

## Ashby, Jonathan

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**From:** Edward Hawkins [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 20 March 2017 08:42  
**To:** reviews  
**Subject:** ELECTORAL REVIEW OF SURREY HEATH: DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS; PARKSIDE WARD

Dear Sirs

Under the draft proposals of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England dated 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017, the Commission recommended that Parkside Ward in Surrey Heath be reduced to two councillors and Heatherside remain at three councillors. As a result both wards will have a “good level of electoral equality” by 2022.

It should be noted that Good Electoral Equality means, as set out in Point 18 of Section 2 in the Commission’s report dated January 2017 “When the number of electors per councillor in a ward is within 10% of the average for the authority”. All but one of the proposed wards for Surrey Heath will have electoral equality by 2022.

The Commission said that it had received a number of submissions citing local evidence that supported the Council’s proposal to incorporate part of Parkside ward into Heatherside ward. It should be noted that in this instance Surrey Heath Borough Council (SHBC) was merely acting as a post box in that at an earlier meeting of the Full Council it was unable to make a decision on the merits of either case. To infer that this was an option supported by the SHBC is misleading.

As a Borough Councillor and resident of Parkside Ward I disagree with the decision taken and request that the Commission carries out a further review.

The “Shared Interests” criteria as contained in the Commissions guide issued at the commencement of the review says that major roads can create strong boundaries between areas and this is the case for the wards of Parkside and Heatherside with the Upper Chobham Road having such an impact. The road is one of the major routes linking the rural part of Surrey Heath with schools, Camberley Town Centre and Frimley Park Hospital. With further residential development at Deepcut, the importance of this road as a thoroughfare will increase.

Whilst notionally adjoining, separated by the Upper Chobham Road the two wards are different areas in terms of housing and environment.

Under the proposal from the Boundary Commission, the revised warding arrangement will be

Ward	Date	Electors	Variance	Date	Electors	Variance
Parkside	2016	3,932	1.13%	2022	3,932	-2.44%
Heatherside	2016	5,993	2.76%	2022	6,613	2.15%

I have included the 2016 column although it is irrelevant as the changes will not take place until the next elections in 2019. The figure required for a good level of electoral equality in 2016 is 1,994 and 2022 is 2,011 per councillor.

It is my contention that the decision taken and the locational map used are both flawed and have been used purely for a number gathering exercise and that the Commission should revisit its unpopular decision and a wider public consultation be carried out prior to a final decision being taken. In this instance the Commission should properly

examine the linkages between the various elements of the two wards from which it would be clear that other than a shared County Councillor, there is minimal similarity.

Notwithstanding my comments above, the Commission should in any case re-examine the following areas which have been included in Heatherside but are an integral part of Parkside and ought to remain in Parkside ward.

Road	Houses	Electorate	Reason
Youlden Close and Youlden Drive	44	97	There is no current vehicular access for these roads to Copped Hall Estate which is the main area proposed to be transferred. These roads are accessed off Ravenswood Roundabout which remains in Parkside. Both are remote to Heatherside.
Hillsborough Park	59	131	This is part of the wider Springfield Road neighbourhood and is an integral part of Parkside with the golf course as part of the shared community. There is no synergy with Heatherside
Springfield Road	6	11	The rest of Springfield Road has been included in Parkside and we see no reason why these 6 houses should be excluded. Like Hillsborough Park they have no synergy with Heatherside.
Upper Chobham Road	9	20	There are two sections of houses. One is the part between Springfield Road and Prior Road whilst the other is between the two access routes to Hillsborough Park. Again, although only separated by the main road, there is no synergy with Heatherside in property style and layout

In respect of Youlden Close and Youlden Drive, a resolution was agreed by the Full Council of SHBC on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 to request that the Chief Executive seeks the re-instatement of these roads in Parkside as part of the overall response to the draft recommendations. There was not sufficient available time to debate further roads given the number of variations to the Commission's recommendations throughout Surrey Heath and it was left to individuals to make their own representations.

The total electorate covered in the above table is 259. The inclusion of these areas which are important to the overall mix of Parkside but which have no synergy with large parts of Heatherside, will give Parkside a total of 4,191 electorate in both 2016 and 2022.

For 2022, the Parkside variance will be an increase of 4.2%. For Heatherside, the 2022 variance will minus 2.14%. These variances will be within the Commissions' Good Electoral Equality.

I trust that you will be able to reconsider the draft proposals and as a minimum, return the listed roads to Parkside

Edward Hawkins  
 Councillor - Surrey Heath Borough Council  
 Parkside Ward