

LGBCE Boundary Review of Reigate & Banstead Borough Council

Submission to second round of consultation

Councillor Julian Ellacott, ward member for Redhill West (2000 - present)

Thank you for the work the LGBCE has undertaken so far on this important review for the Borough.

My specific comments, which I submit for your consideration, are as follows:

Boundary between the proposed Coles Meads & Wray Common and Redhill Town wards

I have a strong reservation over the proposal for the southern part of this boundary to divert along the railway line to the west and then via Baxter Avenue, Holland Close, Warwick Road etc before rejoining the A23 north of the town centre.

Whilst I can see some potential logic in trying to “carve out” the town centre into a single ward, there are two major drawbacks to this approach:

- First, and most seriously, the proposal would divide the community known locally as the “Cromwell Road estate” in two. This is the well defined area bounded by Station Road to the north, the railway line to the south, the southern end of the High Street and then Crowell Road/St Matthew’s Road to the east, and the Linkfield Corner car park to the west. This area has very specific local character and circumstances, namely:
 - It is nearly all comprised of former Council housing.
 - It is contained within a single Lower Super Output Area (reference Reigate and Banstead 010A E01030615, which in the 2010 Index of Multiple Deprivation scored as the 12 most deprived LSOA in Surrey).

The splitting of this area would therefore damage the Council’s ability to consider it holistically – for example at the time of writing it is an area of focus in the Redhill West CDW Project, which is the latest example of the Council’s regular ward-based community development work, and whose impact would be diluted if the new ward did not cover the whole of this community.

- Second, the area which would generally be considered by local residents as “the town centre” is not contained within the proposed Redhill Town ward, for example still excluding some of the office buildings on the A25 and A23.

I feel that given that it is unlikely that a ward covering the whole “town centre” (even less the whole “town”) cannot feasibly be created, **the best option is to retain the current, clear “east-west” boundary along the A23.**

Naming of the proposed Coles Meads & Wray Common and Redhill Town wards

I am concerned that “Coles Meads” is not a recognised local feature, at least in the broad sense which would help give the ward an identity, and hence is not a suitable element of a ward name.

The open land historically known as “Coles Meads” was built on after WWII, with the name being incorporated into (and over time superseded by in terms of local awareness) the name of Colesmead Road, which is now but one of many roads in the northern part of the ward.

Therefore using the historic name “Coles Meads” in the ward name will, I believe, cause confusion as residents will relate this only to the specific road (Colesmead Road), and not the broader area which the largely forgotten, historic name formerly referred to.

On the other hand Wray Common is a well valued, contemporary local feature, and recognises well the “Reigate end” of the proposed ward, which does differ in character to the rest of the proposed ward, as well as being located in Reigate (eg in terms of postal addresses and identity).

Given that the majority of the ward, covering all of the eastern side, very clearly identifies as part of Redhill, **I propose that the ward name should be “Redhill West and Wray Common”**, which does provide clear reference points to both the eastern (Redhill) and Western (Reigate) parts of the Ward.

Other comments

In general I support the rest of the Council’s own submission, which I believe takes the strong direction set by the LGBCE’s draft proposal, and proposes relatively minor modifications to it (including the two specific ones above) in order to reflect specific local circumstances.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Julian Ellacott

11 August 2018