

Mansfield, Simon

From: Councillor Hawksworth <Councillor.Hawksworth@molevalley.gov.uk>
Sent: 04 December 2021 23:54
To: reviews
Cc: Councillor Harper; Councillor Cooper; Councillor Stansfield; Councillor Wiltshire; Hunt, [REDACTED]
Subject: MOLE VALLEY DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

Categories: Submissions, Simon

Dear Commissioners,

I write as Leader of the Informal Independent Group, which includes seven District Councillors sitting as Ashted Independents. The contents of this submission reflect and to some extent expand on those of discussions within the Group, although because of time constraints and a recent hospitalization I have not been able to clear this with all before getting this off to meet your deadline of the 6th. Some of them may already have contacted you, but in any case I have copied them into this response for information .

I wish to point out that while I was one of the two non-Liberal Democrat members of the Cabinet Working Group established to prepare a report to you, and that this was adopted by Liberal Democrat majority Council, I do not consider that it adequately reflects the special and discrete nature of Ashted -- the area with the largest number of electors in the District.

Most importantly, we see the M25 as a firm boundary between Leatherhead and Ashted which should remain as it is. The area which it is projected by some to move into Leatherhead, the Ermyn Way area, is an integral part of Ashted for the following respects:

- It is covered by the adopted Ashted Neighbourhood Development Plan
- It includes members of the Ashted Residents Association
- It is serviced by Ashted Good Neighbours voluntary transport service for the elderly and inform
- Residents in the area have a long tradition of dealing with sitting Ashted Councillors
- Major new developments are proposed in the Draft Local Plan (Section 19 version) which are on opposite sides of the same road and work on these and issues arising from them need to be co-ordinated
- It shares major traffic issues with Ashted, especially at the Grange Road/Ermyn Way/Leatherhead cross-roads
- Residents on both sides of Ermyn Way use the same schools, shopping areas, GP surgeries, pharmacies, bus routes, community facilities (Ashted Peace Memorial Hall), recreation ground, railway station, and enjoy Ashted Common

- Residents on both sides also belong to many of the roughly 90 Ashtead-based voluntary, sports, leisure, and social clubs
- The proposed boundary along Green Lane/Ermyrn Way is of major local heritage importance as part of the ancient route from Roman Stane Street across Ashtead to Leatherhead, with a significant hedge and associated TPO-protected woodland strip
- It is possible that the Saxon burial (possible execution) archaeological site on the north side of Ermyrn Way opposite the new development in the Exon-Mobil site extends into the planned Ermyrn Fields Developments (trial excavations have not been carried out)
- CIL monies derived from the Ermyrn Fields development should be allocated to Ashtead and not Leatherhead as it is Ashtead as a whole that will be impacted and the effects ameliorated
- Residents throughout Ashtead, and not only the Ermyrn Way area, use the shopping centre in Leatherhead (though more use is made of Epsom centre than Leatherhead)

While we regret the prospect of the loss of one Council seat in Ashtead, we are prepared to live with slightly more than the target number of electors per Councillor in order to retain the current circumscription of Ashtead. A north-south two ward split, with a boundary drawn along Ottways Lane, down Woodfield Lane, and then along Meadow Roady and Bramley Way to Epsom Road, could help make the two new wards more equal in elector numbers.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration,

David H.

Councillor D L Hawksworth CBE
 Leader, Ashtead Independents
 Councillor for Ashtead Common Ward

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