

I have lived in Sanderstead virtually all my life. My parents bought their first house in Hamsey Green where we lived in a property facing farm land – now Cherry Tree Green housing estate. They later moved to what is more commonly known (because of the hill) as lower Sanderstead in Purley Oaks Road, where I now reside.

In terms of the geography of the area it is clearly noted in the Domesday Book, with an important history that started with three tithe farms. The opening of the railway – Sanderstead station and Purley Oaks station along with the bus route from Croydon gave good transportation links to the residents in the area and the schools. Sanderstead station should most certainly be within the boundary of the Sanderstead ward.

The Sanderstead Residents' Association, which was formed in 1926 previously known as the Sanderstead Rate Payers Association clearly shows the map of Sanderstead, which I would say is pretty much where the people in the area believe the boundary of Sanderstead should be. The website [sanderstead-residents.co.uk](http://sanderstead-residents.co.uk) shows an outline of the area it serves, which I know has a membership which covers properties from the border with Surrey down to Purley Oaks station and from Hyde Road, Westfield Avenue over to the Upper Selsdon Road and to the Selsdon Park Hotel, which until fairly recently always had a Sanderstead address.

There is quite a distinct boundary with Surrey and up to the Upper Selsdon Road with a clear demarcation at Croham Hurst Woods where the area of South Croydon is noted as where people live. I have always thought that there should be a South Croydon ward as this is quite a distinct place unlike "Croham" or indeed "Heathfield", which nobody seems to recognise as an actual place.

The Parish of Sanderstead includes All Saints Church, which is considered the centre of Sanderstead and the village, St Mary's Church in Purley Oaks Road, St Antony's in Hamsey Green and St Edmunds in Riddlesdown. The website [sanderstead-parish.org.uk](http://sanderstead-parish.org.uk) shows the parish boundary map. It perhaps extends further than the SRA residents' association area because it includes Riddlesdown.

Riddlesdown is the area that spans from Copthorne Rise to the current Purley ward boundary. Much of the open land in Riddlesdown is what is left of the original tithe farms. Councillors in Sanderstead and Purley cover this area and residents in the locality struggle with their identity. Some say that they are living in Purley and some say that they are living in Sanderstead. Those that live in and around Riddlesdown school and Riddlesdown railway station probably have more of an affiliation with Purley. The town centre and bus and train facilities as well as the library and hospital in Purley are considered local to them. Purley Downs golf course forms the boundary for Sanderstead residents.

It is quite common for constituents in this area to contact the Purley councillors and they are constantly making referrals to the Sanderstead councillors. Likewise those residents that live in the area such as Norfolk Avenue Arkwright Road, Elmfield Way contact the Sanderstead councillors thinking that is where they live.

It is not often an opportunity arises to change your ward boundaries and I think that we have a real opportunity here to properly identify communities and attach them to the places that they believe they have lived in all their lives. Historic information is helpful in this process and I think that much of the work has been set on paper for you by resident associations and parish churches.

I have never been involved in this process before but would be happy to talk to anyone involved in the mapping of the ward boundary and show them around Sanderstead so that they can get an opportunity to see at first hand the area.

Cllr Yvette Hopley

Sanderstead Ward Councillor

