

APPENDIX O

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 02/07/2013

Title:

**ROWLEDGE LOCAL GOVERNANCE REVIEW - FIRST CONSULTATION
FINDINGS**

**[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Robert Knowles]
[Wards Affected: All Farnham Wards]**

Summary and purpose:

This report presents the findings of the first consultation period for the Rowledge Local Governance Review, together with a summary of views from residents, businesses and organisations in the Farnham Town Council area.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

Waverley is committed to making continued improvements in community engagement, more effective and convenient delivery of local services and better local democracy.

Financial Implications:

A budget provision is in place in the sum of £10,000 to cover the costs of production and printing of the questionnaire in the first consultation period and postage for the first and second consultation periods.

Legal Implications:

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 makes provision for local electors throughout England to petition their principal council for a community governance review to be undertaken. Section 93 of the 2007 Act allows principal councils to decide how they will conduct a Review provided they comply with the duties outlined in the legislation. Terms of Reference were set and published on 1 March 2013. The Review must be conducted within a period of 12 months.

Introduction

1. One copy of a questionnaire entitled "Local Governance Review on the creation of a new Parish Council for Rowledge – Your chance to have a say" was sent to all households in the Farnham Town Council area that pay council tax with their council tax bills in March 2013. In addition an online version of the same questionnaire was created on the Waverley Borough Council's website.

2. **Responses from residents** A total of 340 representations were received from residents. The first question asked was as follows:

Do you think Rowledge should :

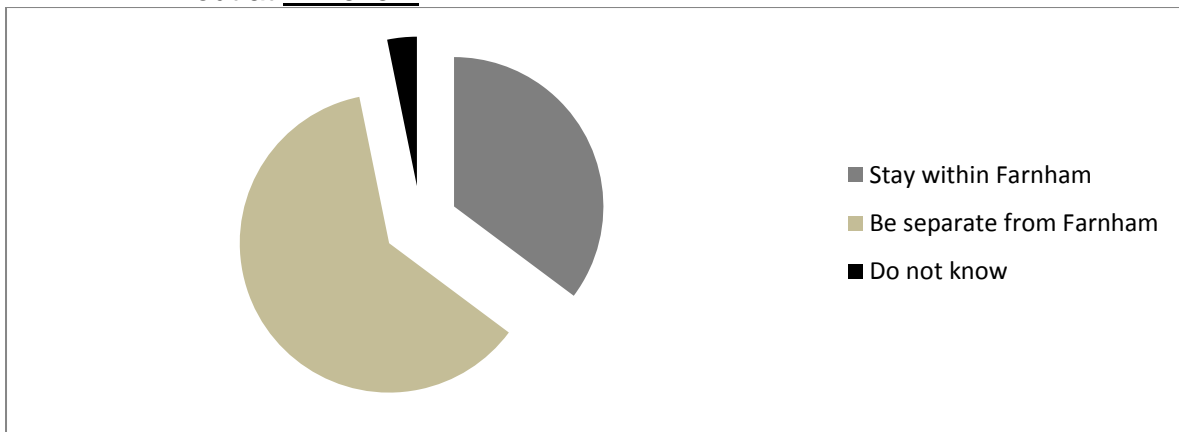
- (i) Stay within Farnham Town Council
- (ii) Be separate from Farnham Town Council
- (iii) I don't know

3. The representations referred to in paragraph 2 above have been separated into the following groups;

- (i) Representations received from households in the area to which the petition relates, including the village of Rowledge and excluding the area referred to as the Sandrock Triangle.
- (ii) Representations received from households in the area referred to as the Sandrock Triangle.
- (iii) Representations received from households in the area referred to as the Sandrock Triangle regarding the recommendation to alter the boundary of the existing Rowledge ward, to include the area referred to as the Sandrock Triangle.
- (iv) Representations received from households in the Farnham Town Council area outside the proposed boundary of the area to which the petition relates. For the avoidance of doubt this group of representations also excludes any received from those residing within the area referred to by the petitioners as the Sandrock Triangle.

4. **Analysis of responses from different areas within Farnham Town Council area.**

- (i) 125 representations were received from households in the area to which the petition relates including the village of Rowledge and excluding the area referred to as the Sandrock Triangle. Of these 125 responses, 44 (35%) thought that Rowledge should stay within Farnham Town Council, 77 (62%) thought that Rowledge should be separate and 4 (3%) did not know. A summary of these views is set out at [Annexe 1](#).

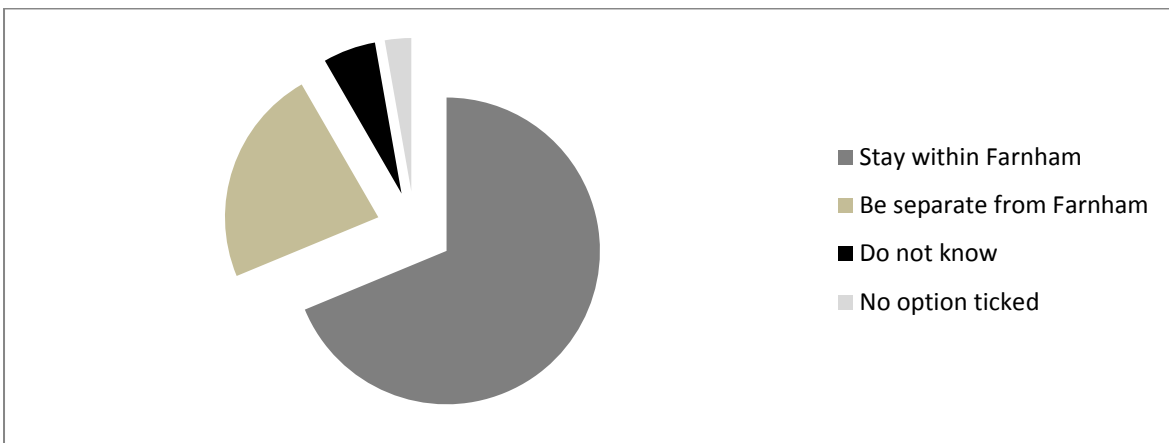


- (ii) 71 representations were received from households in the area referred to as the Sandrock Triangle. Of these 71 responses, 30 (42%) thought that Rowledge should stay within Farnham Town Council, 36 (51%) thought that Rowledge should be separate and 5 (7%) did not know.

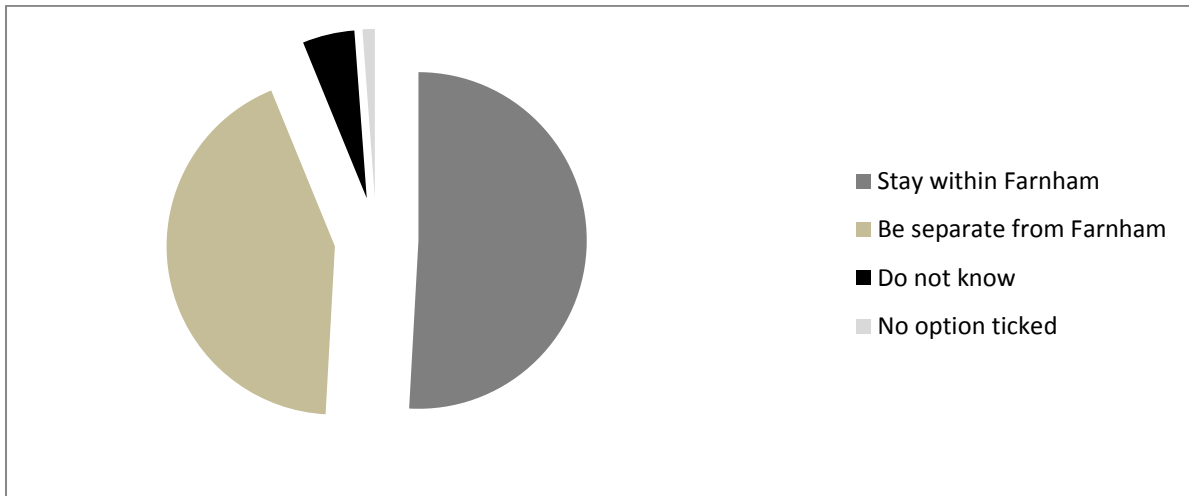


- (iii) Residents were asked at question 3 of the questionnaire what they thought about the recommendation to alter the boundary of the existing Rowledge ward, to include the area referred to in the petition as the Sandrock Triangle. Many respondents of the overall total received considered that the existing boundary should include the Sandrock Triangle area only if the residents of that area wished to be included. A summary of the responses from those residing in the Sandrock Triangle area are reproduced below at [Annexe 2](#).

- (iv) 144 representations were received from households in the Farnham Town Council area outside the proposed boundary of the area to which the petition relates. Of these 144 responses, 99 respondents (69%) thought Rowledge should stay within Farnham Town Council, 33 (23%) thought that Rowledge should be separate, 8 (6%) did not know and 4 (2%) did not tick any of the options. A summary of these views is set out at [Annexe 3](#).



5. **Summary of total of 340 responses received during the first consultation period from households.** 173 of the total respondents (51%) thought Rowledge should stay within Farnham Town Council, 146 respondents (43%) thought Rowledge should be separate from Farnham Council, 17 respondents (5%) did not know and 4 (1%) did not tick any of the options.



6. One copy of the same questionnaire was sent to all businesses that pay business rates within the Farnham Town Council area inviting responses by 21 June 2013. One copy of the questionnaire was sent also to organisations including sports clubs, schools, churches and village groups in the entire Farnham Town Council area. Around 1400 businesses and organisations were consulted. There was a very low response. A summary of the responses received has been included at [Annexe 4](#).
7. Terms of Reference, together with an invitation to respond to the consultation, were sent to Surrey County Council and Farnham Town Council on 1 March 2013. The response received from Farnham Town Council has been reproduced in full at [Annexe 5](#). No representations were received from Surrey County Council.

Conclusion

8. A total of 340 responses were received following the issue of a questionnaire to all households paying council tax in the whole of the Farnham Town Council area. The second consultation period is due to commence on 2 September 2013 and conclude on 11 October 2013. The terms of reference for the review stated that “the second consultation period will allow for a questionnaire to be issued to those who appear to have an interest in the review.” Local government electors should be consulted in the second consultation period. The options are for local government electors in the area to which the petition relates (including the village of Rowledge and the area referred to as the “Sandrock Triangle”) to be consulted or for all local government electors in the entire Farnham Town Council area to be consulted. Further, the options for consulting with local government electors are by way of further questionnaire as set out in the terms of reference or for a referendum to be held. The latter option is being sought by Farnham Town Council and a very small handful of respondents. If a referendum were

conducted for all local government electors in the Farnham Town Council area, the cost would be in the region of £30,000.

Recommendation

It is recommended that

1. agreement be given to local government electors in the area to which the petition relates, including the village of Rowledge and the area referred to as the Sandrock Triangle, being consulted during the second consultation period; and
2. the method of consultation be by way of questionnaire, as outlined in the Terms of Reference, sent to each local government elector falling within the area to which the petition relates.

Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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Annexe 1 Summary of views from households in the area to which the petition relates including the village of Rowledge and excluding the area referred to as the Sandrock Triangle.

Stay within Farnham Town Council	Be separate from Farnham Town Council
No concrete facts have been supplied to indicate that residents would benefit.	Rowledge and Sandrock will be able to concentrate on more local issues.
I see no need for a further level of bureaucracy, which will only add to council tax bills.	We can make our own decisions on what is best for Rowledge.
Farnham Town Council provides adequate local representation.	If we join together in a parish council our collective voices will carry more weight.
I have never known an extra layer of bureaucracy cost less in the long run or prove to be more efficient.	The village would have more autonomy.
It is more effective to pool monies. Farnham Town Council does a good job and need their full precept. Farnham is growing in size and needs all of its districts.	Farnham Town council have repeatedly been ineffective in protecting the town from Waverley Borough Council's excessive, high-density re-development plans.
The current system works. Those that are proposing the new system are under the misconception that there will be lots more funding and I believe their energies in a new parish council will be short-lived.	Resources available to a local parish council can be used more effectively when they are allocated to specific needs identified by its residents.
I don't think the "area" is representative of Rowledge as it excludes the church, school and many residents due to the county boundary.	I would like Rowledge's distinct character and community spirit to be maintained and increased.
Rowledge is a lovely village but if larger would not retain its character and cease to be a "village". The school and surgery would be severely overloaded.	A distinct and recognisable community that is separate from Farnham.
I am proud to be a citizen of Farnham and have no wish to weaken its town council.	Likelihood of improved representation of our views, separate from Farnham Town council.
I think that some of the advocates of separation are doing it for personal reasons than for the benefit of the village.	Rowledge has a thriving local community that would be best served with a local parish council.
It would result in additional costs - elections, administrative and professional support - which is inappropriate in a time of austerity.	We would get more value for our financial contribution to the local taxation system.
Rowledge residents already have a voice through their elected representatives on Waverley Borough Council and Surrey County Council which are the authorities with the most important functions.	Government should be carried out closer to the people. It allows money received locally to be spent locally on areas divided by elected representatives.
I believe the group lobbying is interested in planning. They are called "Rowledge	Provided there are villagers who wish to serve on a parish council, we think the

village plan, planning and local government workgroup”.	village would benefit from a more focussed body.
Likely councillors will be older and non-representative of the younger community. This is less likely to arise in Farnham.	Local people understand the area and can meet the needs better.
Half of Rowledge is not in Farnham Town Council or in Waverley – it is in Binsted Parish Council and East Hants District Council. The signpost “Rowledge” is by the Bourne Stream in Fullers Road, Hampshire. This plan ignores half of Rowledge.	I believe a Rowledge parish council is the most effective way to ensure the long term survival of the village as a unique, rural community which is separate from Farnham and has different interests and aspirations.
Rowledge is reliant to a very large degree on the functions and facilities of Farnham and would be lost without what the town has to offer. As a result it is vital Rowledge is represented on Farnham Town Council.	Farnham Town Council covers too large an area/electorate. It focuses virtually exclusively on central Farnham. We see little benefit from our precept here in Rowledge.
By remaining within Farnham Town council, Rowledge residents will be able to continue to share in all the activities organised by them for the benefit of all.	I do not believe that Farnham Town Council has fairly represented the residents of Rowledge. The recent 30% increase in council reflects this.
It is a bad idea. Rowledge has cash and should contribute more widely.	Rowledge will benefit from a bigger share of the council tax raised from its residents.
Already too many boundaries – Surrey and Hampshire. The School is in Hampshire and my Local Education Authority is Surrey.	It is very telling about what Farnham Town Council thinks of Rowledge as there is no mention of us in the Annual Town Meeting of electors.
The new councillors are likely to take loans to rebuild the village hall, which I am against.	Elected members to the parish council will have a better idea of what is good for Rowledge than Farnham councillors.
At an information meeting I questioned the possible impact on total budget and was not given a satisfactory answer.	More effective and accountable use of the village’s share of the council tax for the benefit of the village.
I am strongly against the scheme and hope it will be quickly stopped before much time, effort and money has been wasted on it. I feel this is an idea cooked up by supporters of the scheme, to introduce high rateable values to the area and thus support their scheme.	Rowledge has a strong identity as a village and still has pubs, shops, garage, holds a fete, has a cricket team – all of which suggests a good community spirit.
We use facilities in Farnham so should expect to contribute to their upkeep.	There are prospective councillors available.

Annexe 2 – Summary of responses from households in the Sandrock Triangle area regarding the recommendation to alter the boundary of the existing Rowledge ward, to include the area referred to as the Sandrock Triangle.

Comments against inclusion	Comments in favour of inclusion
The money generated by the inclusion of the Sandrock Triangle is the prime driving force of the boundary change	I live in Broad Ha’Penny and feel much more a member of Rowledge Village than I feel for Wrecclesham.
Our address is Boundstone, Wrecclesham and we do not consider ourselves part of Rowledge	It would be a positive recommendation. It is a natural organic change to the boundary. The two wards are symbiotic and share its “green lungs”.
As a resident of Boundstone for over 30 years we are not in the Sandrock Triangle as it is not a place. Boundstone is a separate place. Rowledge should have had the decency if they had wished us to go in with them, for it to be named Rowledge and Boundstone Parish Council.	As a resident of the Sandrock Triangle we are part of Rowledge – the school, the parish church, the events within the village centre are all part of the “Triangle” and we should be included.
There is more connection to Farnham than to Rowledge.	Wrecclesham is a place with which I have no affinity and frankly try to avoid for safety reasons.
This area is part of Wrecclesham, not Rowledge.	This I consider to be a logical (and overdue?) tidying-up of boundary lines to give a clear boundary defined by roads.
I have never used any of the facilities in Rowledge, nor am I likely to.	The area has been a “no mans land” since it lost its shop, vet and travelling library so I support the proposal to extend the boundary.
We do not need the Sandrock Triangle. Rowledge covers enough area as it is.	Rowledge is our natural focus for all local needs and issues.
The residents of the Sandrock Triangle have been excluded from the Rowledge “white papers” deliberations. The cost of administering a new council will fall disproportionately on the Sandrock Triangle.	Excellent! This is an opportunity to reclaim some sense of identity.
We fear any plan to include the “Sandrock Triangle” would cause the triangle to bear the brunt of Rowledge’s share of new developments and would be regarded as attractive for builders and developers. We in Birch Close have formed a Resident's Association as a means of efficient sharing of information and in particular to monitor developments such as the one proposed at Baker Oates.	We have close association with Rowledge, feel part of it, support activities and businesses. Wrecclesham means nothing and Farnham is driving shoppers out with car parking charges.

Comments against inclusion	Comments in favour of inclusion
<p>The 'Triangle' consists of a network of semi-rural enclaves which each have their own special interests and needs. If the 'new' Rowledge Parish needs to contribute more housing 'starts' it will have to look east of Fullers Road and the Long Road, to where Baker Oates and 10 Acre are the 'lungs' of Boundstone (and in particular the 'Sandrock Triangle'). Manna for 'get rich quick' developers. This potential opportunistic urbanisation of a semi-rural community will conflict with the paucity of suitable roads, transport and social infrastructure.</p>	<p>Boundstone and Sandrock have no identity and therefore regard Rowledge as the local centre and support Rowledge activities.</p>
<p>The area in question is currently part of Wrecclesham and Boundstone, has its own community which does not need to be subsumed into Rowledge and does not necessarily feel connected to it.</p>	<p>We feel isolated from Farnham Town Council.</p>
<p>There has not been adequate communication regarding the pros and cons of such a change in boundary.</p>	<p>The present ward and postcode list the Boundstone area as Wrecclesham but they share nothing in common.</p>
<p>Boundstone has more in common with Farnham than with Rowledge.</p>	<p>It makes geographic and economic sense – it significantly increases the population and hence income of the proposed new council.</p>
<p>It is a sad fact that no-one from Rowledge has even broached this matter to the people in my close before pitching to take control of the funds we pay into.</p>	<p>At the moment the area sits in almost limbo between Wrecclesham and Rowledge, but would be more appropriately aligned with Rowledge given its proximity to the Village.</p>
<p>I see no need for change and no great advantage to Boundstone residents.</p>	<p>This area already has more to do with Rowledge than the town. The configuration of the main roads naturally creates an area within the A325 and to the south of Echo Barn Lane.</p>
<p>Boundstone and Sandrock are separated from Rowledge by Manor Farm and Baker Oates and form their own enclaves. I believe staying linked to Farnham will provide a greater degree of transparency.</p>	<p>I think Waverley and Farnham forget us in the Sandrock Triangle. So if a parish council could help it would be a good thing.</p>

Annexe 3 Summary of views from households in the Farnham Town Council area outside the proposed boundary of the area to which the petition relates.

Stay within Farnham Town Council	Be separate from Farnham Town Council
Concerned about potential loss of revenue to Farnham Town Council and the cost of such a change at this time of acute fiscal austerity.	Rowledge is a village on the outskirts of Farnham and as such has different needs from the town.
Whatever funding is available will have to be split and therefore will be less beneficial to the towns' community.	Rowledge would have control of its' own income and expenditure.
It is important that all the parishes in Farnham should co-operate and contribute to the wider overall interests of Farnham Town. If Rowledge is removed, its residents will still have use of the Farnham facilities that the remaining parishes will continue to fund.	If the council tax income can be directed to Rowledge, then the people would have more say in directing resources in the care and maintenance of Rowledge.
A parish should "reflect a distinctive and recognisable community, with its own sense of identity". The proposed parish does not meet these two conditions because with the boundaries as shown on the map, territory and therefore, communities are being claimed that do not belong to Rowledge either naturally or historically. Moon's Hill belongs to Frensham, Echo Barn Lane belongs to Wrecclesham and Boundstone has its own identity. A parish that excludes both its church and its school – two pillars of village life - is no parish at all.	Rowledge has a clear and separate identity from Farnham and would be best served by having its own Parish Council so that specific Rowledge issues may be addressed rather than being swamped in the totality of Farnham Town Council as at present.
Rowledge is too small. The only way it can even start is if it combines with Boundstone. I suppose Wrecclesham will want to go next, then Hale etc.	Rowledge would be a large enough area to support itself and benefit its residents.
Rowledge is very much a part of Farnham and should not be treated differently.	They are a distinct, recognisable community, who many of the rest of Farnham do not know they exist.
This seems like a cynical attempt by Rowledge residents to retain wealth within their community while still expecting to use all the diverse facilities provided by Farnham Town Council.	Importantly the parish would be represented by villagers who would represent accurately the needs of residents and understand the issues specific to Rowledge.
No to yet another layer of bureaucracy.	Local affairs are best managed locally.
We should not be expanding council burdens upon rate payers. Extra time, staff and office = additional costs.	Spending by Farnham Town Council seems to be out of control and I guess Rowledge residents aren't seeing any of it spent in their part of the town.

Stay within Farnham Town Council	Be separate from Farnham Town Council
A cynical move to spend the council tax contributions of its wealthier citizens on itself rather than on projects that will benefit Farnham as a whole. Rowledge is not sufficiently distinct from the rest of Farnham to justify this move on the grounds of Rowledge having its own separate needs.	Farnham Town Council has not served its people particularly well in recent years. "Localism" is a good thing and if the people of Rowledge want to go it alone, they should be allowed to.
It is not sufficiently different or physically separate to justify a split.	It is a distinct village, not part of a town.
I don't want our services to be reduced, living outside of the proposed area, or costs to increase.	Farnham's council tax increase is the highest. Rowledge being separate will reduce this.
Rowledge is as integral to Farnham as all the other villages. Rowledge Residents use many Farnham facilities: station, main shops, secondary schools etc. There is no "green belt" separating Rowledge from Farnham.	Rowledge can give more personal and quick attention to local matters and give priority to things which are required locally.
The size of Farnham Town Council should not be diminished. I want to have a strong Town Council.	Farnham Town Council does not adequately reflect Rowledge residents' opinions/concerns.
Farnham Town council covers a very diverse area and must be treated as a cohesive whole not just lopping off the "up market" portions for independence.	Rowledge are motivated to deal with their own area and believe they can utilise the resources more ably than being directed by others.
There are far more important issues that local authorities and councils need to address.	Parish councils work better and more efficiently than Town councils.
The cost of all local government is already too fragmented – fragmentation drives up costs for all and adds unnecessary levels of bureaucracy. This might have a few enthusiasts not but it will pass.	Rowledge has a very different feel to Farnham and is a lovely self-contained village that deserves its own say on how things should be run.
Why waste more of our money on this stupid idea. These things only come about when certain groups feel they can gain an advantage – it's so wrong.	Rowledge is a very progressive community and would benefit from being independent. Rowledge has a number of persons well able to manage the village's affairs. The people of Rowledge could well get better benefit from any money spent from a precept rate.
If separated, other parishes are then likely to follow suit significantly impacting on Farnham Town Council.	People who know the needs would fight for the rights. There already appears to be a village spirit existing which could be built upon.

Annexe 4 – Businesses and Organisations

Stay within Farnham Town Council	Be separate from Farnham Town Council
Completely unsustainable and inefficient. Would duplicate provision and ignore the interdependency of the two communities.	It is a good idea as it is a logical area with a parish church. Farnham Town Council will have to reduce their costs so change does not impact on rates in Farnham.
I believe in a society that supports each other, ie. Financially rich areas should not keep all their funds for themselves but should share their resources. The smaller the parish councils the greater the divide between rich and poor areas.	Good idea. Rowledge has a thriving local community that currently seems to operate independently of Farnham. My only reservation is the potential for extra costs.
Rowledge should stay within Farnham and Farnham should break away from Waverley. The Council would be run and make decisions by locally elected people and not by councillors that mainly live many miles away from Farnham.	I am in favour as this will focus on the needs of the village rather than being an adjunct to the town. There is a world of difference between the needs of a town and that of a village. Rowledge is a village.
Rowledge may need the Sandrock area to form a parish council. This is no reason to accept.	There appears to be a logical geographical case for the proposed boundary.
It is important for Farnham as a whole that small areas within the town don't seek their own governance. It will lead to unnecessary bureaucracy and division.	The residents of Rowledge have the right to determine their own form of community governance and the local parish council should be made up of local people, who are committed to the well-being of their community and who are best placed to understand the local issues.
Completely irrelevant for Farnham businesses and a waste of money.	Will foster a greater sense of community in Rowledge
Rowledge would make sense as an entity only if a portion of the village now in Hampshire were in Surrey, ie. If the county boundary were moved.	We believe the residents of Rowledge have the right to determine their own form of community governance and that the local parish council should be made up of local people who are committed to the well-being of their community and who are best placed to understand the local issues.
I don't wish to be represented by Rowledge.	