Forest Council's boundary review working group during the LGBCE review.
- 10.6 Warfield Parish Council also requested the inclusion of some properties in Priory Lane currently in Bracknell Town Council area. The working group considered that it would be difficult currently to make this change as the properties currently sit on the Bracknell side of the parliamentary constituency boundary. Making these changes would necessitate the creation of an inviable polling district to administer elections in that area. It was recognised that this could change following the ongoing parliamentary review and that this issue could be revisited later if requested. The proposal was not supported at this stage.
- 10.7 Warfield Parish Council also requested a reorganisation of councillors between wards and an overall increase in councillor numbers from 13 to 15 to accommodate future property growth. This request was considered taking account of the councillor/elector ratio and the activity proposed by the Parish to increase democratic engagement to ensure that there are sufficient candidates at elections to maintain any increase in councillor numbers. The working group considered this submission and determined that enough information had been provided for the working group to support the request.

- 10.8 A submission from a third member of the public asked to be included in Winkfield rather than Warfield Parish Council. They did not identify their address therefore this could not be progressed.

**Supplementary draft recommendations:**

- 10.9 Mid-way through the second stage consultation the working group, upon further consideration of the restrictions placed on the LGBCE, put forward an additional proposal for the Warfield East and Warfield Park area of the parish to provide a scheme that would not see a parish ward cross two borough wards while addressing the issue of single-member parish wards.
- 10.10 This additional proposal saw the Warfield East Parish ward merged with Winkfield Parish Council's Winkfield and Cranbourne parish ward and the Warfield Park parish ward enlarged to and partially merged with some elements of the Whitegrove ward to create a two-member parish ward for that area.
- 10.11 Because this proposal was introduced late into the consultation period and the effect would have been to move residents from one parish to another, leaflets were posted through the doors of all residential properties in the Warfield East area to notify residents and advise that the consultation was open for them to review.

**Response to draft recommendations following stage two consultation**

- 10.12 Overall three submissions were received from members of the public relating to the draft recommendations for Warfield as part of the second stage consultation as well responses from Warfield and Winkfield Parish councils.
- 10.13 One public submission received was supportive of the supplementary proposal as was Winkfield Parish Council. Warfield Parish Council did not support the change and stated in their consultation response that they would prefer the default, LGBCE scheme of two, single-member wards over any option to move the area out of Warfield Parish.
- 10.14 The working group considering, these responses, have resolved to uphold their original proposal as published in the initial draft recommendations. That being a single, two-member ward encompassing both Warfield East and Warfield Park as part of the Warfield Parish Council area.
- 10.15 While the working group recognises the restrictions placed on the LGBCE it was considered that the lack of identifiable local support from residents in the affected area and the strength of existing community identity in these areas in conjunction with the evidence put forward by Warfield Parish Council meant that the most appropriate option to take forward was the one that respected the current parish boundary while looking to resolve the issue the two single-member parish wards.
- 10.16 Should the LGBCE not give consent it is understood that the arrangements put in place for this area will revert to those put in place by the Commission.
- 10.17 No other comments relating to any of the other changes put forward in the draft recommendations were received as part of the stage two consultation process.

**The draft final recommendations are:**

- a) to change the boundary between Warfield and Winkfield to move The Nook, Cocks Lane into Warfield Parish Council and Brockhill Cottages, into Winkfield Parish.
- b) to incorporate the Warfield East Parish ward into the Warfield Park parish ward to create a single, two-member ward.
- c) 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 is to remain on Warfield Parish Council and will not be transferred to Bracknell Town Council.

d) external boundary change around Warfield Park to bring all properties into Warfield Parish.

e) to increase the overall councillor number by two to 15 to be allocated between wards as shown in the below table.

Of these recommendations, all will require consent from the LGBCE with recommendation d) requiring a related alteration to the borough ward boundaries.

Parish ward	Councillor number	Councillor/ elector ratio
Quelm	2	854
St Michaels	5	936
Warfield East and Park	2	621
Whitegrove	6	787




St Michaels

Warfield East and Park



Quelm

Whitegrove

0 250 500 m



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 BFC Borough Boundary  
 Parish Ward Warfield Sept 2022

## **11. Winkfield Parish Council**

### **Draft recommendations following stage one consultation**

- 11.1 During the first stage public consultation three submissions were received and considered by the working group during the completion of the draft recommendations. These were from Winkfield Parish Council and two members of the public. The Warfield Parish Council submission was also considered in tandem with the Winkfield response where there were multiple proposals relating to the same area.
- 11.2 One member of the public's submission endorsed the work of Winkfield Parish Council and suggested that no changes should be made to the existing arrangements.
- 11.3 A second public submission shared the view that Forest Park sat well with Martins Heron and Warren and was pleased that the areas would be re-joined moving forward. This comment was thought to relate to the changes brought about by the LGBCE's review and the creation of the new Swinley Forest Borough ward.
- 11.4 Winkfield Parish Council provided an extensive submission covering changes to the internal warding arrangements of the parish, the external boundaries, and a redistribution of councillors across a revised scheme of parish warding.
- 11.5 Winkfield Parish Council proposed enlarging the parish area by absorbing the Warfield East parish ward of Warfield Parish Council to greater align the area with the revised borough warding arrangements. This would affect approximately 190 properties (approximately 360 residents). This was considered alongside the Warfield proposal detailed above.
- 11.6 The working group considered Winkfield Parish Council's request to merge the North Ascot ward and the Ascot Priory ward. At this stage it was supported and considered as a good solution to addressing the single-councillor, Ascot Priory parish ward put in place by the LGBCE. The working group previously agreed the principle that one councillor wards offered operational challenges for both residents and councillors and the solution to merge would enable six councillors to govern the enlarged area. Officers advised that this parish ward would cross a borough ward boundary and the working group considered it within this context.
- 11.7 The Parish Council also requested the renaming of the enlarged parish ward to Ascot Priory to better reflect the communities contained within.
- 11.8 Based on the draft recommendations published at this stage it was supported to leave the overall number of councillors unchanged and to redistribute councillor numbers across wards to achieve better councillor/elector ratios. The working group concluded that having two councillors in Martins Heron and Warren (ratio of 762) and six councillors in Ascot Priory (ratio of 756) would achieve a better ratio balance for residents within Winkfield Parish.
- 11.9 The working group discussed the proposal to change the name of the parish ward from Ascot Priory to Swinley Forest. It was acknowledged that the Ascot Priory name had been in use locally for some time and although was not a name used by Bracknell Forest Council it was familiar to the local community, was clearly identified and would have greater resonance with residents than Swinley Forest. The working group agreed to retain the Ascot Priory name at this stage.

### **Supplementary draft recommendations:**

- 11.10 Mid-way through the second stage consultation the working group, upon further consideration of the restrictions placed on the LGBCE, put forward an additional proposal for the Ascot Priory/ Martins Heron and North Ascot area of the parish to provide a scheme that would not see the parish ward cross the borough ward boundary along the London Road while still addressing the issue of the single-member Ascot Priory parish ward.
- 11.11 This additional proposal saw the Ascot Priory parish ward merged with the Martins Heron and Warren parish ward with three councillors. In the supplementary recommendation this was titled Martins Heron and the Warren with Swinley Forest. The revised North Ascot ward was proposed to retain the Ascot Priory name as this was a more appropriate title for the area.

### **Response to draft recommendations following stage two consultation**

- 11.12 No public responses were received regarding the proposals published in the draft recommendations or supplementary draft recommendations.
- 11.13 As referenced above in 8.10 Winkfield Parish Council in their submission noted that the proposal to amend the boundary between Crowthorne Parish and Winkfield Parish along the A322 would result in the creation of an inviable polling district due to the current location of the parliamentary boundary. The working group accepted this and agreed not to take this forward.
- 11.14 Winkfield Parish Council indicated that they supported the alternative proposal that would merge Ascot Priory parish ward with Martins Heron and the Warren with this revised ward represented by three parish councillors. The additional councillor allocated to the North Ascot ward as published in the initial draft recommendations will also remain in place. This will ensure a better councillor/ elector ratio in the affected parish wards. Winkfield Parish Council will therefore be represented by 19 parish councillors an overall increase of one councillor.
- 11.15 Winkfield Parish Council also stated they wished to retain the Ascot Priory name for the North Ascot parish ward as it was longstanding and well established in the community. As such the working group resolved to maintain the Ascot Priory parish ward name for the area north of the London Road (formerly known as North Ascot) and denote the merged ward of Martins Heron and the Warren and Ascot Priory parish wards as 'Martins Heron and the Warren with Swinley Forest' as published in the supplementary draft recommendations.

### **Draft final recommendations:**

- a) to merge the current Ascot Priory and Martins Heron and Warren parish wards to create a single, three-member parish ward called Martins Heron and the Warren with Swinley Forest.**
- b) to amend the boundary between Bracknell Town Council and Winkfield parish council as detail above in 7.11.**
- c) to amend the boundary around Warfield Park as detailed above in 10.5.**
- d) to increase the number of councillors by one (total of six) in the North Ascot parish ward and rename it 'Ascot Priory'.**

**Of these recommendations, all will require consent from the LGBCE with recommendation b) and c) requiring a related alteration to the relevant borough ward boundaries.**

<b>Parish ward</b>	<b>Councillor number</b>	<b>Councillor/ elector ratio</b>
Ascot Priory	6	683
Forest Park	5	644
Martins Heron and The Warren with Swinley Forest	3	653
Winkfield and Cranbourne	5	708



**Winkfield & Cranbourne**

**Ascot Priory**

**Forest Park**

**Martins Heron and The Warren with Swinley Forest**

## **12. Consequential matters**

- 12.1 No transfer of assets will be required once the recommendations within this report are implemented.

## **13. Review timetable**

- 13.1 The publication of these draft final recommendations marks the end of the CGR process. The next stages are outlined below:
- A request for 'consent' is made to the LGBCE to enact changes in those areas with 'protected characteristics.'
  - Should 'consent' be granted Bracknell Forest Council formally makes the Reorganisation Order and asks the LGBCE for a 'related alterations order' to be laid in Parliament to adjust those borough boundaries that need amendments as a result of changes implemented by the CGR.
  - The order will take effect on 1 April 2023 with elections being held on the new arrangements on Thursday 4 May 2023.