

Essex

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Comment text:

Related subject: EPPING AND THEYDON BOIS

Theydon Mount, Theydon Garnon and Gaynes Park should be removed from Ongar and Rural and added to Epping and Theydon Bois. The division could be renamed Epping and Theydon.

The Theydons and Gaynes Park are a walk-able distance from Epping town centre. They are popular leisure walking destinations among Epping residents, and local roads are popular with commuting cyclists and drivers between Epping and East London. These destinations are a long way from Ongar and are disconnected from that town.

Residents of The Theydons and Gaynes Park who have education issues are likely to attend nurseries or schools in Epping. They are far more likely to use play facilities in Epping.

Highways or environmental issues affecting these destinations are likely to impact Epping residents than they are residents from Ongar. Incorporating The Theydons and Gaynes Park into the Epping division would reflect the affinity which these destinations have with their nearest town. It would make identifying a point of contact (i.e. councillor) or deciding where to spend division-specific budgets much easier.

ALSO: The B1393 between Epping and the Wake Arms roundabout should not fall in the North Weald and Nazeing division. This is because it is impossible to travel between this section of route and either North Weald or Nazeing without crossing into another division first. Most locals would argue south of Epping is "nowhere near" Nazeing or North Weald. It does not make sense for the division member (or for a division-specific

budget, for example) to address on serious issues affecting the forest or road, when their first priority is likely to be the settlements after which the division is named. In other words, incorporating south of Epping (forest and B1393) in North Weald and Nazeing has resulted in some neglect. I would suggest the area should fall in Epping and Theydon Bois based on proximity, and on the fact that forest visitors and highways users almost always begin their journeys in Epping. For example, cyclists from the urban environment in Epping would like a cycle lane on the B1393 which runs southbound towards London. The representative of a predominantly rural division is unlikely to recognise the need for a cycle lane into urban London/Epping on what is a very small section of road through their division, disconnected from the division's main settlements.

It is also slightly illogical for part of Epping Forest east of the B1393 to fall in the Waltham Abbey division, based on the fact that infrastructure users (forest and highways) are more likely to identify with Epping than Waltham Abbey.

Attached Documents:

None attached