

**Further submission by Thornton Heath Labour Party and the
Thornton Heath Neighbourhood Association**

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to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England
regarding the draft proposals for electoral wards review for the
London Borough of Croydon 2017

This submission **supports** the Commission's draft proposals for the boundaries of the **Thornton Heath ward in north Croydon** which we consider to be the best solution for the ward.




We believe that the boundary as proposed should be adopted for the following reasons:

- 1. Thornton Heath is a real place & community and the ward boundary should reflect this.** The current Thornton Heath ward boundary fairly closely encloses the historic township that developed after the arrival of the railway station in 1862. An emerging village was already there at the junction of several important roads but the township that became Thornton Heath developed north of the railway line and adjoining the High Street which is now an important district centre. Other proposals refer to Thornton Heath extending south and westwards over a wider area, this is only the postal delivery zone (*for the Sorting Office which was based in The Drive, just off the High Street in Thornton Heath*) and not the true name of the wider area.
- 2. The boundary should include the whole High Street / District Centre not cut across it.** Where a ward is centred on a District Centre it should include the whole centre and not divide it up. The current ward includes both the shopping centre based around the High Street, its local centre at Beulah Road and the (now declining) employment areas around both the High Street and to the north (e.g. Bensham Grove). Others have suggested that political boundaries do not matter to local residents but the fact that everyone shares the same polling station in the same leisure centre and has the same Councillors representing them is important part of the community, and all too often underestimated.
- 3. Thornton Heath is a historic place with clear community boundaries.** The existing ward boundary not only includes the historic town centre and now District Centre but also other facilities that have been part of the area's historic development. Crucial to this is Grangewood Park which is a large part of the original Falkland House gardens and grounds. The house and its much reduced gardens remain today as Spurgeon's College whereas many of the residential roads within the ward to the south west of the park were originally on half of the gardens until developed for terraced houses in the late Victorian period. Decimus Burton Road cut diagonally across the parklands and is now called Grange Road with the half to the south west now fully developed. Similar historic connections to Thornton Heath apply to the brickworks site which became allotments and now Whitehorse Meadow.

Appendix:

The commission's Boundary compared to our proposed boundary.



-  Existing ward boundary
-  Proposed boundary changes in our submission (not accepted)
-  Boundary Commission draft amendment to ward boundary



The northern area transferred to Upper Norwood ward. There is no objection to this as this area is actually located near the top of the hill closer to Upper Norwood shopping centre and local facilities to the north. Historically it is bordering the development of Upper Norwood / Crystal Place. Residents will have a more convenient polling station just to the north.

The southern area is being transferred into Thornton Heath from South Norwood ward. This area has always been a bit of an anomaly as it physically fitted best in Thornton Heath ward but made the ward numbers too large and the South Norwood shopping centre is a bit closer. Residents here would be able to go to the polling station in Whitehorse Lane very easily.