

Reigate and Banstead District

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Comment text:

This is a response from the Tadworth and Walton Residents Association. First may I say that we have learned that the decision to reduce the number of wards and councillors was a decision of the local council with no consultation with residents or residents associations. We are aware that a number of councillors are concerned about the additional area and population to be covered in the enlarged wards because of the increased work load. We share these concerns as our own local ward councillors already have a very large amount of work relating to the existing ward and we are unsure how the same quality of service can be achieved with the same number of councillors. Our preference would be for the boundaries to remain as at present or in the case of an enlarged Tadworth and Walton ward, to allow us to have a fourth councillor. With reference to Tadworth and Walton specifically, we welcome the inclusion of the roads to the north of Shelveys Way in this ward as the residents relate to Tadworth rather than the communities to the North. We also welcome the continuation of Tadworth and Walton in the same ward as there is much sharing of facilities and close links with many organisations. We agree with the representations of Reigate and Banstead, Kingswood, Burgh Heath and the Federation of R As that it would be bad policy to split Kingswood and include the northern part of Kingswood together with Burgh Heath into Tadworth and Walton. We therefore support the council on this. Ideally we would have preferred Preston to join our ward because we immediately adjoin it and have commented on the various planning applications covering this area. However, we appreciate that the electorate numbers do not work for this part of the Borough and so by process of elimination Lower Kingswood is joined with Tadworth and Walton. We have to say that there are no strong links between our ward and Lower Kingswood, the communities being separated by heath land, although we are sure it can be made to work if this is the final decision. We agree with the comments made by the Banstead and District Federation on minor tweaking of the boundary in the vicinity of the M25, taking into account direction of access to properties, and also the suggestion for the eastern boundary of Lower Kingswood. We understand that there has been discussion with Lower Kingswood and their views are reflected in the Federation's comments. We support the requests that all settlements of any size such as Burgh Wood and Lower Kingswood should be reflected in the names of the reconfigured wards. In conclusion, we would have preferred the status quo for our area and are concerned at the added workload for our councillors. Although the Council has decided on 3 councillors per ward, because of the large area covered, the above average number of electors and the level of demands of the electorate in this particular area, we request that consideration be given to having 4 councillors rather than 3.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded