



RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Chairman: John Edwards



30th 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 Tattenhams 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 Nork Residents' Association.

We have a membership of about 1,800 out of about 3,000 households in the ward. For your information, we have over the last decade put up candidates for councillor at the County and Borough Councils.

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 Burgh Heath, Chetwode Road (the main east/west axis road in the Preston Howe 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.

We understand that the Nork 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 Chetwode 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.

However, to aid your consideration of these matters, we set out an analysis of the individual roads, to guide your thinking, should you be minded to follow the County Council submission. The sequence of the adjustments to the electorate (shown as options) is from the 'least' to the 'most' undesirable adjustments from our view as representing local residents. The numbers are based on the 2016 forecasts, and the percentages quoted are in relation to the County average electorate per division.

County Average Electorate (2016): 10,980	Nork & Tattenhams	Tadworth, Walton & Kingswood
Projection of 2016 Electors, as set out in the submission of the Nork and Tattenhams Residents' Association (this letter) OUR FAVOURED OPTION (Option 0)	12,051 (+9.75%)	11,270 (+2.64%)
<u>Option 1:</u> Transfer of part of Whitegate Way This allows this entire road to be in a single division	-34 (-0.00%)	+34 (+0.00%)
<u>Option 2:</u> Transfer of the south side of Chetwode Road (evens), plus the electors on the adjacent south-east corner of Merland Rise This allows a strong and recognisable boundary, being the middle of Chetwode Road	-115 (-1.05%) -7(0.00%)	+115 (+1.05%) +7 (0.00%)
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	1,895 (+8.32%)	11,426 (+4.08%)
<u>Option 3:</u> Transfer the north side of Chetwode Road (odds) This has the disadvantage of creating a very blurred boundary, as parts of this side of the road have intervening sections of Broad Walk and Long Walk	-136 (-1.24%)	+136 (+1.24%)
County Council's Submission	11,759 (+7.01%)	11,562 (5.30%)

If it was desired to equalise further, roads which could be considered are:

- Broad Walk (comprising the separate elements of the Merfield and Alnod flats, plus Chavecroft and Chavecroft Terrace (63 electors, being 0.58%), but this would create a very blurred boundary with Long Walk.
- Oatfield Road and Ashcombe Terrace (143 electors, being 1.30%), at the south west part of the current division. These roads relate closely to Epsom Downs and the switchback road of Epsom Lane North and the remainder of the Tattenhams Ward, and are separated from the Tadworth, Walton and Kingswood Division by the very strong boundary of the railway embankment. In any event, switching this road is more than is required to equalise the two divisions.

We would therefore reject consideration of moving these roads into the Tadworth, Walton and Kingswood Division.

In conclusion we are very much of the opinion that 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,

John Edwards

Chairman
Tattenhams Residents' Association