

Croydon London Borough

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Dear Sirs I am writing in connection with the Ward review for the London Borough of Croydon. My full submission is in the attached document. Yours sincerely Councillor Mike Fisher Shirley ward London Borough of Croydon

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Dear Sirs

Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England regarding the warding pattern for the London Borough of Croydon

I am writing in connection with the above review. I have been an elected Councillor in the London Borough of Croydon for 22 years out of the last 26. For the last 18 years I have represented the Shirley area of Croydon, firstly as a member for Spring Park Ward and latterly as a member of Shirley Ward.

My submission will centre mainly on the Shirley area that I represent. However, I am very supportive of the idea that the overall warding pattern for Croydon should where possible respect the places of Croydon as set out in the Councils places of Croydon map. This map was drawn up on a cross party basis during my time as the Leader of the Council and I believe that on the whole it accurately reflects the recognisable areas of the Borough.

Shirley Area

Shirley is one of the places of Croydon as set out in the Councils planning map. People who live in the Shirley area recognise it as a place and they would identify themselves as living in Shirley.

The ward boundaries were last changed in 2002 and prior to this most of Shirley sat in two 2 member wards, Spring Park and Monks Orchard. Some areas of Shirley Park and Shirley Hills sat in the Ashburton and Heathfield Wards respectively. The 2002 review saw Heathfield take areas in the West of Monks Orchard and Spring Park Wards, whilst Ashburton ward took in a large part of North Shirley from Longheath Gardens to Orchard Avenue.

I believe that the current review offers an opportunity for the whole of Shirley to be included in 2 Wards within the Boundaries set out below:

East Boundary - The Eastern Boundary is provided by the Borough Boundary with Bromley.

Wesr Boundary - The Western Boundary is the Shirley Road and the western boundary of Shirley Park Golf course at the junction with Oaks Road and Coombe Lane.

Southern Boundary - The Southern Boundary is marked by width restrictor at the Spout Hill end of Shirley Church Road and the junction of Shirley Hills Road with Bishops Walk.

North Boundary - The Northern Boundary is the northern edge of the Tollgate and Longheath Gardens estates. These estates can only be accessed and exited by car via Long Lane and Spring Lane and in my opinion are therefore strongly linked to the Southern side of Long Lane in Shirley.

These boundaries are similar to the pre 2002 boundaries of Spring Park and Monks Orchard Wards but include parts of Shirley such as the Tollgate and Stroud Green estates that are linked very strongly to Shirley but were included in Ashburton Ward solely in order to make the number of electors fit the ward sizing.

These boundaries produce an electorate big enough for 5 or so Councillors. I would suggest that a natural dividing line is the Wickham Road and if the ward boundaries were located along the Wickham Road it would produce a Southern Ward with 2 Councillors and a Northern ward of 3 Councillors.

Yours sincerely

Councillor Mike Fisher
Shirley Ward
London Borough of Croydon