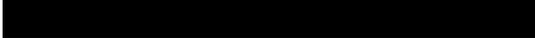


Croydon London Borough

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To the Local Government Boundary Commission As a resident since 1992 within the Addiscombe and Shirley Park Residents' Association (ASPRA) area, and who has represented the current Shirley Ward as a councillor since 2002, I hope that the following comments will be useful generally but especially in relation to Addiscombe and Shirley. The 16 'places' of Croydon were arrived at to meet the needs of the communities of Croydon and, just like the histories of Addiscombe referred to below, are objective and not generated for electoral ends; they deserve to be given greater weight than the council's proposals because of that objectivity and even-handedness. Identities If you ask people here where they live, they will give their geographical location, such as Addiscombe, Shirley, Purley, Woodside, South Norwood, Upper Norwood, Sanderstead, West Croydon, and Norbury. Some of those areas are large, such as Addiscombe (which naturally runs eastwards from the line out of E Croydon railway station and is centred on the Lower Addiscombe Road); beyond that, including the Longheath estate, people usually describe themselves as being in Shirley, and contact the Shirley councillors even though they are technically in the artificially construct of 'Ashburton Ward'. Geographic Shirley is greater than the current Shirley Ward, as it really comprises the stretch southwards from the Longheath estate, and to the Shirley Hills (which are also known as the Addington Hills, according to which map is being used). The reasons for these identities is the natural boundaries such as railway lines, the roads that glue the communities together (eg the Lower Addiscombe Road shopping centre has shops on one side and houses on the other that have permanent free parking outside; have bus routes that people from both sides of the road come together to use, and the Addiscombe Tram Stop; and socially cohesive pubs such as The Alma and The Claret). Historically, Addiscombe has comprised the former East India Company training college grounds (Addiscombe College) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Addiscombe_Military_Seminary to its south-east, the Morland estate to its north, and the former Ashburton estate until sold in 1923. The identity of Addiscombe is strong and incontestable historically (eg The Book of Addiscombe by Steve Collins & Anne Bridge, published in 2000 by Canning & Clyde Road Residents' Association ISBN 1 841140945 https://www.amazon.co.uk/Book-Addiscombe-Steve-Collins/dp/1841140945/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1480879913&sr=1-1&keywords=the+book+of+addiscombe p6 map and passim and Volume 2 published 2002 ISBN 1 84114 176 3 passim). Fuzzy boundaries I have lived in Croydon virtually continuously since moving to Croydon as a 3-year old in 1961 to Ross Road, South Norwood. I went to All Saints' Infants & Primary Schools, which is in what the residents refer to as Upper Norwood, but which is in South Norwood Ward. Our home in Ross Road was, postally, South Norwood but the closest shopping centre was Thornton Heath High Street. We would sometimes take trains from Thornton Heath Station and sometimes from Norwood Junction. The address is currently part of Thornton Heath Ward for local elections. Since 1992, I have lived in Claremont Road, Addiscombe, although it is called Ashburton Ward after the name of the estate sold by Baroness Ashburton in 1923, which was pretty much coterminous with the Ashburton Ward boundary until 2002, when it was also allocated the northern half of Monks Orchard Ward. The residents' association here until just a few years ago was named Shirley Park Residents' Association (SPRA), and the name was changed to Addiscombe and Shirley Park Residents' Association (ASPRA). The nearby churches regard themselves as being in Addiscombe all the way to the west side of Shirley Road eg

<http://www.addiscombecatholicchurch.com/> yet the east side of Shirley Road has roads off it with stronger Shirley identities such as Shirley Park Road and Shirley Avenue . The council's existing 16 Places of Croydon takes into account fuzzy boundaries. Agreed communities The examples above are illustrative of the overlapping nature of identities which were recognised by the 16 places of Croydon are based on a hard evidence base presented 2011, adopted 2013, accepted on a cross-party basis, and are still recognised by the council, including being clearly identified in the Borough's planning documentation, most recently in the Local Plan review for which consultation only ended in October 2016. These agreed communities would imply, for Shirley, a return to the pre-2002 Monks Orchard and Spring Park wards but extended to Shirley Road and to Kent Gate Way as described above, which would warrant each one of these as being three-member wards. Flawed council proposal Apart from the council's proposals for ward boundaries being inconsistent with and not respecting the agreed 16 Places of Croydon (such as Shirley, Addiscombe, Purley, Selsdon, and Sanderstead) the variances are too large and fragment communities and would lead to unnatural representation at councillor level (so residents around Church Road close in the borough's corner adjacent to Crystal Palace very much think of themselves as being part of Upper Norwood, from which they are excluded under the council's proposals). Regarding any possible single-member wards, there is no need in the borough as there are no distinct communities that comprise the requisite number (about 4,000 residents) so ward boundary solutions with 3 or 2 members meet residents' requirements. Also, weaknesses of single member wards include the lack of representation during the councillor's unavailability through illness or holiday absence, and that single member wards deny residents choice (eg some women residents might prefer to confide in a woman councillor, which is more likely in a 2 or 3 member ward). Conclusion The ward boundaries should be based on the 16 Places of Croydon.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded