



WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

LGBCE
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE24 9FE

Tim Way, Chairman,
55, Parsonage Lane, Westcott.
Dorking, Surrey, RH4 3NL
timway.westcott@gmail.com

5th November 2021

Dear Sir / Madam

MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL, SURREY

BOUNDARY CHANGE PROPOSALS

I am writing on behalf of the **Westcott Ward, within the District of Mole Valley, Surrey.**

Having considered matters and discussed these locally, the Village Association wish to see the following principles applied in whatever is finally proposed by way of boundary changes. It is our view that these principles are reasonable, but more importantly, give the commission the greatest chance of delivering what the residents of the Ward of Westcott want to see happen in any review.

1. **Under no circumstances should the community be split in a way which creates representation in two different areas under any new arrangements.** We are the only non-parished ward under current arrangements to be represented by a single district councillor, and as a result have created a strong, largely unified community. We work closely with our District and County Councillors and as a result believe that when issues arise, working to common goals, delivers local results.

2. **We do not want to be aligned with Dorking in any way.** The residents of Westcott feel very strongly that despite our geographic proximity to the town of Dorking we are a separate village community and the issues which we face are very different to those needing to be addressed by Dorking or other town communities. As chairman I attend local Resident Association meetings and it is clear from these (articulated over a number of years) that we have much more in common with other rural communities in the Surrey Hills than we do with larger conurbations and towns. We would also draw your attention to the Westcott Neighbourhood Development Plan which states in its opening section "The village of Westcott will remain physically distinct and separate from Dorking and surrounding parishes, using the Green Belt to resist the merging of communities and encroachment into the unique character and setting of the surrounding countryside. This is the most important issue emerging from the survey (*conducted in 2013*) of the villagers of Westcott."

3. **As a result of 2 above we wish to be aligned with other rural villages and communities preferably to the west and south of the current ward.** By addressing common goals, we again have greater chance of success. As an example, dealing with speeding and unacceptable motorbike noise through rural villages is a common problem and tackling it collectively is more likely to achieve successful outcomes. The Boundary Commission will need to look at demographics but based on the current situation we would suggest the following options:-
 - a. **For a 3 member ward: Westcott, Westhumble, Mickleham, Wotton, Abinger North and Abinger South and Ockley.** Whilst these villages have much in common this is a very geographically spread ward and one which may be difficult to represent even with three councillors.

 - b. **For a 2 member ward:** (Reference the solution for St Albans; this would mean 11x3 and 3x2 member wards in Mole Valley). **Westcott, Abinger South and Leith Hill.**

We look forward to the outcome of the review and strongly urge the commission to pay particular attention to the needs of rural communities.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Way,

Chairman, Westcott Village Association