

Surrey

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Liberal Democrats in Elmbridge (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

I am writing as Chair of Elmbridge Liberal Democrats in response to your call for submissions to your review of the division boundaries of Surrey County Council (SCC).

We have tried to keep local wards together as far as possible to avoid division boundaries that differ from ward boundaries. If 9 divisions are to be retained, then we suggest the following divisions:

1. Weybridge Division

Consisting of Weybridge St Georges Ward and Weybridge Riverside Wards together, they will be part of a new constituency Chertsey and Weybridge. Electorate $5932+6469 = 12,401$

2. Cobham and Oxshott Division

Cobham and Downside Ward, and Oxshott and Stoke d'Abernon Ward, These wards will be part of the proposed Chertsey and Weybridge Constituency. This gives a higher than desirable number of people but needs to be kept intact as both wards will be moving to a different constituency. Electorate $6517+6708 = 13,225$

3. Hersham and Oatlands Division,

Hersham Village Ward minus one polling district MC (which would be added to South Walton Division) plus Oatlands and Burwood Park Ward. The Constituency Boundary Commission propose both to be entirely within Esher and Walton Constituency. Electorate $6048+6001 = 12,049$

4. North Walton Division

Walton North Ward plus JA polling district from Walton Central Ward, Electorate $5914+3870 = 9,794$

5. South Walton Division

Walton South Ward plus JB and JC polling districts from Walton Central ward, and MC from Hersham Village Ward. Electorate $6827+662+2107+206 = 9,802$

6. Molesey Division

Molesey West Ward plus polling district FA from Molesey East Ward. Electorate $6604+3596 = 10,200$

7. Claygate and Esher Division

Claygate Ward and Esher ward. Electorate $5594+6603 = 12,197$

8. Thames Ditton Division

Thames Ditton Ward and FB from Molesey East Ward. Electorate $6654+3157 = 9,811$

9. Long Ditton and Hinchley Wood Division

Long Ditton Ward plus Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Ward. Electorate $5290+6451 = 11,741$

The following guidance has been taken into account for the proposals above.

[https://www.lgbce.org.uk/changing-wards-Technical guidance on electoral reviews.](https://www.lgbce.org.uk/changing-wards-Technical%20guidance%20on%20electoral%20reviews)

We acknowledge that of the three main criteria covered in the documents listed above, we are strong on two, not the third.

These suggestions reflect community links and views. They also reflect the other boundaries in Elmbridge. The English Constituency boundaries are about to change. Esher and Walton Constituency is too large and two entire wards and two part wards are proposed to come out into a new Constituency, Chertsey and Weybridge. We believe these two entire wards (Cobham and Downside Ward and Oxshott and Stoke d'Abernon Ward) should be kept together as a Division although it does give a more than average size at 13,225.

We also believe the two wards split between two Constituencies at the moment and united with the English Boundary Commission recommendations, Weybridge St Georges Ward and Oatlands and Burwood Park Ward, should be twinned` with a ward in the same proposed constituency. Thus we are suggesting Weybridge St Georges Ward joins with Weybridge Riverside Ward to form a division that again has a more than average population of 12,401. We believe the conformity to the criteria of existing boundaries is more important than size.

Similarly, some of the Divisions proposed above are a little small. Again we have tried to make them as near to average size as possible by taking

polling districts from adjacent wards but trying to keep community identity and existing ward boundaries intact. This need for community and boundary commonality is underlined by the current Division of South Walton and Oatlands. There was a by-election on May 4th 2023 and this division covers parts of 5 different wards, and not even one whole ward. There are no community links between Oatlands and Walton.

In conclusion, the above proposals reflect community links and existing and proposed boundaries. They are not perfect on size, but as the guidance says, two of the three criteria is to be aimed for.

Attached Documents:

None attached