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Crowthorne
RG45 6DP

Review Officer, Bracknell Forest
Local Authority Boundary Commission for England
1st Floor, Windsor House
50 Victoria Street
London SW1H 0TL

12 March 2020

CVAG response to Boundary Commission

Crowthorne Village Action Group (CVAG) is a non political association of residents who seek to protect the established character of Crowthorne Village and ensure that future developments are in keeping with their surroundings. Further information about CVAG is available on our website www.cvag.org.uk

Crowthorne Village is already fragmented for administrative purposes, sitting astride the boundary of two Borough Councils, Wokingham and Bracknell Forest and 3 Parish councils. This already causes administrative problems relating to planning, refuse collection etc. Despite this, we maintain a strong sense of village identity, with a vibrant high street and a wide range of community activities and clubs.

It would be appreciated if this boundary review did not introduce any additional fragmentation of that part of Crowthorne which is within Bracknell Forest Borough. It is requested that every effort be made to maintain the Bracknell Forest section of Crowthorne Village as one integrated ward with clear councillor responsibilities.

Strategic Gaps

The current Bracknell Forest Council Core Strategy, 2008, identifies strategic gaps designed to prevent coalescence of adjoining communities and preserve the distinct identities of the villages around Bracknell.

Paragraph 120, The Council attaches great importance to the function of these areas as a means of maintaining individual settlement identity.

See map attached as Appendix 1

It is asked that the Boundary review should resist introducing anything which erodes those boundaries and compromises the settlement identity.

Bucklers Park

This new development of 1,000 homes is very much a part of Crowthorne and the residents participate in community life. No consideration should be given to extending the electoral ward of Great Hollands to include Bucklers Park.

Addiscombe Road and Pinehill Road

We strongly object to the proposal from the BFC working party which suggests incorporating parts of Crowthorne, Addiscombe Road and Pinehill Road into the adjacent ward of Wildmoor. Those residents are very much part of Crowthorne and being represented by an external representative on BFC is unlikely to have much influence on factors relating to Crowthorne Village.

Chaucer Road and Edgbarrow Cottage

The existing development in the area of Chaucer Road should be re-incorporated into Crowthorne. This should include the oldest Crowthorne residence, Edgbarrow Cottage, on the Sandhurst Road. While located physically close to Crowthorne Village, it is currently designated within the ward boundary of Sandhurst, with which it has very little in common.

Derby Field

The draft local plan 2019 proposes a new development of 200 homes at Derby Field, on the edge of Crowthorne Village. Whilst currently designated as being in the Parish of Sandhurst, it is far from any commercial centre of Sandhurst and much more closely linked to Crowthorne. Those residents will look to Crowthorne for supporting infrastructure such as employment, shopping or recreational activities. It is understood that the borough council is in agreement to redefine the parish boundary to include Derby field in the Parish of Crowthorne, so it is suggested the ward boundary should also include Derby field.

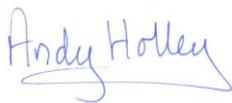
Planning for the future.

Crowthorne is currently experiencing a phase of rapid development. The previous local plan, 2013, allocates 1,400 new homes in the Parish of Crowthorne, an area previously 2,100 homes (census 2011). This dramatic growth, > 60%, may make it timely to adjust the number of councillors representing the Crowthorne ward in order to retain the desired ratio of electors to councillors. This would be preferred to the alternative proposed by others, of reducing the numbers of electors by hiving off sections of Crowthorne Village into adjacent wards.

As an organisation it is important that we maintain good relationships with our Borough councillors. Responsibilities are clear and we know who to go to. This would become more confusing if the Village was arbitrarily fragmented with parts reallocated to adjoining wards.

We would urge you to keep Crowthorne as a single Ward for election of councillors to represent us at Bracknell Forest Council.

Yours sincerely



Andy Holley
Chairman, CVAG

Appendix 1

Map from Bracknell Forest Core strategy showing strategic Gaps around Crowthorne

