

Mole Valley District Council

Personal Details:

Name:

E-mail:

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Organisation Name:

Comment text:

Dear Members of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England, I have a few proposals for the name of the new (provisionally named) Brockham and Box Hill ward. My first proposal for the ward's name is: The North Downs and Greensand. This avoids the problem of either choosing some of the settlements or trying to include all of them in an ungainly long name. By describing the geography and geology of the area I think it is very suitable. Both Box Hill and Headley sit up on the North Downs and there is also the North Downs Primary School in Betchworth and Brockham making that part of the ward name appropriate. The villages of Betchworth, Brockham and Buckland all sit fully (or largely) on top of the Lower Greensand geological formation which runs to the east and west (including the Greensand ridge hills of Leith Hill, Holmebury Hill and Pitch Hill to the SW of Dorking) and between the chalk downs to the north and the Weald Clay formation to the south. Furthermore, the three villages are linked by the Greensand Way footpath, a long distance footpath that follows the geological formation of the same name across Surrey and Kent. This name therefore combines the prominent hills that every local would be familiar with and make up half of the ward of Box Hill and Headley (The North Downs) and a word for the geological formation and footpath that links Brockham, Betchworth and Buckland (Greensand). I think this name should be considered for the ward for the above reasons stated and the fact that it neither favours any particular village or villages over any other and also isn't too long which listing all five villages would possibly be. It also attempts to describe the area of and around the villages without being too generic such as naming the ward "Rural Mole Valley" or similar. Alternatively I have a couple of similar names. One is to drop the definite article from my first proposal, thus: North Downs and Greensand. This would just be to make it slightly shorter. And it could be made shorter still by removing the word "North" so it would be: Downs and Greensand. I think my initial name is better but if brevity is preferred then these are viable options. A fourth option I have thought of is: The North Downs and Vale of Holmesdale. I have explained above why I think having the North Downs in the name is a good idea while the Vale of Holmesdale is the name of the valley which runs from Folkestone in the east to Farnham in the west just to the south of the North Downs and therefore the villages of Brockham, Betchworth and Buckland are firmly in the Vale of Holmesdale. While the Vale of Holmesdale is not a very well known as a geographical entity, it perfectly describes the land around Brockham, Betchworth and Buckland and combined with The North Downs part of the ward name, it covers the whole of the ward. If none of my options are chosen, then I would prefer a name that incorporates more villages than just Brockham and Box Hill. While Brockham is the largest settlement, the name does not include Betchworth even though it is the postal village of Brockham and has a train station which doesn't make sense. Betchworth also has the best transport links to the other settlements in the ward, being between Brockham and Buckland and with Box Hill and Headley just up Pebble Hill Road. Additionally, the name does not include Headley, which is a completely distinct settlement from Box Hill. Thank you very much for reading my proposals and thoughts on the name of this ward. Yours faithfully, [REDACTED]

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