

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION

CONSULTATION ON NEW WARD BOUNDARIES FOR REDBRIDGE

SUBMISSION BY THE CHADWELL COUNCILLORS

1. Chadwell is a historic community which traces its name back to the seventh century Mercian missionary St. Chad. St Chad's Well was an ancient well in Billet Lane with supposed healing properties, but it was destroyed in road widening and is now marked by a roadside plaque. It has never been established that St Chad actually came to the area; rather the village of Chaudewell (meaning 'cold spring') was recorded in 1254, and later known as Chadwell Street (Chadwellestrete) from 1456 to the Ordnance Survey map of 1805. With the growth of suburbs which incorporated hamlets such as Chadwell, the station was opened in 1854. The present community straddles the Redbridge boundary with the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, but is broadly divided into a Redbridge part and a Barking and Dagenham part by St Chad's Park.
2. The community is bounded on the north side by the A12 and on the south side by the railway line from Liverpool Street to Brentwood, Chelmsford and Colchester, which provide substantial physical obstacles that operate as stable geographical boundaries. South of St Chad's Park, the Chadwell Heath High Road provides a focus and connecting artery for the overall community. Whilst the eastern boundary of Chadwell Ward is the borough boundary and (though fixed for the present purpose) to that extent is artificial, it does broadly follow the western edge of St Chad's Park, and south of that, includes the part of Chadwell west of the station. The western boundary was fixed broadly by reference to where IG postcodes and RM postcodes meet, and Chadwell is the only part of Redbridge in the RM district.
3. The Redbridge part of Chadwell Heath centres around Chadwell Heath Lane, which is a major traffic artery, and Grove Road, a subsidiary artery, and the High Road, which runs between the lower ends of Chadwell Heath Lane and Grove Road. Ward residents have easy access to the High Road, where people tend to shop and access services, and the station. Bus route 362 takes passengers along Chadwell Heath Lane and Grove Road to access both the High Road and King George Hospital, and additionally the 175 takes passengers to those destinations all the way along Chadwell Heath Lane. Residents of the independent living units for elderly people (Cunningham Close and Rosewood Court, on the northern half of Chadwell Heath Lane) access the hospital and shops and services on the High Road by means of these buses. For residents living to the south of the High Road, and just north of it, these shops and services are within easy walking distance.
4. A range of shopping and service facilities are available in the ward, mostly on the High Road. Barclays Bank is within the ward, with other banks further along High Road in the Barking and Dagenham part. Chadwell's only remaining pub, the Eva Hart (named after a local celebrity who survived the Titanic) is on the High Road; at the opposite end, the pub became a 'Harvester'. There are four other restaurant/cafes and two takeaways. Whilst both Tesco Express and Sainsburys are in the Barking and Dagenham part, Chadwell ward's High Road hosts the Grove Farm Retail Park, where Lidl and Iceland, as well as Staples and Halfords, are situated. High Road has four car sales outlets. There are a range of independent businesses on the ward's High Road,

including 3 hairdressers and 2 barbers, a greengrocer, a glass merchant, fencing and shed suppliers, aquarium suppliers, a cycle shop, plumbing parts, a florist, beauty clinic, newsagent, off licence, tyres and furniture suppliers, an optician and a dentist. There are GP surgeries throughout the ward.

5. There are two minor shopping hubs. There are corner and convenience mini markets towards the southern end of Chadwell Heath Lane (at the junction with Jarrow Road), where there is also a pharmacy, betting shop and bakery. In Somerville Road, there are two mini-markets.
6. Chadwell is a mixed community of different ethnicities and religions. There are white, African Caribbean and Asian residents. The Anglican St Chad's Church is in the Barking and Dagenham part of Chadwell Heath and is low church; however, it has a hall in the ward in Somerville Road. St Paul's Church on Barley Lane in the Seven Kings Ward provides a higher church setting. The large, well attended, St Bede's Catholic Church, and primary school, are located in the middle of the ward. The ward also includes the Oasis Church in Essex Road and Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG) at the rear of 31-35 High Road. There are three Islamic groups; one holds Friday prayers and celebrations hiring the Keith Axon Centre (Library) in Grove Road. The At Taqwa centre on the High Road and the El Huda women's centre at the former police station in Wangey Road are established Islamic centres. There are community groups such as neighbourhood watches and a residents' association in Shepherds Close, and a Chadwell Heath Historical Society.
7. The ward has three primary schools; in addition to St Bede's, there is Grove Primary on the upper part of Chadwell Heath Lane, and Chadwell Heath Primary on the High Road. Due to a shortage of places, some pupils have to travel to Mayespark Primary and Farham Green Primary. The Chadwell Academy is actually in Seven Kings; most Chadwell secondary pupils attend this school, though some have to travel to Oaks Park due to a shortage of places, which is a difficult journey for pupils and parents; rather than connecting Chadwell to the north, this highlights the A12 barrier as a firm boundary. Chadwell hosts Redbridge College (CFE) at the Little Heath site; this site also hosts the Constance Bridgeman Pupil Referral Unit, and is likely to host the new Sikh Atam Academy for ages 4-18. Initial plans are also being made for a Muslim secondary school in the ward.
8. New housing development throughout Chadwell, particularly in the south, is leading to demand for more school places, services and facilities, and the opening of Crossrail, which will operate via Chadwell station, is likely to lead to further development, as well as providing a transport hub for commuters from all across the ward, and to the south of the railway in Barking and Dagenham.
9. It is the view of the Chadwell councillors that this mixed, vibrant and growing community is best served by a three member councillor team, which provides diversity in terms of gender, ethnicity, religion, age and life experience. Given the largely geographical boundaries referred to in paragraph 2 above and the foci of Chadwell Heath Lane and the High Road, the councillor team favours the retention of broadly the present ward boundaries to maintain the cohesion of this historic but developing community. Nevertheless some minor changes may be helpful, for example, the inclusion in Chadwell of the Quarles Park housing development, which is accessed only via Grove Road within the ward. This would ensure electoral balance, good governance and representation with three members, and the information above

demonstrates that keeping the ward largely the same will preserve Chadwell's distinct community.

Councillor Aziz Choudhury

Councillor Anne Sachs

Councillor Neil Zammett

4 April 2016