



The Boundary Commission for England
35 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BQ

30/07/2021

RE: Proposals for the Wimbledon Constituency

We write as a Council Group to urge you to follow a different solution to alter the boundaries of the Wimbledon constituency. We do so with the benefit of our extensive work on the recent LGBC boundary review for LB Merton.

As both members and representatives of the Wimbledon community we are deeply concerned by your current scheme which would break up the Wimbledon and Mitcham communities and add in parts of LB Kingston which have no community links with Wimbledon.

We are therefore submitting our ideas - which are in tune with wider changes being proposed by the Conservative Party to your review - requesting that the community links within Wimbledon and LB Merton are preserved

Cannon Hill

Cannon Hill ward is an integral part of Wimbledon and forms part of the West Barnes and Raynes Park Residents Association, the ward is primarily within the SW20 post code which it shares with Raynes Park. Local residents travel to other Wimbledon wards and to the Kingston Road shops to visit local bars and restaurants; residents will primarily do their food and other shopping at large retail parks in West Barnes.

To access transport connections residents will travel to Wimbledon town centre to access national rail and the district line services. In addition, Wimbledon Chase station offers Thames Link services up to Wimbledon Station and beyond. Residents will travel down the A3 to access the M25 and Gatwick and Heathrow airports.

One of Cannon Hill Common's entrances lies in West Barnes. The Sir Joseph Hood Memorial Playing fields are in West Barnes, the Joseph Hood Rec and Joseph Hood Primary School in Cannon Hill are named after Sir Joseph Hood, a former MP and Mayor of Wimbledon. In addition, the Raynes Park



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Vale Football Club is located in Cannon Hill ward. Many residents exercise at the David Lloyd gym which is also in Cannon Hill and residents use the Nelson Health Centre on Kingston Road.

Many local children in the ward attend Joseph Hood Primary School and other Wimbledon schools. It is then common to attend college in Wimbledon and Raynes Park and not in Mitcham and Morden.

The Boundary Commission for England has not given a reason for Cannon Hill being removed from Wimbledon, we can therefore assume that this has been done purely to balance the number as there are no community reasons for removing an integral part of the Wimbledon community.

Wandle ward and Colliers Wood

The creation of Wandle ward has been driven by the need to account for new development that borders onto Colliers Wood ward and Tooting. This area shares strong community connections to the Tooting constituency, and much of the new ward lies on the opposite side of the river Wandle to Wimbledon. The southern part of the ward forms an extension of Colliers Wood with residents travelling to Colliers Wood to access shops, restaurants, and the London Underground transport connections. It is due to these community connections that Wandle has been included in the Colliers Wood section of Merton Council's Local Plan and is viewed by the council as being part of the wider Colliers Wood cluster.

The future of Morden town centre

Morden has been crying out for redevelopment for many years. One significant factor in the lack of investment has been because the town centre is split between the Wimbledon and Mitcham and Morden constituencies, which have been held by different political parties for the last 16 years. Clearly having the town center split between two constituencies and held by politicians from rival parties has not been beneficial for Morden. Our proposal would remove polling district RC from Merton Park ward and add this into the Mitcham and Morden constituency.

The character of Merton Park is centered around the John Innes conservation area and the character properties on tree lined streets which form the heart of Merton Park. The architecture of polling district RC is similar to that found in other Morden wards such as Lower Morden and Ravensbury and not with the traditional Merton Park conservation areas.

In addition, future plans for Morden regeneration will see a substantial increase in Morden's population. By including Morden town centre in the Mitcham and Morden constituency we will avoid Wimbledon's population ballooning out of proportion and enhance the existing community links in Morden town centre and with the Mitcham and Morden parliamentary seat.

Longthornton ward

Longthornton has been an integral part of the London Borough of Merton since the creation of the borough in 1965, previously having formed part of the Metropolitan Borough of Mitcham since its



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creation in 1915. Removing Longthronton is unnecessary and would not reflect the community links in the east of Merton which focus on Mitcham town centre.

Links between the London Borough of Kingston and Wimbledon

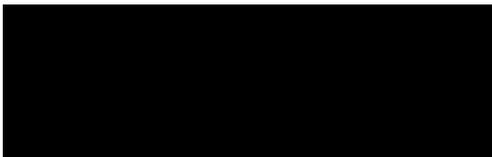
The natural community links between Wimbledon to wards in LB Kingston occur from Wimbledon Village to Coombe Hill and Coombe Vale wards. Indeed, this was proposed by the boundary commission in 2012 as the case for the community links are strongest on this part of the two constituencies boundaries. Residents from both constituencies use Wimbledon Common for recreation as well as the local businesses in Wimbledon Village, and residents in Coombe Hill and Coombe Vale that border the common will also pay the commons conservator's levy.

By contrast the St James and Old Malden wards are split from Wimbledon by a railway line and do not have community links with each other. Residents in these wards look to Kingston and Surbiton for shopping and to access bars and restaurants.

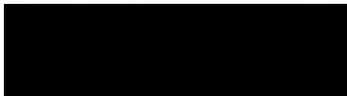
For the reasons stated above we support the Conservative Party's proposals for Cannon Hill to remain in Wimbledon, and for Coombe Hill and Coombe Vale to also be added into the Wimbledon constituency. We also hope you will preserve the existing links between Wandle and Colliers Wood and move all of Morden town centre into the Mitcham and Morden constituency.

We hope that we have given enough evidence for the boundary commission to be able to refashion its proposals. We would welcome any opportunity to discuss these proposals in more depth, and please do not hesitate to contact nick.mclean@merton.gov.uk should you wish to discuss any of the proposals outlined in this letter.

Yours faithfully,



Cllr Nick McLean



Cllr Nigel Benbow



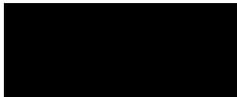
Cllr David Dean



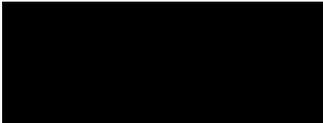
Cllr Dan Holden



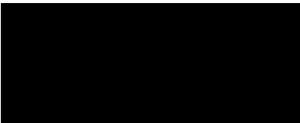
Cllr David Williams MBE JP



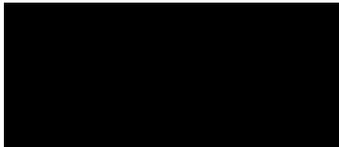
Cllr Adam Bush



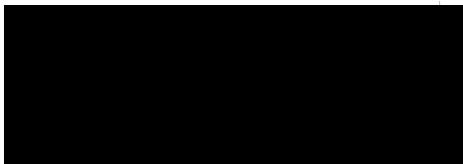
Cllr Omar Bush



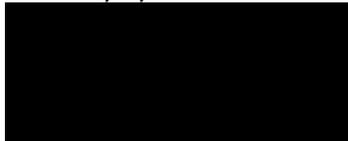
Cllr Stephen Crowe



Cllr James Holmes



Cllr Hayley Ormrod



Cllr Najeeb Latif



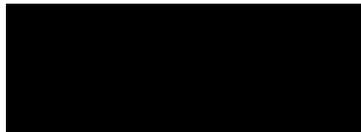
Cllr Andrew Howard



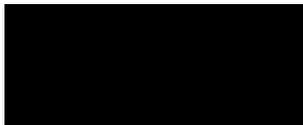
Cllr Thomas Barlow



Cllr Janice Howard



Cllr Oonagh Moulton



Cllr Edward Gretton

Conservative Group Councillors – London Borough of Merton