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From: Cllr Gwyneth Deakins [REDACTED]

Sent: 16 August 2016 10:50

To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>

Subject: Consultation response: Redbridge Borough Draft Proposal

I am writing in response to the latest proposals for electoral wards for the South Woodford area of Redbridge, specifically the proposed redrawing of Roding, Church End, Wanstead and Snaresbrook wards.

I am currently a councillor for Roding ward.

I am broadly content with the proposed Churchfield ward as there is some justification for using the North Circular as a boundary (although the Central Line is also a significant boundary).

However the proposed division of the remainder of South Woodford - the southern parts of Roding and Church End - into two parts combined with the present wards of Snaresbrook and Wanstead makes no sense whatsoever. South Woodford is a very distinct community separate from Wanstead . Indeed in many sense they are rivals with separate shopping areas and other community hubs and activities. Wanstead and South Woodford have their own community societies - the South Woodford Society and the Wanstead Society - who pursue their own distinct agendas. Indeed the South Woodford Society is in the process of developing its own Neighbourhood Plan for their area. People who live in the polling districts of R3 and R4 in Roding are very clear that they live in South Woodford (the E18 postal district) - they use South Woodford-based shopping and other services - and have nothing in common with Wanstead.

To place an area as far north as the streets near Charlie Brown's Roundabout in 'Wanstead' is ridiculous and would bring the electoral boundary review process into disrepute.

It would make far more sense to create a South Woodford ward south of the A406 including the southern parts of the present Church End and Roding wards. The boundary could be roughly where currently Roding ward borders Snaresbrook and a line roughly level with that on the other side of the Central Line. The rest of Wanstead/Snaresbrook could form a coherent Wanstead Village ward which would recognise the reality of the community there.

The current proposal follows the proposal by the Conservative party which is a blatant attempt by them to maximise their chances (as they see it) of retaining seats in the area. It has no other rationale. I strongly urge you not to allow yourselves to appear to have been manipulated by one political party, with a proposal which completely ignores the reality of the communities in the area.

Gwyneth Deakins  
Councillor for Roding ward.

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