

**Croydon London Borough****Personal Details:**

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**Comment text:**

PARK HILL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION CROYDON SUBMISSION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION Park Hill Residents Association represents 2,600 households in part of the Fairfield Ward in the London Borough of Croydon. Under the Commission's proposals most of the area would become part of the new Addiscombe East/Park Hill ward. We object to this because it does not reflect community identities in this part of Croydon. 2. We fully accept the need to revise the boundaries of wards in Croydon as a whole so that the population of wards is more equal. The present Fairfield Ward is large and unwieldy, covering the town centre as well as suburbs and inner areas. It is necessary and desirable that it should be replaced, especially with the projected increase in the population of the town centre. We accept too that it makes sense to do this as part of a change spanning the whole of the Borough; that the Commission's proposals are carefully integrated; and that it is difficult to change recommendations in one area without affecting other areas. 3. However we do not consider that the Commission's proposals for Addiscombe East are satisfactory. We have no objection to the western boundary with the railway - that is a significant divide. But we dissent on the proposed northern and eastern boundaries. 4. Addiscombe Road is in our view a significant divide. The Park Hill area to the south of Addiscombe Road is very different in many respects to the area to the north of it. Most of the houses and flats in Park Hill were built in the 1960s and 1970s by Wates to a distinctive specification. As a result the area has a notable homogeneity, reflected in the landscaping and in particular the tree-lined streets and developments. The area has a range of building types - detached and terraced houses and flats of varying sizes. But the appearance and outlook are very different to housing north of Addiscombe Road. There is for instance no multiple occupation. The through traffic is confined to a few roads and is not a major problem. Parking is adequate for the needs of residents. The level of deprivation differs sharply. The area has a focus - with a Church which provides a base for a wide range of community activities and a convenience store. There is a single Residents Association which covers the whole area - unlike those to the north of Addiscombe Road where there are a number of small Associations covering different areas. We consider that we meet the criterion of community identity in the Commission's specification and that this should be reflected in the ward boundaries. 5. We accept however the need for electoral equality and that we would need to be part of a larger unit. We think that this unit should include the Whitgift Estate which adjoins us to the east, with Addiscombe Road as a boundary to the roundabout at Trinity School. The two areas merge into each other. Indeed the eastern boundary of the Association has always been difficult to define. The housing stock is older and larger on the Whitgift Estate than in Park Hill but we have more in common with the Whitgift estate than with the area to the north of Addiscombe Road. The Residents Associations for the two areas have worked together on a number of issues over many years and would prefer to remain together in one ward, rather than being separated as under the Commission's proposals. 6. Together Park Hill and the Whitgift Estate have about 6,000 electors and we recognise that even a two member ward covering these areas would not be large enough to achieve the Commission's aim of electoral equality. It would be difficult to go further east because this would impinge on Shirley. We think however that there is scope to go south across Coombe Road to Croham Road. 7 We propose therefore that a new ward should be formed - Lloyd Park - comprising Park Hill, the Whitgift Estate and the area between Coombe Road and Croham Road from the railway east to Conduit Lane. This area has a unity gathered around Lloyd Park. We recognise that Coombe Road can be regarded as a divide but Coombe Road is also a boundary. From the 1920s until 1997 the ward boundary ran along Croham Road rather than Coombe Road, so there is a precedent for Croham Road as a boundary. Taken together this area would have about 7,550 electors - sufficient for a two-member ward. Moreover, this change would not significantly affect the viability of the proposed South Croydon ward which could be a two member ward. 8. Accordingly we invite the Commission:- To re-consider its proposals for an Addiscombe East/Park Hill ward in Croydon on the grounds that this would not reflect community identities and reflect local ties; To examine instead the scope for a new two member ward - Lloyd Park - covering Park Hill and the Whitgift Estate and the area between Coombe Road and Croham Road. It would be bordered by the railway, Croham Road, Conduit Lane, Lloyd Park and Addiscombe Road. April 2017

**Uploaded Documents:**

None Uploaded