

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council

Personal Details:

Name:

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name: Stamford Ward Residents' Association (SWRA)

Comment text:

My name is [REDACTED] Stamford Ward Residents' Association (SWRA). I have heard rumours that the Local Government Boundary Commission is intending to split this Ward into two, or rather that the intention is to create a new Ward to include the Hospital Cluster Group of new housing developments, namely Noble Park, Manor Park and Clarendon Park. The first two estates are currently located in Stamford Ward while Clarendon Park is I believe in Court Ward. Could you confirm whether this is indeed the Commission's intention? Could you also confirm that the new Ward, if it is to be created, will comprise only the named estates or will it also include Livingston Park estate (adjacent to Horton Retail Centre) for example? In general, in this country, we suffer from a democratic deficit in that, compared with similar countries in Western Europe, there are somewhat more voters to each locally elected representative (I refer to local Borough and District Councillors) than in these other countries. The objective of the Commission is to reduce this representation still further from the current 38 to 35 for the Borough of Epsom & Ewell, which is not, in the view of the SWRA, a step in the right direction. The population of the Borough is estimated to increase over the next few decades (it is presently c. 78,000), so we should be getting more Councillors not fewer. There is also the very real threat of the initiative from Surrey County Council to re-create itself as a unitary authority, thereby abolishing at a stroke, and without taking into account the wishes of the electorate, all 11 Borough and District Councils in the County. It would seem to be more urgent to counter this egregiously anti-democratic move from Surrey County Council than to seek to redraw the electoral boundaries of authorities, which would in any case cease to exist if this initiative gained the assent of central government and was therefore put into effect. In fact, the Commission's proposals look, in this wider context, like re-arranging the deck chairs on the Titanic of local government as we approach the iceberg of the unitary authority.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded