

Tandridge Parish Council

26th April 2011

The Boundary Commission
The Review Officer (Surrey)
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London
EC1M 5LG

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Dear Sir/Madam

Electoral Commission and Revision of Divisional Boundaries of Surrey County Council (SCC)

We are extremely concerned to learn that the Boundary Commission are currently proposing to move Tandridge into the Godstone county division from the Oxted electoral ward, in order to even up electoral populations in Surrey. We were only recently made aware of this proposal and are both surprised and disappointed that there has been no communication, or consultation, with the Parish Council, the District Council or the residents. We voiced our objection to our County Councillor, Nick Skellett, who is also opposed to the proposals and are disappointed to see that, despite this, SCC have ignored our views and submitted a response suggesting that Tandridge should be moved.

On behalf of the residents of Tandridge Parish we wish to voice our strong objections to the proposal for a number of reasons, not least due to the lack of consultation. The residents of Tandridge have always considered themselves to be part of the Oxted community, with whom they have strong social and family links, and have never considered themselves to be part of Godstone. The residents prefer to use Oxted for shopping and the majority are registered with health and dental surgeries in Oxted. Most of the children in the Parish attend schools in Oxted and parishioners also regularly use cultural and other facilities in Oxted such as the library, the post office, the cinema, the theatre, the sports facilities in Limpsfield & Master Park, the leisure centre, the two weekly markets, the banks, the restaurants and facilities aimed at the elderly,

We believe that moving the boundary purely to balance electoral numbers would offer no benefit whatsoever to the parishioners and, indeed, is likely to be detrimental in terms of access to the facilities in Oxted that parishioners currently enjoy and, in many cases, rely on. We believe that too much focus is being made on the first statutory criteria, electoral equality, and not enough on the second two criteria, community identity and convenient local government.

For these reasons we strongly urge you to leave Tandridge within the Oxted electoral ward.

Yours sincerely



Tracy McCormack
Clerk to Tandridge Parish Council

cc Nick Skellet, County Councillor, Surrey County Council
Gordon Keymer, Leader of the Council, Tandridge District Council