

Croydon London Borough

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Comment text:

I am writing in my capacity as a Councillor for the current ward of Coulsdon West. I am very firmly of the view that in looking to redraw the ward boundaries, the Boundary Commission should begin from the non-partisan 'Places of Croydon' that were adopted by the Local Authority in 2011 and keep the population variances to as low as is realistically possible. It's important to note that these Places received support from both the main parties and so should provide a solid basis for developing warding patterns based on locally understood identities. In many areas of Croydon, the identities of the communities are fairly blurred, but in Coulsdon and Purley, this is much clearer. My ward of Coulsdon West is comprised of 'Coulsdon Town', going up from the Surrey county border up the Brighton Road, past the town and right up to Purley Cross. My ward is roughly two-thirds 'Coulsdon' and one-third 'Purley'. And I can recount many occasions where those residents in Purley found it very confusing when they learn that I'm their local representative: "But you can't be, you're Coulsdon and I live in Purley" is a frequent remark, one that I'm assured has nothing to do with me personally! I'd suggest that boundary changes in Coulsdon are fairly straightforward, using the topography of the area. Given the increase in population expected as a result of the Cane Hill development, it would make most sense for the 'one-third' of my ward that self-identifies as 'Purley' to be removed, and the location left is labelled the 'Coulsdon Town' ward. This would be a three-member ward. The Council's proposal shows Coulsdon district centre becoming the heart of the place of Coulsdon, rather than over to the eastern edge as it is now. I agree with that. At present the area of Woodcote is split between Coulsdon West and Purley. The council place map reunites all of Woodcote into Purley and I also agree with this. Purley town centre should be reunited into one place - at the moment it is split between Coulsdon West and Purley wards with Kenley running almost up to Tesco, a key landmark in the area. I believe Purley town centre should be reunited in one place, taking the northern 'Purley' part of my current Coulsdon West ward to create a ward called 'Purley and Woodcote'. This is also the name of the very successful 'Purley and Woodcote Residents' Association'. If you follow this through to its logical conclusion, then that leaves the place of Purley requiring five councillors, probably split into a three and a two.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded