

Reigate and Banstead District

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Comment text:

Response to Local Government Boundary commission proposals for Reigate and Banstead I've spoken with numerous residents who live in Woodmansterne and they feel very strongly that Woodmansterne should not be split between two wards as it is under this proposal. Woodmansterne has a distinct identity and should be kept together. The proposal cuts Woodmansterne in two with homes along Chipstead Way and Lakers Rose that are part of Woodmansterne being put into a different ward to the shops, pub and school. The proposal moves a number of residents who live on Croydon Lane, Woodmansterne Lane and the roads that come off it, like Cunningham Road into Banstead. This is broadly to be welcomed. Many residents here identify themselves as a part of Banstead and indeed were in the old Banstead ward before the current arrangements were put in place. More than once, I've been told by these residents that under these proposals they feel like they are "coming home again". It would appear to be an anomaly that St Margaret's Church in Chipstead is no longer in Chipstead ward under these proposals, but instead in Merstham. Without having to move many (if any) voters into Chipstead, the church could be put into its logical ward. Moving all of Hooley into the new ward of Merstham and keeping it together as one (rather than splitting it across the A23) is to be welcomed and I know that residents in Hooley are keen that they are able to stick together. Likewise including Netherne in the new Merstham ward works well. In recognition of the distinct parts of this new ward it would be nice to reflect the areas in the ward name - perhaps Hooley, Merstham and Netherne? For the same reasons that the residents of Woodmansterne would like to stay together, so too do the residents of Kingswood, which under the proposal for the new Chipstead and Kingswood ward is split down the middle by the railway line. In practice the railway line does not create a hard border but the proposal would split Kingswood in half, with the irony of Kingswood Station not being in Kingswood ward. Likewise, nor would the Kingswood Arms public house nor would the Kingswood village parade of shops along Waterhouse Lane. Cllr Tim Archer Ward member for Chipstead, Hooley and Woodmansterne. August 2018.

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None Uploaded