

**Review of Electoral Divisions of the  
Isle of Wight Council  
Pre Submission Consultation**

## **CONTENTS**

Introduction	2
Summary of Consultation Undertaken	2
Analysis of Responses	3
Additional Advertising Undertaken	6
Schedule 1 - Written and emailed responses	7

## 1. Introduction

1.1 The Isle of Wight Council is committed to submitting a credible, ambitious and accurate submission to the Boundary Committee which, wherever possible, has the support of the local community.

1.2 This document has been prepared to provide a record of consultation undertaken during the preparation of the submission of the Isle of Wight Council to the Boundary Committee and has enabled those individuals and organisations who may wish to influence the Council's submission to do so wherever possible.

1.3 The consultation process also sought to generate awareness of and support for the Council's submission.

1.4 Comments received following consultation are recorded in this appendix and these relate to the Isle of Wight Council's **draft submission** circulated to stakeholders earlier this year. As a result of comments received, some revisions have been made to the Isle of Wight Council's **final submission**. These amendments are set out, in detail, in Section 3 – Analysis of Responses of this appendix.

## 2. Summary of Consultation undertaken

2.1 This statement is produced to accompany the Isle of Wight Council's submission to the Boundary Committee for a review of the Electoral Divisions of the Isle of Wight Council.

2.2 In order to carry out this task effectively, electronic and hard copies of the initial Draft Submission were sent to the following recipients:

### Internal

1. All Isle of Wight Council members
2. Leaders of Political Groups within the Isle of Wight Council
3. All Directors of the Isle of Wight Council
5. Staff representatives via Unison

### External

1. Town/Parish Councils & Town Management Committees
2. Members of the Public – via iwight.com
3. Local political parties
4. IOW NHS Primary Care Trust
5. Hampshire Police Force
6. Isle of Wight Chamber of Commerce

7. Isle of Wight Rural Community Council
8. The Isle of Wight MP & South-East Region MEP's

2.3 The Draft submission was distributed electronically on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007, with hard copies being dispatched the same day. A final date for comments on the Draft document to be made was Friday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2007.

2.4 All of the comments received were considered in drawing up the Final Submission, for approval by the full meeting of the Isle of Wight Council on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

### **3. Analysis of Responses**

3.1 A total of 22 individuals and organisations responded to the Council's pre submission consultation.

3.2 The responses can be divided into two groups. (i) Those dealing with the issues of community grouping and the approach the Council had taken; and (ii) those dealing with detailed issues of where boundaries should be drawn.

3.3 All of the responses received are reproduced in Schedule 1 of this Appendix.

3.4 As a result of these responses, the Council amended its proposals in the following way:

#### ***Minor Drafting Errors:***

A number of minor drafting errors were corrected, including those relating to the existing parishing arrangements for the Arreton and Newchurch areas.

#### ***Cowes, Gurnard and Northwood area:***

The larger area of Cowes, Gurnard and Northwood presented some problems in terms of ensuring that the three Parish or Town Councils retained their identity without, in the cases of Gurnard and Northwood being bisected by an Electoral Division, whilst ensuring that the submission was numerically robust and in line with guidance.

There is strong evidence, particularly from Northwood, that Gurnard and Northwood should be linked in their entirety to form one single Electoral Division, but this would have far exceeded the plus or minus ten percent threshold within which the submission has to operate.

Representations from the Northwood area had made it clear that any bisection of the area would prove unpopular and lead to unnecessary division within the community.

In order to ensure that neither Gurnard nor Northwood were bisected our submission was changed in the following manner:

- Gurnard and the larger part of Northwood are no longer to form a single Electoral Division, as the bisection of Northwood was not acceptable to those in the area who made representations.
- Gurnard and Northwood are to be retained as two separate areas, but will, in our submission, be joined with an appropriate sized portion of the adjacent areas of Cowes to make two Electoral Divisions which are of appropriate size.
- Alternatively, Gurnard and Northwood could have been linked with Porchfield (in the case of Gurnard), or Parkhurst (in the case of Northwood), but both Gurnard and Northwood share a stronger community link with the Cowes area than they do with either the largely rural Porchfield or Parkhurst, which runs down into the urban area of Newport.
- The remaining area of Cowes will be divided up into two further Electoral Divisions of roughly equal size.
- Thus, Gurnard and Northwood will each form a part of two separate Electoral Divisions, joined with adjacent areas of Cowes, whilst the remainder of Cowes will form two further Electoral Divisions.

***Brading area:***

In the Draft proposals approximately 440 electors within Brading Parish Council area were to be joined with St. Helens and part of Bembridge North to form a single Electoral Division.

This proved to be unpopular within the Brading area, and Brading Town Council submitted a detailed letter in support of retaining Brading as a whole within the existing Electoral Division.

As a result of the feedback received during the consultation the submission was changed in the following manner in order to prevent any bisection of Brading Parish Council area:

- Brading and St. Helens would continue as one single Electoral Division as is currently the case.
- This alteration created a number of knock-on effects for other areas in the East Wight:
- Bembridge North would now be joined with the majority of Bembridge South to form one Electoral Division.
- The remainder of Bembridge South would be joined with Sandown North to form one Electoral Division – this also had the effect of making both Electoral Divisions in the Sandown area of similar size in terms of electorate.
- The Fishbourne and Binstead areas would remain as one single Electoral Division as they do at present.
- Havenstreet would now be joined with Haylands and part of Ryde South East – this also addresses the concerns expressed by Havenstreet Parish Council who did not necessarily wish to be joined with Brading in a single Electoral Division.
- The division of electorate within Ryde is altered to take account of the changes outlined above.

***East Fairlee:***

Although this was not specifically raised as a concern, it was noted that the submission from Havenstreet and Ashey Parish Council made reference to the fact *“that fewer Isle of Wight Councillors representing the parish of Havenstreet and Ashey would be beneficial”*.

In order to ensure that this aspiration was met, and to avoid the possible Warding of the Parish Council, the following changes were made to the submission:

- The East Fairlee area was moved from its association with other Electoral Divisions in the Newport area and added to the Haylands, Havenstreet and Ryde South East areas.
- As a result of this addition to the Ryde areas, there were also some minor amendments to electorate numbers in the remaining Ryde areas.

## **4. Additional Advertising Undertaken**

### **One Island magazine**

4.1 The Boundary Review was covered in a short news article in both the March and April 2007 editions of "One Island", the Isle of Wight Council's magazine. This article alerted residents to the fact that the review was in progress, advised them that the Council would be making a submission, and informed them of the address to write to in the event that they wished to make their own comments direct to the Boundary Committee.

### **iwight.com**

4.2 The Isle of Wight Council's website, iwight.com has carried full details of the Boundary Review since it commenced in February 2007, and also carried the Council's draft submission from 16<sup>th</sup> March 2007. The website carried full links to all documents produced by both the Boundary Committee and the Isle of Wight Council, along with web links where appropriate.

## **Schedule 1**

Written and e-mailed responses received by the Isle of Wight Council during the consultation period on the Draft Submission to the Boundary Committee for England are reproduced on the following pages.

### ***From Godshill Parish Council:***

Godshill Parish Councillors have read the Consultation document on the IWC's draft submission to the boundary commission and wish to offer their congratulations.

Parochially, Godshill is quite happy with the content, although other areas may not be but the unanimous comment was that they were delighted with the clarity of the document, which was both well-produced and easy to read and understand.

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### ***From Trudie Draper, Vice Chairman, Newchurch Parish Council:***

Just to point out a slight error. In the list of proposed electoral wards - Newchurch, Apse Heath and Arreton - there are two parish councils - Arreton and Newchurch - it mentions Newchurch Parish Council but not Arreton Parish Council.

--ooOOoo--



**From Arreton Parish Council:**

## **ARRETON PARISH COUNCIL**

Sandalwood  
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Winford  
Sandown IW  
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3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007

Tel/fax 01983 863129

Email [Patarreton@aol.com](mailto:Patarreton@aol.com)

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Dear Clive,

At last night's Parish Council Meeting, the proposed ward boundary changes as published by the IW Council were examined. Arreton parish councillors do not want part of the parish to be separated as is proposed. If the proposal is implemented Blackwater will be split between two ward councillors, as Blackwater Road will remain in the Arreton/Newchurch ward, whilst Blackwater village will be part of the Gatcombe, Shorwell, Brighstone, Brook Mottistone and Rookley ward. This will mean that two ward councillors will be responsible for the parish. Therefore Arreton parish councillors object to this proposal and will be writing to the Boundary Commission on their own behalf suggesting that the whole of Arreton Parish be joined with Newchurch with one ward councillor as was the case several years ago.

It is also noticed that under Arreton/Newchurch, it would appear that Newchurch Parish Council is responsible for both villages, which is not, of course, the case.

The Council would also like to request that the Electoral register (I2) which covers Blackwater village with some 120 electors should be discontinued and all these voters be placed in the Arreton Register (I1) so that all vote at Arreton. The reason for this is that at the last parish election, Rookley had no election, while Arreton did, so the polling station at Rookley was open for Blackwater voters only and in fact not more than 10 people went there to vote. In these days when transport is available, it makes sense to have one polling station for the whole of Arreton in Arreton village.

There is an historic reason why some electors vote at Rookley. Until Rookley had its own parish, part of it was in Arreton parish and voting took place in Rookley and included part of Blackwater. As this is no longer the case, councillors feel this anomaly should be ended.

Yours sincerely

*Pat Phillips*

Clerk of the Council

--ooOOoo--

**From Ryde Town Management Committee:**

**2. RTMC Meeting held 2 April 2007**

Further to Minute No.164/07 of the RTMC Meeting held on 2 April 2007 the Group considered the IW Council's Draft Proposals regarding the current Boundary Committee Review.

In the absence of any detailed maps showing the IWC's suggested proposals Adrian Axford circulated and explained the following copy plans:

- a) plan indicating the approximate boundary changes involved in reducing the eight Ryde Electoral areas to six.
- b) plan showing how to obtain roughly the same number of electors in each of the eight existing Ryde Electoral areas.

The Clerk also circulated a letter received from Councillor Taylor opposing the Councils Proposals and reported Councillor Adams opposition also.

Comments received from Mr Whitby-Smith in support of the IWC Proposals to reduce the number of IW Councillors were also reported to members.

Members debated the issues involved and felt that the views submitted by Councillor Taylor should be supported in so far as there should be no change to the existing number of IW Councillors or the existing Electoral Division Boundaries at the present time.

Concerns were expressed regarding the workload of existing IW Councillors, the inexperience of the new Parish areas and the yet to be emparished two largest principal towns of Ryde & Newport.

The Draft Proposals for Ryde did not take into account the interests and identities of local communities in area.

Only minor amendments were required to be made to the eight Ryde ED's in order to achieve the Boundary Committee's aim where every Councillor represents approximately the same number of electors.

**3. Recommendations**

*(1) That the IWC be informed that the Boundary Review Group will be recommending to the RTMC the retention of the existing local government electoral arrangements for the IW.*

*(2) That the views of other Town & Parish Councils on the Island be obtained and that this matter be further considered at the RTMC Meeting to be held on 8 May 2007 prior to submitting recommendations directly to The Boundary Committee for England.*

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***From Cllr Brian Mosdell (Isle of Wight Councillor), Newchurch:***

Report does not justify its case. Apart from very minor numerical adjustments to Wards such as Gurnard the proposals are impractical and the reduction in Councillor numbers does not recognise the present work load arising from appointments to extraneous committees and organisations. The assumption appears to be that Members are required and are able to work full time in the community.

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***From Northwood Village Management Committee:***

Please find below the comments resolved at a meeting of the Management Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2007 regarding the Boundary Review.

*The Committee agree with the proposed reduction of the number of Councillors from 48 to 40 and would support Northwood merging with Gurnard. However, they do not wish to see Northwood fragmented and that it is essential that all areas, including Somerton and Medham, are kept together.*

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***From Freshwater Parish Council:***

I attach a copy of the letter sent by the Parish Council to the Boundary Committee, for your information. I can also confirm that the Parish Council discussed this matter again at their meeting last night and said they were pleased to see there was a fairer representation in the draft review with a similar number of residents in each Ward. Also pleased to see proposal for 40 Council Councillors, not 36 as had been muted.

*Further to your letter dated 13<sup>th</sup> February 2007, I write to inform you that the Parish Council discussed changes to the boundaries and Wards on the Isle of Wight at their recent meeting.*

*The Councillors agree with single member Wards, as they believe this holds the member more accountable. They accept there should be reduction from 48 to 38/40 County Councillors on the Isle of Wight.*

*The Councillors would want no more than 3,000 electors per Ward and no less than 2,800. If the size of the Wards had a benchmark of 3,000 electors, this would mean there would be 40 County Councillors.*

*We look forward to hearing of the Committee's recommendations in due course.*

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***From Shanklin Town Council:***

Members' agreed that they are all happy with the present arrangements and are not persuaded that any change is necessary. Members commented that the document was impenetrable to read, the preamble was unnecessary & surely the length of the document could have been reduced considerably. Members' wish to continue with 3 Isle of Wight Councillors.

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***From Cowes Town Council:***

I refer to your email dated 16 March regarding the above that I submitted to the last meeting of the Town Council.

My Cowes members are of the opinion that rural areas such as Northwood and Gurnard are entirely different from urban areas like Cowes with very little in common. They often have different problems, residents certainly have different attitudes and they have different layouts and road systems.

Cowes Town Council believes that the boundaries for the wards of Northwood and Gurnard should remain as they are and not be brought into the environs of Cowes Castle East and West as proposed just for the sake of achieving perfect electoral numbers for each ward.

Incidentally, your notes on page 6 of Appendix 3 are somewhat out of date as Gurnard has not had a local post office for many months.

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***From Colin Cramp, Northwood:***

I wish to comment on one particular point regarding Northwood Parish. As you know, Northwood is due to have its own Parish Council next year. The proposals contained in the IWC's Draft Submission would mean that part of Northwood Parish would be in one IWC ED ("Gurnard and the majority of Northwood"), and part in another IWC ED (probably Cowes Medina). From the point of view of Northwood Parish this would be confusing, unnecessarily difficult to administer, and extremely bizarre.

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***From Sandown Town Council:***

Sandown Town Council reviewed the Isle of Wight Council's draft submission on the Consultation on the Electoral Division of the Isle of Wight and wish to make the following submissions:-

1. There was a feeling that the number of Councillors should be less than 40. The wards should be re-visited and there should be a further reduction of wards.
2. A two member ward for Sandown was discussed but was rejected by the Councillors.
3. There should be a more equal number of electorate in Sandown South and Sandown North.
4. The Sandown Ward Boundaries are looked at again with representatives from the Town Council.

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***From Niton & Whitwell Parish Council:***

Niton and Whitwell Parish Council is content with the proposal for the current Chale, Niton and Whitwell Electoral Division to continue with the same boundaries.

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***From Yarmouth Town Council:***

Yarmouth Town Council is content with the proposal for an Electoral Division consisting of the town of Yarmouth and the parishes of Shalfleet and Calbourne.

--ooOOoo--

***From Cllr Geoff Lumley (Isle of Wight Councillor), Pan:***

I wish to comment upon the draft submission of the IW Council to the Boundary Review of the IW Council's Electoral Divisions. These comments will be restricted to the proposals and will not include any alternative proposal, as I will be contributing to the proposals to be submitted by the IW Labour Party to the Boundary Committee at a later date.

**Firstly** I do not accept the argument that the IW Council requires at least 40 single-member wards. This Council administration was elected on a manifesto commitment to seek a reduction by one-third from its existing 48 councillors i.e. to 32 wards. Therefore, it made a contract with the Island population that it should honour.

The arguments that are presented to justify 40 wards and consequently 40 councillors are spurious:

1. The current Cabinet has 8 members and for the first 18 months of this administration had 7. This submission refers to a need for 9. Why ? I would suggest that 7 or 8 is more than adequate.
2. This Council also has 2 Cabinet Secretaries – a role without any accountability to Full Council and one that would not necessarily be filled by future administrations.
3. This Council also has 4 Member Champions – the same applies as to Cabinet Secretaries.
4. This submission pre-supposes there will always be 4 x seven-member Policy Commissions. Again that is attempting to tie the hands of a future alternative administration.

In conclusion I am of the view that a Council with less than 40 members could operate effectively if it was not adhering to the existing committee set-up.

**Secondly** I have already made my concerns known to both the Council and the Boundary Committee regarding the voter projections for Pan ward, which I consider are being underestimated to a quite serious degree.

**Thirdly** there is a reference on page 8, para 1.8, to parish council petitions being supported by the IW Council. This is not the case for Carisbrooke – also see page 4, para 2.4.

**Finally**, in terms of the suggestion in Appendix 3 that my own ward Pan should incorporate elements of Newport South and Mount Joy wards in the future. However the Island may be configured in the future, I endorse that sort of suggestion, as it keeps this town ward within the Newport town boundaries. Pan was paired with the Medina Avenue areas of Newport South/Mountjoy as a Medina BC ward between 1973 and 1995, so there is a tradition of shared representation.

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***From the Isle of Wight Conservative Association:***

In response to the consultation of the proposed Boundary Changes in the Isle of Wight I should like to submit the views of the Isle of Wight Conservative Association.

Having looked at the proposed changes in detail I would like to express my thanks to all those who have taken time and thought in compiling a good first proposal. We are supportive of the proposal to reduce the number of seats to approximately 40, and also to maintain single-member wards across the Island.

However, we are concerned with two issues in relation to community cohesiveness where wards are spread over large rural areas. As an Association with in depth knowledge of the whole Island set-up and many years' experience working with diverse communities we believe that there some areas that could feel disenfranchised.

Under the plans, Yarmouth and Shalfleet would stretch to Thorness and Four Marks with Porchfield. Porchfield at present is in the ward of Brighstone and is already isolated. This village is closer to Gurnard and Northwood both physically and as a community and this is increased with Thorness and Fourmarks. I strongly suggest that consideration of local community spirit should be taken into consideration.

Brighstone to be joined with Shorwell is good but again to stretch as far as Rookley and Blackwater again does not take into consideration local identity. Both these villages look east to Newport, Arreton and Godshill.

No consideration has seemingly been taken of the new build in development villages such as Brighstone where in the next twelve months there are over twenty proposed dwellings.

In both these wards the main centre of population is at the western most end of each, again contributing to the sense of isolation of those inhabitants at the outer periphery of the proposed wards.

It would be logical to ensure that rural wards should be at parity or less than the average of the proposed wards not more than.

Therefore, we would be grateful if you could take these concerns into consideration when deliberating on your final submission to the Boundary Commission, whilst acknowledging our broad support for the overall aspirations of the proposals.

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***From Jennifer Smith, Director of Public Health, IOW NHS PCT:***

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed submission to the Boundary Committee.

We see no reason to suppose that the proposed boundaries will not fulfil the need to secure equality of representation; secure effective and convenient local government; reflect the identities and interests of local communities.

There is strong support for the strengthening of parish councils, and the focus on developing strong communities with a cohesive identity, as both will facilitate targeting services to improve health and wellbeing. As such this will enhance the potential for health improvement through collaborative work between health and local government agencies.

It is noted that the intention is to reduce the number of councillors from 48 to 40, as opposed to the 32 originally envisaged. The wards created will define geographical areas for the collation of social, demographic and economic data to inform many areas of health related work. Since it is often important to be able to monitor change over time a degree of stability in ward boundaries is necessary and it is hoped the proposals will not require further significant change in the foreseeable future.

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***From Havenstreet & Ashey Parish Council:***

Havenstreet and Ashey Parish Council considered the Isle of Wight Council's draft submission to the Boundary Commission at its latest meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2007.

Member agreed that the number of Councillors on the Isle of Wight Council is too high at the moment and are therefore supportive of fewer Councillors representing fewer wards across the Island. Councillors also feel that fewer Isle of Wight Councillors representing the parish of Havenstreet and Ashey would be beneficial as electorate would then be clearer on who their Councillor is and the IW Councillor could then work more closely with the Parish Council.

The Parish Council however does not feel that Havenstreet or Ashey are identifiable communities with Brading and would therefore prefer to be warded with more rural areas or neighbouring areas such as the Binstead.

Councillors were concerned that there was no mention of Ashey in the document and would like to ensure this is included in a final submission to the Boundary Commission.

The Parish Council therefore urges the IWC to reconsider its current proposals to ensure the parish of Havenstreet and Ashey is more suitably warded.



***From Paul Fuller, Northwood:***

I wish to raise an objection to the Council's proposals for the Isle of Wight Boundary Review, particularly with regard to the proposals for Northwood.

As you are aware Northwood is looking to become emparished next year and in light of your Council's commitment to embrace parishes, I remain bewildered by any prospect of transferring 412 electors from the existing Northwood Electoral Division to the Cowes Medina ED. This, I feel would be confusing for Electors in whichever part of our village will be transferred; particularly as they will be represented on a Parish Level by Northwood Parish Councillors and on a County Level by a Cowes County Councillor. I foresee this could also create a degree of marginalisation for those residents who have become used to being an integral part of Northwood. In addition to this, in Northwood we are currently in the process of completing our Parish Plan. Within the plan we have held a number of events with the intention of empowering our community this was strengthened at our Planning For Real Exhibition where unanimously residents indicated that Medham was considered a part of the Northwood community rather than Cowes.

In light of the Emphasisment Agenda for Northwood the village has worked tirelessly to forge a strong vibrant community in the past few years. When the IW Council took the decision to support emparishment for the island, our village was the first of the unparished areas to seize this as an opportunity and within weeks we enlisted the support of sufficient petitioners. The steps we have taken have been considerable and we are proud of the recognition that we received for our inclusiveness to those communities that live on the outskirts of Northwood within Medham and Somerton. This recognition was a major component in the success that our village received within our entries for the IW Village of the Year Competition.

If it is considered necessary to share a Councillor with another area I would prefer to share our Councillor as a whole Community, rather than as part. This could be either with the Gurnard Ward (whose Parish Council shares ours re: fragmentation) or alongside the Calbourne Ward (which includes Porchfield and Thorness). Any effects of the alleged under-representation as part of a large ward, i.e with Gurnard I would consider to be unfounded, particularly given the supportive roles from the seventeen Parish Councillors which will serve both villages from next year. To merge the Northwood electoral division with Gurnard makes sense as both communities currently share a police officer, a vicar, subsidised public transport and vibrant village community spirit. Like Gurnard, we have a local village school, local shops, a local church, Women's Institutes, Village In Bloom, Village Produce Association, Village Halls and identical pressures. Both Gurnard and Northwood have similar populations, so any threat of one village marginalising the other would seem unlikely.

With regard to the number of Councillors, I wish to raise no comment as I recognise that any fewer than 48 Councillors will inevitably mean that Northwood should share it's Councillor with another area.

--ooOOoo--

**From Cllr Heather Humby, Sandown North:**

**COUNCILLOR HEATHER HUMBY**  
*Independent Member*

MEMBERS ROOM  
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DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

- 5 APR 2007

HIER VIEW  
71 SEE OF WIGHT COUNCIL  
SANDOWN  
ISLE OF WIGHT  
PO36 8JR



3. 4. 07

Boundary Review.

Dear Mr Matthews.

I am in favour of retaining the present Sandown boundaries (eg. Sandown North and Sandown South), as proposed.

I am very pleased there has been no proposal to include part of Lake or Brading, thus allowing Sandown to retain its identity, with two Councillors.

Sincerely

Heather H. Humby

**From Brading Town Council:**



# BRADING TOWN COUNCIL



**The Brading Centre,**  
West Street, Brading,  
Isle of Wight. PO36 0DR

Town Clerk: Rebecca Tuck  
Tel: 01983 401770 Fax: 01983 401770  
Email:townclerk@brading.gov.uk

9<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Clive Joynes  
Electoral Services Manager  
County Hall,  
High Street  
Newport,  
Isle of Wight.  
PO30 1UD

Dear Mr. Joynes,

**Re: Boundary review of the Isle of Wight Council:**  
**Consultation on the Isle of Wight Council's Draft submission to the Boundary Committee**

Brading Town Council considered the Isle of Wight Council's draft submission to the Boundary Committee at its meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2007. Members strongly objected to the proposals set out in the Isle of Wight Council's draft submission for the reasons outlined in the formal response below. The Council was particularly disappointed with the lack of description about Brading's vibrant community and Town Council in the document.

**Brading**

- Brading has an extremely active Quality Town Council which represents all areas of the parish well.
- Brading has undertaken extensive consultation with its residents over the last ten years and is currently working on a twenty year forward plan. During this time, various working groups have been formed some of which have become independent groups, still maintaining a working partnership with the Council.
- Brading has a network of vibrant community groups and clubs, all of which work together and meet regularly through the 'Peoples Forum' to keep one another up to date with all the achievements and plans for their groups.
- Brading works with St. Helens and Bembridge on local issues and projects such as Marsh Farm and Brading Marshes.
- Brading is part of the planning cluster with Bembridge, St. Helens and Nettlestone and Seaview.
- Brading is part of the Bay Cluster area.

- Brading is recognised by all as a cohesive community.
- Brading has gained in excess of £331,000 in the last five years because it can provide evidence of strong community support, spirit and cohesion.
- Brading has been recognised by the Isle of Wight Council as an active and able community and is one of the parishes identified as a pilot for its High Impact devolution project.

#### **Criteria for Bounday Review**

- The need to secure equality of representation (*aiming for each County Councillor to represent within 10% either way 2844 persons. – maximum 3128 – minimum 2560.*)
- The need to secure effective and convenient local government
- The need to reflect the identities and interests of local communities.

#### **Present situation.**

- Brading is currently represented on the Isle of Wight Council by one County Councillor.
- That County Councillor (Patrick Joyce) also represents St. Helens.
- The number of persons on the electoral roll for Brading is 1686.
- The number of persons on the electoral roll of St. Helens is 1129.
- The combined electoral roll is therefore 2815.
- The parishes of Brading and St. Helens are recognised as identifiable, cohesive communities.
- Each community has a Town / Parish Council.
- The criteria are fulfilled by the current situation.

#### **Objections to the Isle of Wight Council's proposals**

- The three criteria are already ably fulfilled by the current situation. Councillors feel this works very well and therefore should not be changed.
- The draft submission states that "*Proposals are made in light of national and local policy drivers and an analysis of the most effective way of meeting the challenge to deliver effective and efficient local administration, better community leadership, and democratically-driven improvement in public service delivery.*" Brading is already recognised across the Island as being an active Town Council; successfully delivering a number of community led projects, thus proving it already has good community leadership and an effective local administration, which would not benefit in any way from these proposals.
- Taking into account the points above regarding Brading's close working relationship with neighbouring parishes in the East Wight; Councillors feel it would be wholly inappropriate to ward the majority of Brading with parishes outside of the East Wight area. The proposals are also contradictory to the statement in 4.12 which suggests that the revised electoral boundaries should be based as closely as possible to "community" based groupings such as parish clusters. Although a small percentage of Brading would be warded within this cluster area, the majority would not.

- Brading has nothing in common with either Havenstreet or Fishbourne, the demographics of the communities are completely different as the indices of deprivation and local statistics will clearly demonstrate. Brading does not, at present, work closely with either parish. This is due to the fact that Brading is recognised at all levels as an East Wight parish, whilst both Havenstreet and Fishbourne have more in common with Wootton and the west Ryde areas.
- Approximately 1250 residents of Brading would be included in a division with Havenstreet and Fishbourne. Approximately 440 residents of Brading would be included in a division with St. Helens and part of the north of Bembridge. This segregation of the parish would be divisive and therefore be detrimental to the hard work carried out over the past years which has ensured Brading is a cohesive community which incorporates the views of all sectors of the community.
- Although it cannot be clearly demonstrated by the map provided with the document, we believe that the 1,250 Brading residents to be represented along with Havenstreet and Fishbourne would be the entire parish not including Station Gardens, Station Road, Lower Furlongs and Quay Lane. These areas would be represented along with Bembridge North and St. Helens. The majority of the occupants of these properties are socially disadvantaged and it is vital that they remain with the rest of Brading. The Town Council and community groups have worked hard over the past years to ensure residents of these areas feel they are part of the community and are well integrated with the remaining residents of the parish. Warding these roads with a larger community such as Bembridge will be divisive and segregate these areas from the rest of the parish.
- At the 2009 elections the Town Council would be warded. i.e. in all probability six town councillors would come from the largest area, 2 from the smaller area. The Town Councillors strongly object to their council being warded and feel that at present, they represent the whole parish well, without the need for such divisions.
- The proposed number of new electors for Brading is listed in Appendix 2 as 17, however the Town Council is aware of a total of 43 properties that have either full or outline planning permission (see sheet enclosed), working with a factor of 1.7, in line with the draft document, this equates to 73 new electors for Brading not 17. A significant difference but remaining within the number required for equal representation across the Island.

In response to these comments, we urge the Isle of Wight Council's submission to the Boundary Commission to be revised to ensure that Brading and St. Helens remain two identifiable communities warded together as they are now. A petition is currently being circulated in the community which is being signed by residents who are unsupportive of the Isle of Wight Council's proposals; this will be submitted to the Boundary Commission at a later date.

Yours Sincerely,



Rebecca Tuck  
Town Clerk

**From Cllr Roger Mazillius, Northwood:**



## Isle of Wight Council

**Councillor Roger Mazillius**

Vice-Chairman of Isle of Wight Council

*County Hall, Newport*

*Isle of Wight PO30 1UD*

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WP-GL

10 April 2007

Dear Clive

### PROPOSED ELECTORAL DIVISION CHANGES

Thank you for all the documentation including the 40 Division Proposals in this matter.

As you know from Paul Fuller's recent letter, the Northwood Village Management Committee of which I am a member, whilst understanding the reasoning behind the proposed reduction and consolidation of electoral divisions, do not wish to see the present Northwood Division fragmented by the loss of some 400 voters.

I have leaflet dropped the areas of Medham and Somerton explaining the proposals and asking for a response. To date the voting is 36 in favour of remaining in Northwood with none for Cowes.

Whilst I appreciate the "number crunching" relevance of the present exercise, I am most firmly of the opinion that what really matters, and which is borne out by the returns referred to in my previous paragraph, is the importance of retaining an established cohesive community identity even if this leads to a new electoral division increased in voter numbers above the "norm".

So Clive, I can see that for Northwood to join with Gurnard would be the right option, we have so much in common and could work well together under one IW Councillor, provided Northwood is NOT fragmented.

There may however be a case for perhaps up to 20 or so from the Pallance Gate, Newport edge of the division and the one property next to the Cowes reservoir being moved although I will ask them to let me have their views on this next week.

Yours sincerely

Cllr Roger Mazillius  
Member for Northwood

**From Wootton Bridge Parish Council:**

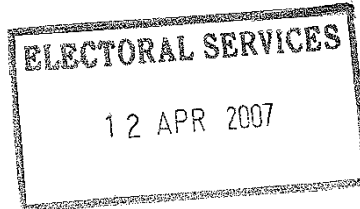
**WOOTTON BRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL**



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Clive Joynes  
Elections and Land Charges Manager  
County Hall  
Newport  
IW PO30 1UD



5 April 2007

Dear Clive

**BOUNDARY REVIEW OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL.**

The Parish Council has now considered the information received regarding the above review and accordingly wishes to submit the following comments:-

1. The Parish Council supports the reduction in electoral wards from 48 to 40.
2. The Parish Council recommends that the Wootton County and Parish boundary be altered as shown on the attached map. The reason for the recommendation is to tidy up the existing boundary. The suggested area includes Wootton Business Park, the Island Crematorium, Briddlesford Lodge Farm and Littletown, all of which are recognised by local people as being part of Wootton Bridge.
3. With regard to the physical proximity, shared interests and community identity associated with Wootton Bridge and Fishbourne, there has been some very informal talk regarding future amalgamation. Will this review preclude this matter proceeding should both areas agree to take the issue forward at any time?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynda Smith'.  
Lynda Smith  
Clerk