



**Periodic Electoral  
Review of  
Bracknell Forest**

**Final Report of the  
Focus Group**

**30 January 2002**

**DRAFT**

**PERIODIC ELECTORAL REVIEW**

**OF**

**BRACKNELL FOREST**

**RESPONSE OF BRACKNELL FOREST  
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**TO THE**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND'S**

**DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**

**ON THE FUTURE ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS**

**FOR BRACKNELL FOREST**

## **BACKGROUND**

1.1 The draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Bracknell Forest were published by the Local Government Commission for England [LGCE] on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2001. Copies of the recommendations were circulated to all Members of the Council and made available for public inspection at the Council Offices at Easthampstead House.

1.2 The main draft recommendations were:

- Bracknell Forest should have 42 Councillors, two more than at present;
- There should be 19 wards, as at present;
- The boundaries of 18 of the existing wards should be modified and one ward should retain its existing boundary;
- Elections should continue to take place every four years.

1.3 The LGCE requires a response to its draft proposals by 28/30 January 2002.

1.4 The Council has given consideration to the draft proposals at meetings of its Periodic Electoral Review Focus Group on 11 December 2001 and 7 January 2002 and at a meeting of the Council held on 30 January 2002.

## **2. PROPOSED CHANGES TO DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 The Council submits that a small number of changes should be made to the draft proposals published by the LGCE. The changes now proposed are dealt with under four separate headings:

- Borough Warding Arrangements
- Names of Wards
- Electoral Arrangements
- Parish/Town Council Electoral Arrangements

### 3. BOROUGH WARDING ARRANGEMENTS

3.1 The Council accepts in principle the LGCE's recommendation that the Council should comprise 42 Borough Councillors.

3.2 The Council requests the Commission to give consideration to making the following amendments to its draft recommendations:

- (i) The proposed Borough Wards of Binfield Popeswood and Binfield with Warfield be combined to form a single Borough Ward, returning three members (as shown on Map 1 attached); the new Ward to be called Binfield with Warfield.
- (ii) the two proposed wards of Priestwood with Garth and Harvest Ride, each returning three members be replaced by three, two member Wards as follows:
  - (a) Priestwood (with the western part of Garth), (as shown on Map 2 attached) to be called Priestwood Ward;
  - (b) The eastern part of Garth with Quelm Park and Thomas Lawrence Brickworks site, (as shown on Map 3 attached) to be called Garth with Quelm Ward;
  - (c) Whitegrove Ward (as shown on Map 4 attached)

Reason: The Council's original proposal for these areas best meets the requirements of the residents. The proposed merger of part of Garth with Priestwood combines two areas of the same age with shared urban characteristics and would result in a coherent ward. There are clear and strong affinities between the residents of the remaining part of Garth, Quelm and the Brickworks site, all of which are served by the Warfield Road. The name Quelm comes from Quelm Lane, an ancient route from Ascot to Maidenhead and this route runs through Garth. In addition, Quelm Park was built on Garth Hunt land. There is little affinity between the Quelm Park and Whitegrove developments.

- (iii) the centre of the A322 Bagshot Road be used as the boundary for all proposed wards from the Downshire Way/Broad Lane roundabout to the junction of the road with the New Forest Ride/Coral Reef roundabout and that, as a result the proposed movement of the Cadence House site into the proposed new Old Bracknell Ward be cancelled.

Reason: Cadence House site contains no residential development and can therefore have no numerical impact on the warding arrangements. The proposal to retain the site in the Harmans Water Ward results in the A322 becoming a strong, continuous boundary line.

#### 4. NAMES OF WARDS

4.1 The Council is of the opinion that the following amendments should be made to the names of wards:

Ward Name in Draft Recommendations	Suggested Ward Name
1. Crown Wood	Crown Park
2. Harmans Water	Hérons Water with The Warren
3. Little Sandhurst	Little Sandhurst with Wellington

4.2 The reasons for the proposed changes are set out below:

##### 1. Crown Park

This is a merger of two wards from different parishes (Crown Wood from Bracknell Town and Forest Park from Winkfield) and it is considered that this name acknowledges and better reflects the two identities.

##### 2. Herons Water with The Warren

It is considered that Herons Water with The Warren is a more appropriate name as it reflects the merging of the former parish Wards of Harmans Water, Martins Heron and The Warren.

##### 3. Little Sandhurst with Wellington

Wellington College, an educational establishment of local and national repute which dates back to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, is located in the proposed new parish ward of Crowthorne South

which is now merged with the existing Borough ward of Little Sandhurst. Once again, it is considered that this name better reflects the make-up of the newly formed ward and acknowledges the significant contribution the College and its associated housing has made to the area.

## **5. ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS**

- 5.1 The Council agrees with the Commission's proposal for whole Borough/Parish elections to continue to be held every four years.

## **6. PARISH AND TOWN COUNCIL ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS**

- 6.1 With regard to the Commission's draft proposals for Parish and Town Council Electoral Arrangements, the Council requests that consideration be given to the following proposed arrangements:

### **Bracknell Town Council**

The proposed amendments with regard to Borough Ward boundaries, referred to in paragraph 3.2 (ii and iii) above should also be applied to the Parish ward boundaries.

## **7. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

- 7.1 Bracknell Forest Borough Council, in response to the Local Government Commission for England's draft recommendations on the future electoral arrangements for Bracknell and having regard to the above, submit that the following amendments be considered by the Commission before final recommendations are submitted to the Electoral Commission.

- **The changes to Borough ward boundaries referred to in paragraph 3.2 above be incorporated into the final recommendations.**
- **The changes to Ward names referred to in paragraph 4 be reflected in the final recommendations.**
- **The changes to Parish Ward boundaries referred to in paragraph 6.1 above be incorporated into the final recommendations.**