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A SUBMISSION TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR ENGLAND

BOUNDARY CHANGES AS THEY AFFECT BURGH HEATH

A statement By Burgh Heath Residents' Association

The Burgh Heath Residents' Association (BHRA) submits the following statement about new ward boundaries in the vicinity of Burgh Heath which is currently an electoral sub-division, KBH1, of the Kingswood and Burgh Heath ward.

	Sub-division	Ward	Electorate (2017)	Electorate (2023)
KBH1	Burgh Heath	Kingswood with Burgh Heath	618	645
KBH2	Area near to QE hospital	Kingswood with Burgh Heath	164	171
KBH3	Kingswood	Kingswood with Burgh Heath	2790	2977
KBH4	Lower Kingswood	Kingswood with Burgh Heath	2180	2280

The current ward comprises four communities, Burgh Heath, a small area based on what was the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Kingswood and Lower Kingswood. Relations between the three residents' associations are good and maintained mainly through the Banstead Federation of Residents' Associations.

A small canvass of opinion including the committee of the BHRA reveals a majority of responses from those who support the status quo rather than becoming part of a new ward, Banstead and Burgh Heath. Those who did not respond, about 50%, could be seen to prefer the status quo.

Frequently stated opinions seem to be due to, sentiment and an unwillingness to accept change. A concern that was articulated was that a continued association with Kingswood offered a measure of safety from becoming part of a London Borough or that it would place the surrounding area under pressure to supply housing land to meet London housing needs. The wish to preserve the Green Belt land around us was very important and should not be underestimated.

There was also a strongly held view that the criteria that would be applied would be mainly numerical and only pay lip service to the needs of communities and the way that they would interact. The Borough's own proposal was seen as a manifestation of this.

From an electoral and political point of view it is accepted that we would in any case remain a small part of a much larger ward and that it would be better to strengthen the relationship with Kingswood.