

Runnymede District

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Comment text:

Egham Town Ward Proposals I wish to express grave misgivings about the proposal in the Runnymede Borough Council (RBC) response to the LGBCE's review of its wards, specifically with regard to the Egham Town ward. RBC decided that it wishes to retain a structure of fourteen 3-councillor wards for its elections & it is apparent that the LGBCE is "minded" to agree to this. The proposal has come about because of a marked imbalance in RBC's current structure, with the Englefield Green East ward currently having a lot fewer electors (due to the status of a large ambient student demographic at the Royal Holloway College). The Council's answer to this is to stick to fourteen 3 member wards by changing the Egham Town boundaries in a way that pays very little if any regard to Egham's identity and sense of community. The Council's warding proposal would move more than a thousand existing Egham Town electors out of the ward & add them to a neighbouring ward (Englefield Green East - now renamed by RBC as Egham Hill). Under the proposal, virtually all the electors living in the area bounded by the High Street, Station Road and the railway line would be removed from the Egham Town ward, thus causing a major split in the current Egham Town community. The streets to be transferred would include Moore Grove Crescent, Nobles Way, Lynwood Avenue, Ripley Avenue, Spring Rise, Spring Avenue, The Crescent, North Street, Queens Road, Rusham Road, Limes Road, Milton Road and much of Grange Road. Boshers Gardens and Manor Way would also be taken out of Egham Town (but Rusham Park Avenue, Daleham Avenue and Braywood Avenue wouldn't). The Egham Town ward would be pushed eastwards by RBC towards Staines, annexing part of the existing Egham Hythe ward. The result would be that, if the proposal was implemented, one would be able to stand at the Egham end of Staines Bridge and be in the Egham Town ward, yet stand close to the junction of Grange Road & Blue Ball Lane and not be in it!! I am confident that virtually all the existing people in the town will regard the RBC proposal as an absurdity. While the LGBCE has a presumption for 3-member wards in Councils that elect by thirds, I believe there can be exceptions according to community identity requirements. I therefore support the counter-proposal, put forward by the Egham Residents Association & the existing Egham Town RBC Councillors, that the current ward boundaries in this part of the Borough should be largely maintained & that the Englefield Green East ward should be reduced to two councillors (and RBC thus reduced to 41 in total). Adrian Skelt [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] 11th February 2018

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded