

# Nork Residents' Association

Chairman: George Hinton



31 March 2011

## Local Government Boundary Commission for England

(Sent by Email)

### Reference: Review of Surrey County Council

Dear Sirs

We are pleased to make our submission in connection with the review of Surrey County Council.

We are a long-established Residents' Association representing the residents of the Nork Ward of Reigate & Banstead Borough Council, and comprising half of the County Council Division of Banstead West. The other half of the Division is represented by the Tattenhams Residents' Association.

We have a membership of about 1700 out of about 2900 households in the ward. For your information, we have since 1988 put up candidates for councillor at the Borough elections, holding all three seats in the Ward, and more recently for the County Council.

We agree with the main points put forward by the County Council in describing the area and its boundaries, and the rationale for an electoral division broadly along the lines proposed by the County Council in its input to yourselves. For completeness, we set out the relevant section below:

“The Division of Nork & Tattenhams follows the border with Epsom & Ewell to the north and west, and the A217 (the main arterial road) to the east. To the south, the border is the common land at Burg Heath, Chetwode Road (the main east/west axis road in the Preston Ha we estate), the ancient woodland of Pit Wood, and the Tattenham Corner railway line.

Nork & Tattenhams comprises two Borough wards, and taken together are part of a homogenous suburban community. They are each served by their own Residents' Association and church (St Paul's in Nork, and The United Church of St Mark in Tattenhams), and other community groups. At the centre of the Division is the parkland of Nork Park and the adjacent Tattenhams Recreation Ground. There is no single shopping centre, rather four small shopping parades, with Tattenham Corner being somewhat the largest, and which also includes a health centre and library. Most of the Division looks across Epsom Downs to Epsom town centre in the neighbouring borough as its focus (main shopping centre, hospital, main railway line, theatre, cinema etc), to which there are good bus services, rather than the smaller Banstead Village centre, across the A217 dual carriageway.”

We agree with the proposal to rename the division as "Nork and Tattenhams" which is much more meaningful to local people than "Banstead West".

We understand that the Tattenhams Residents' Association will also be writing to you along similar lines in support of these proposals.

However, where we disagree with the County Council is in respect of the proposal to move 292 voters out of the proposed Nork and Tattenhams Division, and into the new Tadworth, Walton and Kingswood Division. The County's submission is as follows:

"In the interest of electoral equality, part of Tattenhams Ward (292 electors) is proposed as part of the Tadworth, Walton and Kingswood Division. These are the small part of Whitegate Way (34 electors), all of Che twode Road (251 electors) and the adjacent part of Merland Rise (7 electors)."

Although the move of these electors would be in the interests of electoral equality (one of your criteria), it would unnecessarily disrupt the community identity and effective and convenient local government (your other two criteria), by not following the established ward boundaries. It should also be noted that the move of these voters into the Tadworth, Walton and Kingswood division would straddle the parliamentary boundary (the electors concerned being part of Epsom & Ewell, the remainder are part of the Reigate constituency).

The two proposed wards (Nork and Tattenhams; Tadworth, Walton and Kingswood) are both within the 10% tolerance level compared to the average within the County, and thus the change to create electoral equality is not as strong as it might be.

In this thinking we share the views of the Tattenhams Residents' Association who are providing a more detailed analysis of the roads at the southern boundary.

The current Banstead West Division, renamed Nork and Tattenhams, should remain unchanged from the current boundaries. Electoral equality might argue for a small adjustment, but community identity argues for no change.

Yours sincerely

George W Hinton  
Chairman