

Dear Sirs

I write on behalf of the Molesey Residents' Association in response to the proposals put forward by the LGBCE for the new suggested warding patterns for Elmbridge Borough Council.

We have noted the Commission's comments and reasons for dividing Molesey in an east-west direction, rather than in a north-south direction. We would support any proposals which retain as much of Molesey as possible within the two wards, and are pleased that the Commission has taken notice of our previous submission to include the area around Hampton Court Station.

However, we would like to go further and suggest that all the area, north of the River Mole, leading up the Hampton Court Station, be also included in the Molesey East Ward. The River Mole is a natural boundary and we believe that the residents are definitely "Molesey Residents" and therefore would expect to be part of this community, and included in the new Ward boundaries. By not including these roads: Bridge Gardens, Cedar Road, Cedar Close, Kingfisher Court, Oarsman Place, Queen's Reach, Hampton Court Parade, Bridge Road (even numbers), we believe that this is anomaly, and we would ask the Commission to reconsider moving the easterly boundary to the River Mole. We estimate that about 375 residents would be affected and would increase the size of the Molesey East Ward.

We recognise that these movements would put the estimated 2020 electorate variance above the ideal level, but we believe that, in this case, community identity far outweighs a simple number projection. If the Commission feels that this is too much of a movement, but agrees with the principle, we would like to suggest that the boundary between West Molesey and East Molesey is moved to compensate for this. We suggest that the West Molesey boundary be moved further eastwards from Seymour Road, running east down the centre of Beauchamp Road, and turns south down the centre of Spencer Road to the River Mole. The roads affected are Beauchamp Road, Spencer Road, Molesey Park Road, Molesey Park Close, The Wilderness, Spencer Park. We would estimate that the electoral base would increase by about 235 in the Molesey West Ward, but clearly be still in Molesey. We believe that this would be within the tolerance levels suggested by the Commission.

Several residents who live in the the roads off Esher Lane, and are in the current Molesey East Ward, have expressed disappointment that they would be excluded from the "Molesey" community. They have no affiliations with the new proposed Thames Ditton ward, and there is likely to be confusion as they would then be outside the current County Division boundaries. We appreciate that any movement in this area is likely to upset electoral equality, a key reason for all these changes. However, we would ask the Commission to look again at their current proposals to see whether there is any room for manoeuvre.

Finally, we are pleased that the Commission has decided to retain "Molesey West" and "Molesey East" as the names for the new ward boundaries.

Yours faithfully

Nigel Cooper
Chairman

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