

Croydon London Borough

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Comment text:

I have had the opportunity to review the Council submission and am disappointed that it doesn't respect the places of Croydon as per the Local Plan defined in 2011 and adopted in 2013. The Places were well evidenced and had cross party support. It is also worth noting that the principle has not been challenged in the current Local Plan consultation. The Council suggested that they based the submission on Residents Association (RA) boundaries but I note that they have little knowledge of the RAs in the Southern part of the borough. The two I work most closely with in my current ward are not recognised by the Council even though they cover the whole ward as it currently stands. They are Selsdon Residents Association (SRA) and Croham Valley Residents Association (CVRA). Seeing as how the SRA covers Selsdon a place in Croydon it is worrying that the Council do not have them on record and clearly shows they don't understand the area. I support the Conservative group proposal as a whole as it does respect the places of Croydon and I would like to comment on Selsdon as that is the ward I currently represent and where I have lived for 17 years. Before living in Selsdon I lived in Forestdale from 1969 to 1999, so I have a good knowledge of the proposal to split the vast majority of the current Selsdon and Ballards ward and parts of Heathfield ward to make two Selsdon wards – Selsdon Vale and Forestdale and Selsdon and Addington Village. I will first comment on the Selsdon Vale and Forestdale Ward proposal. This is a remarkably cohesive ward as those two areas are linked by a bus route (433) and the same bus goes up Old Farleigh Road, which therefore links the whole of the proposed ward. Also the housing in the area is generally of a similar age, so it can be seen as having commonality. The two main estates are only separated by a rumble strip on the constituency boundary and no other physical barrier. People living in Forestdale will tell you they live in Selsdon as do those in Selsdon Vale. It is also interesting but not probably that relevant that myself and 5 of my neighbours (I live in a road of 30 homes) moved a short distance along the bus route from Forestdale to Selsdon Vale as it has the same community but with better parking! Forestdale has a community centre called the Forum which many residents of Selsdon Vale use for parties and community events, as well the social club. The reason for the Selsdon and Addington Village split is that it links Monks Hill which has a CR2 8 postcode to the rest of Selsdon. Also Monks Hill and Ballards are geographically next to each other and linked by a path. They share the same woods to walk their dogs and for children to play in.. As Monks Hill adjoins Gravel Hill it is therefore linked to Addington Village. There is also commonality with the 64 bus route and the majority of the houses are roughly the same age. This whole area is surrounded in woods, fields and open spaces and the openness with areas of dense housing, Monks Hill and Ballards are cohesive and relevant Unlike the current Heathfield ward, which has always been a mishmash of left over areas, which are very different in style and community. In summary the Conservative group proposal is far truer to the Place of Selsdon and respects communities unlike the Council submission which splits it the wrong way and divides and separates those who have a natural affinity to the place.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded