

Submission to the LGBCE: London Borough of Croydon

By Chris Philp MP

Member of Parliament for Croydon South

Friday 28th April 2017

I am responding to the LGBCE draft proposals for Warding patterns for the London Borough of Croydon published in 14th March 2017. I am writing in my capacity as Member of Parliament for Croydon South.

In summary, I think that the LGBCE draft proposals do an excellent job of reflecting the natural communities of Croydon. The draft proposal also adhere strongly to the “Places” of Croydon, as defined by the Council themselves in a previous exercise. I would like to congratulate the LGBCE for the proposals that they have generated.

Besides respecting the natural communities and “places” of Croydon, the proposals also respect hard boundaries (such as railway lines) where possible and minimise the splits to natural communities in the Borough.

I would also like to emphasise the importance of maintaining Waddon as a three member Ward. It has been in this form since 1977, and has a community coherence as well as historical precedent to it. The more disadvantaged areas of the Waddon estate also benefit from the extra voice being part of a three member ward provides. Waddon as a three member ward is contained within string natural boundaries: the industrial areas to the north-west and west, and the town centre to the north-east.

There are some minor modifications which would improve the LGBCE proposals even further, which I have summarised below:

1. Move some roads from Sanderstead to South Croydon

The triangle of roads between Carlton Road, Selsdon Road and Essenden Road belong in the new South Croydon Ward not Sanderstead (as proposed). The main district centre for shops for those living in these streets is the area at the top end of Selsdon Road in Croydon South Ward, and not in Sanderstead. The current draft proposal has South Croydon 8% under-sized but Sanderstead 5% over sized, so this change would help even that out.

2. Ullswater Industrial Estate

This is currently split between the two Coulsdon Wards. For simplicity, the whole of the Ullswater Industrial estate and Break Field should sit in Coulsdon Town Ward.

3. Coulsdon Memorial Ground

The voluntary groups that support this recreation ground (e.g. the Bowls Club volunteers committee) are aligned to Old Coulsdon and not Coulsdon Town, and so this should go into Old Coulsdon. No-one lives on the recreation ground, so there are no implications there.

Kind regards,

Chris Philp