

Proposed Boundary Changes and implications for Wanstead and Snaresbrook Wards.

The review aims to deliver electoral equality for voters in council elections so that each councillor represents roughly the same number of voters. It also aims to ensure that council wards reflect, as far as possible, the interests and identities of communities.

Electoral equality and reasons for the boundaries as drafted

The Boundary Commission Review of Redbridge is aiming to make the existing wards and their representation by Councillors more similar in terms of size without splitting local communities and following logical boundaries such as main roads, estates and natural features such as rivers and parks. The optimum number of electors per councillor given the numbers for 2021 is around 3,600. The optimum variance from this figure is +/- 5%. At present in 2016 Wanstead has 8562 electors and is projected to have 9,528 in 2021 so there is a shortfall of roughly 1257 in 2021.

A new Wanstead Ward is proposed, taking in the current Wanstead Ward and major part of the Wanstead area currently in Snaresbrook Ward. It is proposed that it has 3 councillors on the basis of electoral numbers. Having 3 councillors allows for wider representation of councillors with different interests and expertise and enables a majority view to be taken on differences of opinion

Year	2016	2021
<i>Number of councillors:</i>	63	63
<i>Overall electorate:</i>	190,967	226,478
<i>Average electorate per cllr:</i>	3,031	3,595
<i>Wanstead Electors</i>	8,562	9,528
<i>Wanstead Optimum Aim</i>	9,094	10,785
<i>Wanstead Shortfall at present</i>	532	1,257
<i>Snaresbrook Electors</i>	8,619	9,773
<i>Snaresbrook Optimum Aim</i>	9,094	10,785
<i>Snaresbrook Shortfall at present</i>	475	1,011

Many of the wards in Redbridge vary by more than 5% as can be seen below.

Name of ward	Number of cllrs per ward	Electorate 2016	Variance 2016	Electorate 2021	Variance 2021
Aldborough	3	10,095	11%	11,813	10%
Barkingside	3	9,107	0%	10,546	-2%
Bridge	3	8,424	-7%	9,447	-12%
Chadwell	3	9,707	7%	11,273	5%
Church End	3	8,347	-8%	9,592	-11%
Clayhall	3	9,829	8%	11,246	4%
Clementswood	3	8,816	-3%	12,138	13%

Boundary Commission Review – Wanstead Ward

Cranbrook	3	8,875	-2%	10,537	-2%
Fairlop	3	9,058	0%	10,934	1%
Fullwell	3	9,100	0%	10,394	-4%
Goodmayes	3	8,654	-5%	10,454	-3%
Hainault	3	9,008	-1%	10,466	-3%
Loxford	3	9,647	6%	12,547	16%
Mayfield	3	9,429	4%	10,975	2%
Monkhams	3	8,015	-12%	8,988	-17%
Newbury	3	11,028	21%	13,652	27%
Roding	3	8,298	-8.7%	9,459	-12%
Seven Kings	3	9,657	6.2%	12,007	11%
Snaresbrook	3	8,619	-5%	9,773	-9%
Valentines	3	8,692	-4%	10,709	-1%
Wanstead	3	8,562	-6%	9,528	-12%

Clearly from the above it would seem logical that in the highlighted adjacent wards – Church End, Roding, Snaresbrook and Wanstead with an overall shortfall of 44% that one councillor should be lost in this area. This would reduce the shortfall in those four wards to roughly 11% so no more than 3% per ward which would be acceptable to the Boundary Commission.

The wards in the Wanstead area are split up as follows:

Polling district	Existing district/borough/city ward	Electorate 2016	Electorate 2021
W1	Wanstead	1917	2,076
W2	Wanstead	2609	2,881
W3	Wanstead	4036	4,571
	TOTAL	8562	9,528
SN1	Snaresbrook	3380	3,754
SN2	Snaresbrook	2837	3,203
SN3	Snaresbrook	2402	2,816
	TOTAL	8619	9,773
R1	Roding	1325	1,544
R2	Roding	2136	2,429
R3	Roding	1804	1,990
R4	Roding	1905	2,174
R5	Roding	1128	1,323
	TOTAL	8298	9,459

Wanstead is in 3 areas W1, W2 and W3 but the latter two are not affected by our proposals and would remain in Wanstead ward.

Our proposal takes part of Snaresbrook wards, SN2 and SN3 into Wanstead and transfers part of W1 to Roding. The effect of this would be to increase the size of both Wanstead and Roding so that they would both be eligible for three councillors but reduce Snaresbrook to two. The part of the new Wanstead area would combine those parts of W1 and SN2 to coincide with the Counties conservation areas.

Counties Conservation Area with parts of SN3 - The detail is below.

Counties Conservation Area W1 and SN2			2016	2021
W3		Total	4036	4571
W2		Total	2609	2881
W1	Road group 3 Counties Conservation Area	RUTLAND ROAD	102	
		WARWICK ROAD	96	
		LEICESTER ROAD	95	
		HEREFORD ROAD	85	
		GLOUCESTER ROAD	57	
		EASTWAY	19	
		Total	454	513
W1	Road group 4a	GARDNER CLOSE	202	
		NUTTER LANE	89	
		PRESTON DRIVE	84	
		(COLVIN GARDENS)		
		BUCKINGHAM ROAD	73	
		REYDON AVENUE	55	
		ELM HALL GARDENS	35	
		KINGFISHER AVENUE	32	
		(LIMES AVENUE)		
		Total	570	644
SN2	Counties Conservation Area	GROSVENOR	375	427
		GROVE PARK	128	146
		THE AVENUE	119	136
		Total	622	709
SN3		ADDISON	156	178
		CAMBRIDGE PARK	150	173
		CAMBRIDGE PARK ROAD	33	39
		CAMBRIDGE ROAD	208	242
		CHAUCER	57	65
		CHESTNUT	87	101
		DANGAN	121	143
		GORDON	159	186
		HIGH STREET	51	60
		HIGHSTONE AV	39	46
		LONSDALE	93	110
		SPRATT HALL	111	131
		WOODBINE	11	13
		Total	1276	1487
	GRAND TOTAL	9567	10805	
	Variance	5	0	

Advantages of this Model

- The size works out well for both wards for 3 and 2 Councillors
- It brings together the Counties Conservation Area into one ward.
- The Elmcroft Avenue/Nightingale community is not split and all put into Roding.
- The loss of some of Wanstead W1 (mainly Road groups 1 and 2) increases the size of Roding enabling it to have 3 Councillors.
- Geographically it is logical with regard to the River Roding and playing fields.

Community Identity – Reasons

Wanstead has a clear community identity. Wanstead residents see themselves as living in a village with the High Street as the focal point, but the current boundary divides it into two wards, Wanstead and Snaresbrook and does not respect the local community.

The creation of the proposed ward would bring together the communities currently split between two wards thereby reflecting the interests and identities of the community.

These Wanstead communities are already closely linked by transport, road networks, schooling, green space, leisure, recreation and community facilities and high street shopping and this proposal would bring into the ward the centre of Wanstead. It would include the whole of the conservation areas of Aldersbrook, Wanstead Grove, Wanstead Park and the major residential part of Wanstead Village, which is split at present.

The whole of the proposed ward would be E11 postcode. The present Snaresbrook Ward which includes parts of Wanstead within it comprises E11 and E18 postcodes

By bringing this part of the current Snaresbrook Ward into the proposed new Wanstead Ward it would bring with it Wanstead High Street which is the hub of the community. Wanstead has a thriving High Street which is the focal point of the community and has a village style environment. It is the meeting place for local residents to shop and socialise in restaurants, coffee bars, pubs, and where there is a strong sense of community with childrens playground, library, churches and regular community events. A monthly farmers market is also held in the High Street.

As mentioned at present Wanstead High Street is not in Wanstead although it was prior to the last boundary review in 1999. Community facilities play a strong role in bringing the communities together.

Many of the Wanstead facilities are at present in Snaresbrook as follows.

- The Allan Burgess Centre in Wanstead High Street is the only facility in Wanstead which serves the over 50's community and runs a range of activities every day including a luncheon club.
- Wanstead Library, off the High Street in Spratt Hall Road serves the whole of Wanstead and as well as providing a wide range of library services for adults and children, computer and internet services, it is used as a venue for public meetings and various community events.
- Christchurch Green in Wanstead High Street has the only childrens playground in the area which is widely used by the whole community and brings young families together from across the proposed ward. It is also the venue for the annual Wanstead Festival attracting hundreds of residents.

- Regular community events are held in the church halls at Christchurch in the High Street,, Our Lady of Lourdes in Cambridge Park and at United Reform Church.
- Our Lady of Lourdes School in Chestnut Drive runs a Brownie Pack and the 19th Epping Forest Scouts has been based at the United Reform Church since 1946 serving the Wanstead community.

Transport and Road Links

- Central Wanstead has major transport links. Public transport serving the whole ward includes Wanstead Underground Station at the junction of the Green and Harrier Avenue, and bus routes run throughout the ward with a bus terminus in Woodbine Place. Wanstead Underground station is the closest underground station serving the majority of residents of the proposed ward.
- The A12 runs through the proposed ward linking Wanstead with the A406, M11 and other main road networks.

Schools

- Wanstead Church School in Church Path and our Lady of Lourdes RC School in Chestnut Drive in the current Snaresbrook ward attracts children from across the proposed ward.
- In the current Wanstead Ward, Wanstead High School in Redbridge Lane West is the secondary school serving the whole of the Wanstead area.

Green Space and Community Sporting facilities

- The Wanstead Society is an independent organisation which works to protect, preserve, and improve the whole of the Wanstead area particularly with regard to all of the conservation areas. Community gardeners from the Society look after flower beds at locations in the High Street in central Wanstead and outside Wanstead station and on the Green.
- There is a significant amount of green open space located in the current Wanstead Ward which brings the community together.
- Wanstead parklands situated in the south eastern boundary of the ward is used extensively by Wanstead residents for recreation as well as the annual Wanstead Music in the Park Festival organised by the local community.
- Wanstead Flats open space in Aldersbrook is used by local football clubs for mini, youth and adult soccer, and Blakehall Sports Club in Blakehall Road serves a similar purpose.
- Community and sports facilities in the current ward which are not available in Snaresbrook ward also play a strong role in bringing the Wanstead community together.
- Wanstead House Community Association in The Green in the centre of Wanstead is widely used by the whole community for adult education classes, a meeting venue for various clubs and societies, a wide range of activities for children and young people and a weekly adult social club.
- Wanstead Leisure Centre in Redbridge Lane West is the only leisure centre serving Wanstead and provides a multi- purpose sports hall, badminton courts and a fitness suite and gym. This is well used by the local community Rugby and tennis clubs in Nutter Lane, Wanstead golf and bowls club in Overton Drive, Aldersbrook Bowls club, and tennis and cricket clubs in Overton Drive, all attracting people from both of the current wards.

Entertainment, Bars, Pubs and Restaurants etc

The majority of these are on Wanstead High Street and Cambridge Park with “The George” (at present in Snaresbrook) at the junction of these two roads. There is a vibrant village pub/bar/restaurant area in Wanstead which attracts people from inside and outside the area.

The map for this proposal is shown below in red with the former boundary shown in black. The area south of the A12 remains unchanged.

CLlr Sheila Bain (Wanstead Ward)

