

ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR & MAIDENHEAD
COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW RESPONSES
COUNCILLORS

Response 1

Evening,

Here is my submission... I kept it short as many will repeat the same ideas and simply wanted to offer my support.

1) What is the appetite for creating a new town council for Windsor? Is a new parish council needed or desired?

- Windsor residents are tired of playing second fiddle to Maidenhead and want to be masters of their own destiny.

2) Is there a sense of community identity in the review area and should this community be represented by its own parish council?

- As we have seen in recent planning decisions, those who know and love an area are the best place to make decisions about what happens and when. A Borough Councillor who listens to his town or parish councillors will have stronger weight behind any decisions he or she makes.
- Refining decision making down and including as many residents as is reasonably possible in the process through tiers of governance is a winner in my book... we just need residents to step up to the plate.

3) How could a Windsor Town Council take shape?

- It needs cllrs focused on wards to identify key issues and others focused on key services / projects to help bring the consensus to Borough Councillors who then champion local opinion at that level to generate funding and legal permissions needed to move a project forward.

4) Should a Windsor Town Council be warded?

- Yes because people like to deal with those they know like and trust and that is more likely to happen, the more local someone is to their actual address.
- And if personalities clash then another cllr is only streets away to pick up the issue.

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Response 2

WINDSOR TOWN COUNCIL

Whilst I am a Ward Councillor I am writing this as a Windsor resident of some 45 years.

Around four years ago I started investigating what a Town Council was and how it would operate and spoke with Eton Town Council about how it worked for them. I came to the conclusion that residents would benefit from having a WTC and have been firmly in favour ever since. I am a believer in Localism and that it should be made easier for residents' voice to be heard and listened to.

I have been and continue to be a member of the Windsor Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and over the last five years of involvement it is clear that residents see themselves as part of the whole town from the West tip to the Long Walk. Sadly the RBWM insisted on created two Neighbourhood Plans for Windsor and this created more work and it is my belief the outcome will be the poorer. The same principle would apply to having more than one Town Council.

In terms of shape there is already set up a WTC group of enthusiastic residents and it appears to me they have all of this in hand, so I can add no more to what they are doing.

I believe it should be warded but not on the current Borough Ward boundaries which would create some four Wards, but more reflecting the distinctiveness of the different areas within Windsor.

I look forward to this review progressing speedily to Stage 2.

Although I am a Borough Councillor this response is from me as a resident of some 44 years.

I will address each topic in turn

1. Some four years ago I investigated how a Town Council could work, researching and meeting with Eton Town Council. This convinced me it would benefit residents, being a supporter of the principle of localism and equality of support across the whole Borough, ie why should someone in Bray have more councillors (Borough and Parish) to turn to for help?
2. I am on the WNP Steering Group and the enthusiasm from Windsorians convinces me there is a community identity. For many it was a sad day when RBWM made the decision to create two NP for Windsor instead of one. This has resulted in an increase in workload for volunteers and a disjointed approach to planning, and we're all the poorer because of that. One integrated Plan for Windsor would have been so much better, and the same principle applies to the WTC.
3. I have to leave the taking shape to the group of residents who have stepped forward and are working diligently and enthusiastically on this.
4. The new area should indeed be warded and my instinct is that the boundaries should reflect local groups/ natural areas rather than follow the Borough Ward boundaries.

I look forward to Stage two.

Response 3

Windsor Town Council Community Governance **My qualifications and experience of Windsor**

I have worked within the communities of Clewer, Dedworth and those to the West of Windsor since 2012 when I became a Committee Member of the West Windsor Residents Association.

I am also a Trustee of the West Windsor Hub which was set up to respond to the needs of the community in these areas as created by the impact of the COVID19 pandemic.

I have also been a Councillor in Windsor initially representing Clewer North (which cuts across Clewer & Dedworth) between 2014/15 and 2017/19, and Clewer & Dedworth West (which cuts across Dedworth and the areas to the West of Windsor) since May 2019.

I have also been involved with the set up of the Asset of Community Value for the Swan (public house) and a subsequent investor in the CIC which now successfully operates the Swan, as a community asset serving Clewer, Dedworth and the West of Windsor.

I have taken a keen interest, and indeed was highly critical of the Boundary Review which dismembered the distinct communities in Windsor recasting them in a bastardised form which has served not only to dilute community spirit but also to confuse identity (with Councillors from Old Windsor and Eton) cast to serve Windsorians.

Not only that but the boundary review has created an intolerable workload as well as diluting scrutiny to the point of ineffectualness due to fewer Overview & Scrutiny Panels with wider areas of responsibility in an arguably failing local authority with a lack of sufficient officer competences to manage or report on the work to be done. You can read a copy of my representations, with detailed notes in relation to the derivation, history and socio-economic status, to the Boundary Review at

- 7 May 2018 - <http://www.wwra.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2020/10/Response-to-Local-Government-Boundary-Commission-RBWM-Wisdom-Da-Costa-7-May-2018.pdf>
- 4 December 2017 - <https://www.wwra.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2017/12/Boundary-Commission-Submission-RBWM-Cllr-Wisdom-Da-Costa-04122017.pdf>

My responses to the Windsor Town Council Community Governance Consultation

In light of all of this, I will respond to the specific questions you have asked residents to respond to.

1. What is the appetite for creating a new town council for Windsor? Is a parish council needed or desired?

There is a strong appetite amongst residents to create a Council covering the whole of Windsor, including areas currently under a different town or parish council.

On behalf of myself and thousands of residents, I would like you to be clear that I and residents want, actually demand a Council to cover the geographic area;

- South of the River Thames and
- Stretching from Home Park and Frogmore House and Albert Road in the East as per Windsor 2030 Map (see Appendix I)
- Western Boundary of the ward of Clewer & Dedworth West (see Appendix II) and,
- South to Sheet Street Road and Cranbourne Park and Cranbourne Chase as per Windsor Neighbourhood Plan (see Appendix III)

Windsorians almost unanimously want to gain a greater level of control over and, have a greater level or input, a direct input, into what goes on in their town, including council provided services.

2. Is there a sense of community identity in the review area and should this community be represented by its own parish council?

Residents of Windsor almost to a man, woman and child regard their identity as belonging to the town of Windsor and its environs, ancient and modern. They proudly call themselves Windsorians, and not RBWMers.

They respect other towns including Maidenhead but want to self govern and have a direct say in community projects & local issues.

Windsor Cricket Club, Windsor Rugby Club, Windsor Hockey Club, Windsor Football Club and other sporting institutions draw its members from the whole town under a single identity.

Whether they are from the ancient towns of Clewer & Dedworth & around the Castle, or from the more modern areas such as Broom Farm, Illingworth, Spital, the Boltons, the Laing Estate, the Limes, or the Willows residents regard themselves as being part of the town of Windsor. Windsorians.

The creation of a Town Council would give residents a focal point for discussion leading to action (unlike the mainly useless Windsor Town Council).

It would deepen democracy and establish greater levels of localism by allowing more people to become involved in governance of their town.

It would also provide a central coordination point, as with excellent towns like Old Windsor, to prepare a Windsor wide Emergency Plan and provide coordinated and efficient emergency or essential services such as Hub services. A Town Council would also create closer communities and greater levels of well being and respect as people get to know each other through coordinated, centrally organised social and commemorative events.

A Windsor Town Council would be able to facilitate and catalyse a range of services and life giving activities that residents themselves have an insight and energy for such as local awards, fundraising, founding days etc...

The lack of a town council has prevented the development of a Windsor Wide Emergency Plan, despite the efforts of myself and our former Emergency Planner.

The lack of a town council has also hampered the responses to youth services, food poverty services, residents advisory services.

A town council would also provide a local governance point, and building, for residents to easily refer to.

3. How could a new parish council take shape?

Windsorians were disenfranchised by the centralisation of power at the Town Hall in Maidenhead.

The current Borough governance structure has disempowered them for decades resulting in developments taking place with little to no input from them.

Each month that we have to endure the current powerlessness results in more carbuncles being allowed and, more money to be siphoned away from Windsor paid taxes to other parts of the Borough.

This has to be done as rapidly as possible, even by 2021/22.

Should a new parish council be warded to reflect the communities that exist in the review area? If so, how should these boundaries be drawn?

Yes. Warding is essential to enable a very local knowledge and understanding to be presented to the overall body.

There are many different communities within Windsor who all deserve representation. These wards should be equally weighted in terms of seats at the table regardless of size of electorate. Prioritising community identity over electorate parity will ensure all communities have the ability to participate in local decisions.

There should be at least two councilors from each ward to allow for holidays, illness etc.

Wards should cover areas such as;

- Broom Farm
- Clewer Hill
- Clewer Village
- Dedworth Manor
- Laing Estate
- Parsonage Lane
- Spital Croft
- St Leonards Hill
- The Boltons
- The Boltons
- The Limes
- The Willows & Marina
- Tinkers lane
- Trinity Church
- Vansittart
- Windsor Castle
- Windsor Town

If you have any questions or require any further information please refer to my presentations to the Boundary Commission (see links below) or email me cllr.dacosta@rbwm.gov.uk

- 7 May 2018 - <http://www.wwra.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2020/10/Response-to-Local-Government-Boundary-Commission-RBWM-Wisdom-Da-Costa-7-May-2018.pdf>
- 4 December 2017 - <https://www.wwra.org.uk/wpcontent/uploads/2017/12/Boundary-Commission-Submission-RBWM-Cllr-Wisdom-Da-Costa-04122017.pdf>