

Ashby, Jonathan

From: moreton moore [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 February 2018 14:34
To: reviews
Subject: Runnymede Borough ward boundaries - Egham Town ward

Dear Madam/Sir,

Runnymede Borough Council – Ward boundaries and disenfranchisement – Egham Town ward

My wife and I have lived in [REDACTED] Egham for 36 years. For 20 of those years, I served as an Independent Councillor on Runnymede Borough Council (1992-2012); and as a Trustee of Egham Museum. We also served as Mayoress and Mayor of Runnymede (2006-07). We firmly believe that we live in Egham and that we should vote with the others in Egham Town whom we represented and know. And conversely, we would expect elected councillors for Egham Town to represent us.

From our home we can quickly and safely walk upon pedestrian pavements into Egham. Egham is our focus. It is a community, served in the Town by two supermarkets, a good variety of other shops, banks, various restaurants, the Grove Medical Centre, opticians, the Library, the Museum located in the Literary Institute, the Churches, the Railway Station (with access to London, Reading and Woking) and the buses to Windsor, Staines and Heathrow Airport. We are members of the Egham Residents' Association and of the Egham-by-Runnymede Historical Society. Egham is proud to be associated with Magna Carta; and various features in the town commemorate this historic event of 1215.

Englefield Green is a separate village located on higher ground; and it has its own residents' association, Village Centre, churches and some shops. From Whitehall Lane, it can be reached by perilous Prune Hill: steep, winding, narrow and unlit. It is unsafe for pedestrians, having no protective pavements and being a well-known rat-run at peak times, with no specific speed limit and no width restrictions for vehicles. We have no sense of belonging to Englefield Green and have no direct involvement with this village. And would Englefield Green councillors, from their position on high ground, pay particular attention to our concerns regarding potential flood risks if gravel quarrying were to take place at Milton Park Farm?

Any suggestion to move us and our friends in neighbouring streets for voting purposes into Englefield Green (East) would appear to us to be totally artificial and contrary to your principle of respecting the integrity of communities. There must be a better way of achieving the desired arithmetic for electoral numbers. Personally, we would consider ourselves to be disenfranchised if we were denied the right to elect representatives for our town of Egham. Therefore we urge you to reconsider the proposed changes to Ward boundaries in the Egham area.

Professor Moreton Moore

[REDACTED]
2018 February 5