

Mansfield, Simon

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 10 December 2021 18:42
To: reviews
Subject: Draft recommendations for Epsom & Ewell Borough Council- proposed new boundaries for Stamford Ward

Categories: Submissions, Simon

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing as a resident of Stamford Ward and with regard to the proposal in the Draft Recommendations for Local Govt. Boundary Changes in this Borough that Court Recreation Ground should be removed from Stamford Ward and re-allocated to Epsom Town Ward instead. I am the owner of a house in the road that runs along the west side of the Recreation Ground (affectionately know in the Ward as Court Rec.) and our houses back onto the Rec. itself. My neighbours and I are very concerned to have learned about this proposal and we can see no logical reason for such a change. As its name suggests Court Recreation Ground is a large open space for general recreational use and sports activities of various kinds. There are no houses in it, although at the inner end of Court Lane a recently built small block of flats which is outside the park boundaries looks directly onto it. Two primary schools and other children's sports clubs in Stamford Ward use the Rec. regularly for football, cricket and other sports that require large areas to run around in. There is also a Friends of Court Rec. group, consisting of residents from houses in Stamford Ward that back onto the park, which collaborates with the park staff in maintaining the area in good order. They look after newly planted trees and shrubs, report on vandalism, and bid for a share of the funds if money becomes available for park improvements.

The area that is Court Recreation Ground is part of the land that since ancient times has formed what is now Stamford Ward. Long before Epsom Town was established this was part of the land belonging to Anglo-Saxon settlers who gained the rights to farm it and who also possessed the adjoining land that now forms the large area of housing on the west side of Court Rec. known as the Chase Estate. If the new ward boundaries go ahead this estate will form a major part of the revised/ reduced Stamford Ward. By the 18th C. the Anglo-Saxon farmhouse at the centre of this land had eventually become known as Epsom Court until in the 1920s the property was sold and its land was mainly used for housing (the Chase Estate). But the Council decided to fund the provision of a public park in perpetuity alongside the housing and call it Court Recreation Ground.

As the proposed boundary changes are understood to be related to creating a more even number of households (and associated Councillor representation) in each Ward, to transfer Court Recreation Ground to Town Ward seems to us to be an entirely unnecessary proposal. We therefore hope that it will be reconsidered so that this area of open land remains in Stamford Ward as its history suggests it should.

Kind regards,

