



WESTCOTT VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

Cllr Stephen Cooksey
Leader
Mole Valley District Council
Pippbrook
Dorking

Tim Way, Chairman,
55, Parsonage Lane, Westcott.
Dorking, Surrey, RH4 3NL
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24th May 2022

Dear Cllr Cooksey,

Re: Boundary Review Changes - Leith Hill Ward

Having consulted residents of the Westcott Ward, as well as discussed the matter with fellow Resident Association Chairpersons, I am writing in response to the consultation process initiated on 24th March.

1. Whilst we cannot fault the logic in terms of pure numbers to achieve the Boundary Commission's objective of consistent ward demographics, or argue that our stated preference to be aligned with other village communities has been ignored (our letter of 5th November 2021 attached), the geographical size of the new Leith Hill ward is unreasonable from a practical perspective, and in our view will not achieve the Boundary Commission's stated objective of leading to more effective local government.
2. If you add to this the Council Leadership's view that all three elected councillors will cover the whole area and represent the ward according to their skill set, we would strongly argue that the new ward becomes unworkable in effectively representing the views and opinions of their electorate.
3. As a Village Association (RA) who has for nearly 50 years worked effectively with a District and a County Councillor both of whom have an understanding of the Westcott Ward, and worked effectively on its behalf, we fail to

understand how the proposed Leith Hill ward representation model you propose will work. If the three councillors are all from the same political party this might just work, but if they are not, we will just get party politics infiltrating an otherwise a-political Association, a lack of accountability, confusion, and an inability to get things done – certainly not a model for effective Local Government.

We urge you to seriously reconsider your approach to the way the new Lieth Hill ward will operate, and at the very least divide the ward into three geographically sensible areas represented by one person who has a personal interest in effectively representing their constituents.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Way,

Chairman, Westcott Village Association

CC Cllr James Friend

Cllr Hazel Watson