

Hersham Residents Association

HRA active positive and non-political since 1971

ELMBRIDGE COUNCIL'S WARD BOUNDARY REORGANISATION

LONGMORE ESTATE AND OLD ESHER ROAD AREAS TO BE PART OF ESHER WARD

Elmbridge Councillors decided last year to reduce their numbers from 60 to 48. To do this, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has agreed that there must be 16 wards with 3 councillors each. The proposals involve some significant boundary changes for Hersham, which goes from 2 wards (6 councillors) to 1 ward (3 councillors), the remaining parts of the current Hersham wards being absorbed into adjacent new wards. The parish, county and parliamentary wards are unchanged: this is just an Elmbridge reorganisation. One aim is to have approximately equal numbers of voters per councillor, which the proposal achieves.

The LGBCE includes statements that a good pattern of wards should:

- **reflect community identities**
- **be based on strong easily identifiable boundaries**
- **reflect where local people go for shops, medical and facilities etc.**

The HRA does not think that these points are reflected in the proposals for Hersham Village ward:

- **most but not all of the Longmore Estate is moved to Esher ward**
- **parts of Molesey Road between the Barley Road roundabout and Hersham Station are in Esher ward and some in Hersham Village ward.**
- **the River Mole is no longer a boundary.**
- **part of the Old Esher Road area is put into Esher ward.**

The LGBCE has just put a consultation document out for discussion, and it says "the commission has an open mind about its final recommendations..... every representation will be considered, regardless of whom it is from...."

It is up to the residents of these areas to make comments if they like or don't like the proposals. The HRA can reflect opinion in its own submission to LGBCE, but cannot guess it.

If you want to express an opinion, then we have included the postal address and the internet sites for the Boundary Commission and also the contact email for Hersham Residents Association.

Further information is available from local libraries, the Civic Centre and the internet.

This is your one chance to influence policy if you want to.

The deadline for comments is 24th August 2015.

Write to:

Review Officer (Elmbridge)
LGBCE
14th Floor, Millbank Tower
London, SW1P 4QP

OR

via their consultation area:
www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk

OR

write to HRA at
info@hershamresidents.info

OR

email to: reviews@lgbce.org.uk