



# esher residents association

The Review Officer (Elmbridge)  
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor Milbank Terrace  
London  
SW1P 4QP

18<sup>th</sup> August 2015



Dear Sirs,

## ESHER WARD BOUNDARY REVIEW (ELMBRIDGE)

**The Esher Residents Association, for the reasons set out in this submission broadly supports the Boundary Commission proposals which define the new Esher ward boundary, but object strongly on two issues which arise.**

- 1. The Ward name change.**
- 2. The Elmbridge Borough Council counter proposal for the removal of the Lower Green area from the Esher ward.**

The Committee of the Esher Residents Association has studied the recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for new boundaries to the Esher ward.

We appreciate that a new ward is made necessary by the reduction in local democratic representation and the subsequent need to create 16 wards with three councillors in each ward, and that these councillors should represent approximately the same number of residents.

### **The Area of Hersham (Centered on the Longmore estate).**

We have no objection to this area joining the Esher ward. However, we would advise that there never has been any particular cultural or social links with Hersham as the River Mole acts as a natural boundary between us. Hersham has its own centre with shops, church etc and it will involve most of these Hersham residents of the Longmore Estate in a half mile journey along the A244, the only linking road, to reach the existing Esher ward boundary.

### **Blair Avenue & Douglas Road nos. 100-128, 105-123.**

We regret the loss of the residents of these roads from the Esher ward to the new ward of Hinchley Wood and Weston Green. It is, however, appreciated that this must be due to the balancing of the numbers in each ward. Blair Avenue is not within the parish of Christ Church Esher and, therefore, if we are to lose any

residents to the new ward of Hinchley Wood and Weston Green, these would be the most appropriate roads.

**The Esher Residents Association is, therefore, generally in agreement with the Boundary Commission recommendations for the boundaries of the new Esher ward.**

**The historic ward name of Esher.**

We do, however, find it difficult to understand why it is deemed necessary to change the historic "Esher" ward name to that of a rather poetic "Esher and Hersham Riverside". There are very few properties near the river in Hersham, most are way across the fields. One could perhaps argue for "Esher and Blackhills", "Esher and Claremont" or even "Esher and Lower Green" as being more appropriate.

It is not even as though the centre of Hersham village is joining Esher, only the eastern peripheral part. "Esher" is the historic name given to the major town in the centre of our ward. It was the manor of Esher (Esher Episcopi) which was given to the Abbot and Convent of Croix St. Leufroy in Normandy by William 1. **We believe that the Esher ward should retain that simple historic name "Esher".**

**Elmbridge Borough Council proposals.**

We understand that Elmbridge Borough Council have made counter proposals for the area of Lower Green currently within the Esher ward, recommending that the residents (approximately 700) be moved to the new Hinchley Wood and Weston Green ward.

The residents effected live in the following roads:- Arran Way, Douglas Road, Farm Road, Joseph Locke Way, Mill Road and Sherriff Close

**The Esher Residents Association strongly object to the Elmbridge Borough proposal to remove these roads in the Lower Green area from the Esher ward.**

We cannot understand the reason they have made this proposal particularly when they have recommended that another area, the Longmore Estate of Hersham, join the ward. It appears that there is a belief that the railway line to the north of Sandown provides an impregnable barrier to the area beyond. Not only is there a road under the railway bridge passing up Moore Lane to Esher Centre, but there is also a pedestrian tunnel linking the area to Esher Station, Sandown and Moore Lane and Esher Centre.

The whole of this area of Lower Green is within the parish of Christ Church Esher and is served by that church on Esher Green. Many children walk from this area to the Church of England High School in Moore Lane. In 1976 the Esher Residents organized the building and funding of the Lower Green Community Hall in Farm Road, built almost entirely with local voluntary labour. The hall currently serves a social club, a local football team, a Silver & Gold club for older residents and a youth group is about to restart. Other Esher halls are used by the residents of this area particularly West End Village hall and King George's hall. The 515 bus

services links Kingston, with Lower Green (along Douglas Road) to Esher High Street and on to Guildford. There are very clear links both physical and social with the rest of the existing Esher ward.

We see no reason, as many have said, for this area of Lower Green to be moved to the Hinchley Wood and Weston Green ward, as there is a natural, geographic and social cohesion with the rest of the Esher ward.

Yours faithfully



Gary Lay - Chairman

For the Esher Residents Association Committee.

(PP) vice chairman  
Michael Phillipps