

## Boundary Commission:

### Reigate and Banstead Liberal Democrat response.

8/4/2018

Overall we see that Reigate and Banstead's 19 existing wards fall naturally into three separate groupings, separated by geography and community:

- **North:** Chipstead Hooley & Woodmansterne; Kingswood with Burgh Heath, Nork, Tadworth and Walton, Tattenhams, Preston, Banstead Village
- **Central:** Earlswood and Whitebushes, Meadvale and St John's, Redhill East, Redhill West Reigate Central, Reigate Hill, South Park and Woodhatch and Merstham
- **South:** Horley Central, Horley East, Horley West and Salfords and Sidlow

The Boundary Commission has indicated that it wishes to reduce from 19 wards with 51 Councillors to 15 wards with 3 Councillors each (45 Councillors). A top line look at the existing numbers suggest that the logical reduction in each of those areas is for the South to reduce from 4 wards with 10 councillors to 3 wards with 9 councillors; the north to reduce from 7 wards with 19 councillors to 5 wards with 15 councillors; and leaving the Centre to reduce from 8 wards with 23 councillors to 7 wards with 21 councillors.

We have focused our attention on the Central part of the Borough section and in particular for areas where we have detailed knowledge, and where there needs to be substantial realignment. The main challenges were to:

- Recognise that Redhill East and Redhill West are two very different communities that both share the town centre.
- Meadvale & St Johns to remain intact with the strong existing communities of St Johns and Meadvale Village.
- Merstham is currently made up of 3 very separate and diverse communities.
- Earlswood community is currently split over two wards.
- To create two Reigate wards recognising the very different nature of the North and the South of this area.
- To try to recognise community boundaries are often delineated by Major Roads, such as the A25 and A23 and also by Railway lines.
- To ensure ordinary residential roads are not shared between two wards, by putting ward boundary lines down back gardens, not the middle of a road.

We have set out the seven new wards for the central part of the borough below. We have also suggested names for these wards. The predicted population numbers using the RBBC mapping software are shown in [Blue](#).

Pictures of the maps for the central part of the borough are included as part of this submission for clarification.

1. **MEADVALE & ST JOHNS.** We recommend that the boundaries are drawn to optimise the size of current Meadvale and St John's ward which has very strong existing communities of Meadvale Village and St John's Parish leaving the existing area of Reigate already in the ward as there is no reason to change boundaries if not required to equalise the numbers. We have achieved this by infilling from adjacent wards the A25 where the current boundaries are dividing the St John's community. By adopting more logical boundaries along the main A23 in

Redhill including the eastern end of the existing Reigate Central ward where the Redhill roads are naturally part of the St John's Parish area. Moving the boundary north to the A25 incorporating the houses East to the A23 from Redhill East ward, which form a community around the Garibaldi community pub as well as St John's Parish. (7707)

2. **EARLSWOOD & WHITEBUSHES.** We propose including the recent housing development around Tylehurst Drive to the North of Hooley Lane (currently in Redhill East) plus the residents in the housing bounded by Brook Road, the A23 and Hooley Lane. This is naturally part of the Earlswood community with the ward boundary to be drawn along the Tonbridge railway line to the East. The southern boundary with Salfords and Sidlow should stay the same. (7788)
3. **REIGATE SOUTH.** We propose merging South Park and Woodhatch ward and the southern part of Reigate Central ward. Here the boundary in the North would be the A25, plus adding in the Trees estate community around the Woodhatch shopping Parade (currently part of Meadvale & St John's). Thus creating a southern Reigate Ward with the two distinct communities of South Park and Woodhatch and the rural areas around Priory Park and Reigate Heath. (7802)
4. **REIGATE NORTH.** We propose merging the existing Reigate Hill ward with the northern parts of the current Reigate Central ward with the boundary in the south along the A25. The boundary to the north extends up to M25 which takes part of the unpopulated area of Tadworth and Walton ward that is currently on the south of the M25. The whole of Reigate Town Centre will be in this new ward. (7745)
5. **REDHILL EAST.** We propose that in the south, the new ward should take in the RNIB site in Philanthropic Road which is due a new housing development (currently in Earlswood and Whitebushes ward). To the North it should extend to the end of Battlebridge Lane as it currently does. (7439)
6. **REDHILL WEST.** We propose that this ward should extend further North, along London Road South to include Quality Street community (also known as 'Top Merstham') and to be bounded by the M25 Motorway, and to the West as far as the Merstham station line south to Redhill (currently part of the Merstham Ward). (7402)
7. **MERSTHAM and HOOLEY.** We propose to extend the communities of South Merstham and the Merstham Estate (Old GLC estate) to the North, to include the Hooley and Netherne communities (currently part of Chipstead Hooley and Woodmansterne ward), up to the boundary with Croydon. (7803) (a)

Notes.

- (a) *The consequence of extending Merstham to include Hooley and Netherne will reduce the number of people in the northern wards in the borough. However, this is useful as 5 wards need to be created out of the existing 7. The realignment of the remaining population (not including Hooley and Netherne area) will mean there is a remaining 39,265 predicted population. Dividing this by 5 is 7,853 which is close to the optimum number for each of the Northern wards.*















