

Fareham Borough Council

Council meeting agenda 27th October 2022

Item 14 – Local Government Boundary Review

Amendment proposed under Standing Order 2.14

This amendment is proposed as an Appendix to the Council's Consultation Response to the Local Government Boundary Commission.

To strengthen the community basis of the Commission's proposed boundaries in the eastern part of the Borough, amendments are proposed to two of the boundaries.

Town Centre: The Osborn Road/Southampton Road/Harrison Road area is immediately adjacent to Fareham town centre, unconnected to Wallington or Downend. The proposal is that the northern boundary of Fareham Town ward should run west of Serpentine Road, but east of Harrison Road, to incorporate the northern part of the town centre.

Paragraph 57 of the LGBC report is factually incorrect, the significant recommended amendment does not better reflect the statutory criteria, moving the boundary from a major arterial road to a quieter residential street creates a weaker boundary. The modification to include FE2 within Wallington & Downend as such makes little sense. Wickham Road is the main road, it is the busiest road and strongest natural boundary for the area, with few houses along it, mainly offices and an industrial estate - it is a strong boundary. Park Lane, on the other hand, has none of these things.

As such, if the LGBC is intent on retaining some of FE2 within the Wallington & Downend ward it might consider a stronger boundary to be along the top of Southampton Road, moving the older terraced Victorian homes on Wickham Road into Fareham Town along with the flats that make up Old School Court and up to the flats at The Tollgate, a clear difference in housing structure compared to the houses and bungalows which make up the upper FE2 area. Further, the Victorian housing and apartment areas have little or no parking and residents there are much more likely to walk into the town centre for work or to commute and use local amenities, while the more northern areas with driveways are more likely to commute for work and leisure.

This would then create a stronger boundary for Portchester Wicor, a greater electoral equality between Portchester Wicor, Portsdown & Castle and Wallington & Downend, stronger boundaries for Wallington & Downend and more clearly defined communities according not just to those natural boundaries but historical boundaries, communities by housing type, age and local area usage.

Portchester Wicor: The addition of the Romsey Avenue area to Wallington & Downend is consistent with our approach of having both sides of a street (in this case Portchester Road) in the same ward. Wicor Primary School and the proposed new development at Romsey Avenue should remain in Portchester Wicor.

Our proposal focused on keeping the 'original' historical boundary of Portchester within the two Portchester Wicor and Portsdown & Castle wards, while the newer housing estates and Downend were to be moved into the Wallington & Downend ward. Namely, a part of PW3 to be moved into Wallington & Downend ward the LGBC have moved back into Wicor. This

creates a very odd boundary and shape for Portchester Wicor, which goes against the criteria for community and strong boundaries. The residents at the top of the LGBC proposed Portchester Wicor ward are likely to have little interaction with those on the coast. In terms of the boundary shape, it creates a very pointed top of the ward that could not be considered a strong boundary.

Rev Dr Ian Meredith, Vicar and Area Dean, stated in his St Mary's Church newsletter that the church considers the boundary to be at Hatherley Crescent as this is where their parish ends. This is an example of a strong community boundary, as the area West of this is included within the Fareham parish and would match up more strongly with our proposed warding.

The Fareham proposed boundary is reflected in housing type also. The Romsey Avenue and Quintrel Avenue areas consist of newer, mostly semi-detached, housing. The area from Cornaway Lane, East and South, is made up almost exclusively of older bungalows. This also creates a different demographic, which again provides strong evidence of differing communities that lend to the creation of a boundary.

The exact changes proposed, which ensure that ward sizes are within the recommended range, are:

1) From Wallington & Downend to Fareham Town (815 voters based on 2028 electorate):

FE2	FE3
Coghlan Close Harrison Road Old School Court Park Lane (east side) Poyner Close Southampton Road William Price Gardens	Archery Lane Northwood Square Osborn Road Osborn Road South Trinity Street (north of Osborn Road)

2) From Portchester Wicor to Wallington & Downend (615 voters):

PW3
Ashtead Close Beaulieu Avenue Hatherley Crescent (*) Merrow Close Portchester Road Quintrel Avenue Romsey Avenue Rudgwick Close Stoneleigh Close

(*) the northern part of Hatherley Crescent west of Quintrel Avenue and Stoneleigh Close, numbers 55 and upwards odds, 78 and upwards evens)