

PARISH OF ESHER

Christ Church, Esher with St George's, West End



Sharing the power of God's love in Esher
Reconciling - Sustaining- Guiding - Healing

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor Milbank Terrace
London
SW1P 4QP

21st August 2015

Dear Review Officer (Elmbridge),

ELMBRIDGE DISTRICT (ESHER) BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Parochial Church Council of Christ Church, Esher have considered and wish to affirm the recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for the new ward of Esher & Hersham Riverside.

However, we understand that Elmbridge Borough Council have now made counter proposals which involve moving the following roads into the proposed new ward of Hinchley Wood and Weston Green: Arran Way, Farm Road, Douglas Road, Joseph Locke Way, Mill Road and Sherriff Close. These roads form part of the Lower Green area, and contain c. 700 residents.

We strongly object to this proposal. It will seriously diminish the strong geographical, social, faith, and educational links between this part of Lower Green and the rest of the Esher ward which have been developed, nurtured, and strengthened over, at least, the past 30 years and we believe much longer. These links are vital for social cohesion across areas of the ward and communities with significantly different levels of deprivation.

The geographical links include a road, More Lane, under the bridge and pedestrian tunnel under the railway (onto Douglas Road) which links Lower Green with Esher Station, Sandown, and via More Lane into the centre of Esher itself.

The Esher ward schools, Esher High School and Esher Church School, serve many of the children from this area of Lower Green.

The Parish Church, Christ Church, Esher, is the nominated parish by the Church of England to serve this area of Lower Green. It does this in a variety of ways, including: Provision of governance and support to both the aforementioned schools. Provision of trustees and treasurer to the Lower Green Community Association. Co-founding and continuing partner in the foodbank which serves the community. Provision of extensive pastoral care and support to the people of this community, many of whom are members of our church community.

Rector

Revd Dr Stefan Collier

[Redacted signature block]

Website

www.esherparish.org.uk

[Redacted signature block]

Parish Office

Christ Church

[Redacted signature block]

The proposal to move this area of Lower Green to the new ward of Hinchley Wood & Weston Green will seriously damage the social cohesion between it and the rest of the Esher ward which have been developed, nurtured, and are growing through many years of mutual investment.

We support the Boundary Commission recommendations.

Yours Sincerely,

Revd Dr Stefan Collier
Rector of Esher, Chairman of Esher Parochial Church Council