

Tandridge

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Hello

I would like to comment on the proposed parish ward boundary changes for Caterham Valley in Tandridge.

Caterham is a slightly odd town in that there are two quite distinct and separate parts - the Valley (where I live) and the Hill.

The roads immediately to the west of the railway (Stafford, Milner + adjacent side roads) are quite definitely in the Valley - geographically, historically, economically, socially and with regard to planning and transport services.

The draft recommendations are proposing to place these roads in the eastern section of an enlarged Queen's Park ward, based on Caterham Hill.

I would ask you to look again at the maps and population distributions and change the proposal so that these roads are kept in the Valley ward.

I am not saying there are no common interests for Queen's Park and the Valley, but there is a distinct separation. I, for example, am present in the Valley most days yet visit the Hill only every few months.

Take public transport for example, people local to me, if bus users, are generally interested in availability in the Valley, along the Croydon Road and south towards the A22. They're not very concerned about services on the Hill, because they don't start or end their journeys there.

Take town planning and traffic, there's a lot happening (and a lot has happened in the last few years) to do with smartening up the Caterham valley town centre area, that interests me (and I suspect, people who live on the roads I mentioned), because it's our first port-of-call for the everyday things of life - shopping, library, motoring requirements and many of the services available there.

A couple of years ago it was proposed to demolish the (valley) shopping centre, resulting in a huge response of comments/objections from the population. Many people here have an interest in the environment of the (valley) town centre and it's economy. The Hill "town centre" is a very different issue, as a brief visit would show.

From an historic perspective, the railway was built in the 1850s along the bottom of the valley. Subsequently Stafford Road was build immediately to its west, in the valley, as the valley economy and infrastructure expanded in the late nineteenth century.

If the boundary is changed as proposed, our electoral link to this area is severed. Valley councillors won't have a primary interest in our views, as our roads are not in their ward, but what happens in "their" ward is of primary interest to us. We would need to contact Valley councillors, even though we don't elect them.

Queen's Park councillors, despite their dedication, will regard us as the small "eastern enclave" of the new ward, with different requirements to the majority.

If you need to make the Caterham Valley ward a bit smaller, from a population point of view, I suggest some of the southern parts could be moved to the Chaldon/Bletchingly/Godstone wards.

I must also take issue with the communication methods of the Boundary Commission. How was I meant to find out about this proposed change?

If a local councillor had not told me of this proposal, I would not have known until it became fact. I suspect very few of the 500-600 households of these roads would have known either. Relying on "someone telling us" is inadequate. There was no relevant display in Caterham Valley Library. You should have written to us.

So please keep this lack of knowledge in mind when you are reading the responses.

I'm sending this direct as your contact page seems not to work correctly. I am not connected with any political party or group, I'm writing as a resident.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

Attached Documents:

None attached