



The Review Officer (Elmbridge)
LGBCE
14th Floor, Millbank Tower
London SW1P 4PQ

21 August 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Elmbridge Borough Council Boundary Review
Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

As stated in my previous correspondence, I remain firmly of the belief that reducing the number of councillors elected to Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) is an extremely retrograde step and one which will have a detrimental effect on its residents. However, it appears that the excellent letter submitted by Cllr Stuart Selleck on behalf of the Residents' Association Councillors, which clearly demonstrated the need to retain all 60 councillors, fell on 'deaf ears' and we must now acknowledge that the Commission has recommended a council of 48 members for election in 2016.

It is with this in mind that I have given much consideration to the draft recommendations and proposed electoral arrangements for EBC, studied the relevant maps, and would like to make the following comments.

In my previous submission of 29th March 2015 I outlined the rationale behind keeping the cohesive, close-knit community of Weston Green intact. I am delighted therefore that Weston Green has remained as a 'whole' throughout the review process.

In that submission I also expressed my strong opposition to the severing of the Hinchley Wood Ward and tacking **half** of it to the Weston Green Ward. I pointed out that, like Weston Green, Hinchley Wood was a strong, cohesive community that needed preserving as a whole. I also stated that there were logistical problems in combining the two wards not - least because in order to access Hinchley Wood from Weston Green (and vice versa) you would have to negotiate the notorious Scilly Isles, the very busy A309, and an arterial railway line that separates the two wards.

However, the latest LGBCE's draft recommendation recommends that the Hinchley Wood Ward remains mainly intact, and I fully support this decision. The 'physical barriers' mentioned above remain a problem, but I feel that this is partially mitigated by the decision to keep Hinchley Wood together as a community.

The Electoral Review Working Group considered the LGBCE's latest proposals at its meeting of the 8th July 2015 and it was agreed that a further addition should be recommended regarding the Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Ward. This addition (at present in the ESHER Ward) involved relocating the section of Arran Way and the eastern section of Douglas Road from the junction of Arran Way, to Hinchley Wood and Weston Green. This would encompass the newly-sited Cranmere School, the access to which will be via Arran Way. I strongly support this addition as there are long-standing historical links between Cranmere School and Weston Green. It is worth noting that the present school is located at the end of 'The Drive' which is a part of the Weston Green Ward.

For a period of four years I served on the Board of Governors of Cranmere School. During that time I was very aware of the thriving Parent Teacher Association. I recall that several of the most active members were families who lived in Weston Green. This still remains the case. Likewise, many of my fellow governors were also lived in the Weston Green Ward.

The present Chairman of Governors, until very recently, lived in The Drive. As the result of a move out of the area this chairman has now decided to retire. The governor who has recently been invited to take over the role of Chairman is a Weston Green resident. It is also worth mentioning that a large number of 'Cranmere families' attend the church of All Saints, Weston which is in the heart of Weston Green.

It therefore makes complete sense to include this area in the newly-formed Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Ward and I fully support the Electoral Review Working Party's recommendation of 8th July 2015.

The Electoral Review Working Party also suggested that consideration should be given to the relocating of the **whole** of the area known as Lower Green to the newly formed Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Ward.

The Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents' Association, when considering the recommendations of the LGCBE, also looked at this proposal at its meeting of 9th July 2015. It was agreed that this recommendation be supported as there are strong historical links between the area of Lower Green and Weston Green - not least being the pastoral links with All Saints, Weston. The Chairman of the Association has written to the LGBCE to this effect.

In the not-too-distant past, Police Panel Meetings were held at the Community Hall in Lower Green. As a Weston Green Ward Councillor, I (and the previous local member) used to attend these meetings, as it was recognised that some of the problems emanating from Lower Green had a knock-on effect on Weston Green. Both the police and the residents who attended those meetings were appreciative of the involvement of the Weston Green councillors. Although those Panel Meetings were disbanded, there is currently a move to restore them.

It is also important to note that the Surrey Police Authority neighbourhood area scheme puts Lower Green and Weston Green together in the same area. The two areas share the same Police Community Support Officers.

I would therefore fully support the Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents' recommendation, and subsequently the Electoral Review Working Group's recommendation, (ratified at Full Council 22nd July) that the entire area of Lower Green north of the railway line be transferred, in its entirety, to the newly formed Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Ward.

However, should the Boundary Commission decide **not** to add the **entire** Lower Green area into the newly formed Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Ward, I would strongly support the relocation of Arran Way and the eastern section of Douglas Road (from the junction of Arran Way) to the newly formed Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Ward.

Yours faithfully

Tannia Shipley (Mrs)
Cllr: Weston Green Ward
Deputy Mayor.