

## Guildford Borough Council

### Personal Details:

**Name:** George Weightman-Potter  
**E-mail:** [REDACTED]  
**Postcode:** [REDACTED]  
**Organisation Name:** Borough Councillor for Burpham

### Comment text:

The current boundaries of Burpham encompass a natural community with a strong sense of identity and place, centred on Sutherland Memorial Park and the Kingspost Shopping Parade. As one of the borough councillors for Burpham, and as a Burpham resident, I would strongly hope that \*a\* Burpham ward can be preserved under any boundary changes. It is important to note that the part of the ward north west of the A3 is still distinctly part of Burpham and has a much stronger affinity with Burpham than with any other part of the borough and I would hope that any boundary changes could avoid splitting it from Burpham. By contrast the Potters Lane part of Burpham ward is physically separate from the rest of it and would probably make more sense as part of Send. If the ward needs to be expanded in order to conform to the new boundary criteria then the most natural addition would be the Abbotswood estate in Christchurch ward, as well as Ganghill and Boxgrove Avenue as these areas already look as much towards Burpham as they do towards the town centre and are of a similar age to the rest of Burpham. Once Stoke Park is reached, however, residents definitely consider themselves to be far more town centre residents than anything else. If the ward needs to be expanded significantly in size then the community best matched with Burpham is that of Merrow, as Burpham has more interests in common with Merrow than with Bellfields or West Clandon. However, there are limited physical links between Burpham and Merrow and the two areas are very much distinct communities with distinct and separate identities. Burpham and Merrow each have their own respective community/residents association and football and bowling clubs, for instance. Two ward members is an adequate level of representation for the current size of the community. However, a reduction in representation would probably be preferable to any boundary changes which split up the existing community between different wards. An additional consideration is Gosden Hill, a site allocated within the Local Plan for 1200 new homes. A significant part of the site is within Burpham ward and the main access to it would be on to Merrow Lane which is located entirely within the ward. Once developed Gosden Hill is likely to be a distinct community within its own right, but its residents are likely to look more towards Burpham than to any other existing settlement or community. Therefore, if future housebuilding is to be taken into account in the boundary process, then one option to consider might be increasing the representation of Burpham to three members and expanding it to include the entirety of Gosden Hill. However, at a minimum, boundary changes should seek to avoid splitting Gosden Hill between two wards.

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded