

Surrey

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Comment text:

Related subject: Elmbridge

I object to the recommendations of LGBCE because of the unjustified detrimental impact on Oxshott. The proposals would see the village arbitrarily split in two and in effect disappear for electoral purposes. No good reason for change has been given and I consider it is in the best interests of the community, and more consistent with your evaluation criteria, for the present arrangements to continue.

As a community, Oxshott has a population of about 5,000 people. It is a cohesive settlement that is largely defined by surrounding Green Belt with its own High Street, its own medical centre, its own schools, and its own station. There can be no justification for dividing the community by any means, particularly by arbitrarily drawing a line down a main road and removing the name Oxshott from the resulting wards.

The recommendations result in Oxshott being carved up to suit LGBCE's arithmetical requirements despite the fact that your own commentary recognises that there is no electoral imbalance to deal with in the ward in which Oxshott is based. It completely ignores the concept of community and is disrespectful to the residents of Oxshott. The closest to any justification for this community vandalism is the issue of location, which is of questionable relevance as a consideration anyway and ignores the fact that the three settlements of Hinchley Wood, Claygate and Oxshott are co-located as adjacent stations on the only railway line and joined by footpaths.

LGBCE should revise its recommendations on a basis that properly respects the second key consideration of LGBCE of "Ensuring that the recommendations reflect community identity". This can best be done by retaining the existing boundaries whereby Oxshott continues to be part of the division of Hinchley Wood, Claygate & Oxshott.

Attached Documents:

None attached