

Taylor O'Driscoll response to the proposed changes to Tandridge's electoral ward boundaries

In general, I am largely supportive of the proposed boundaries recommended by the Boundary Commission, but I believe there should be minor amendments to the proposal that could both better reflect the character of Caterham and achieve good electoral equality.

I have a reservation about the electoral equality of the wards proposed by the Commission and all of my proposals will bring each ward within 10% variance with the rest of the District.

Roads around Heath Road



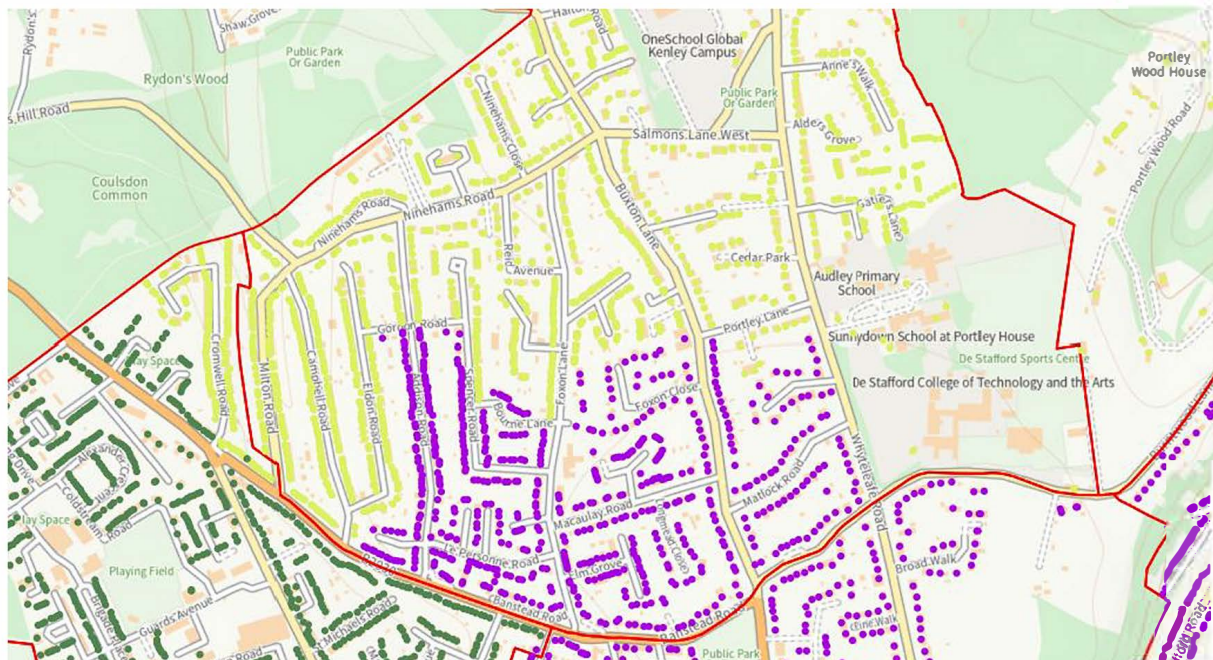
I believe that Birch Avenue, Wood Lane, Heath Road and Homestead Road as a grouping have a natural connection to Chaldon. There is a footpath from Wood Lane to Roffes Lane, which is used by residents of Chaldon regularly. The residents in this area feel a close connection to Chaldon, and the character of these properties is closer to Sunny Rise in Chaldon, which neighbours Heath Road, than the rest of Queens Park. Many residents also do their shopping in Westway at Tesco. Therefore, I propose moving this area from the proposed Queens Park ward to the new Westway & Chaldon ward. I also propose moving the properties on Chaldon Road between Sunny Rise and Court Road on the south side of the road to Westway & Chaldon.

Cromwell Road and Cromwell Grove



To compensate for this, Cromwell Road and Cromwell Grove should move from Westway & Chaldon into Portley & Whyteleafe. There is a footpath between Milton Road and Cromwell Road, and the houses on these roads are more like neighbouring roads to the east rather than neighbouring roads to the west.

The Boundary between Portley and Queens Park wards



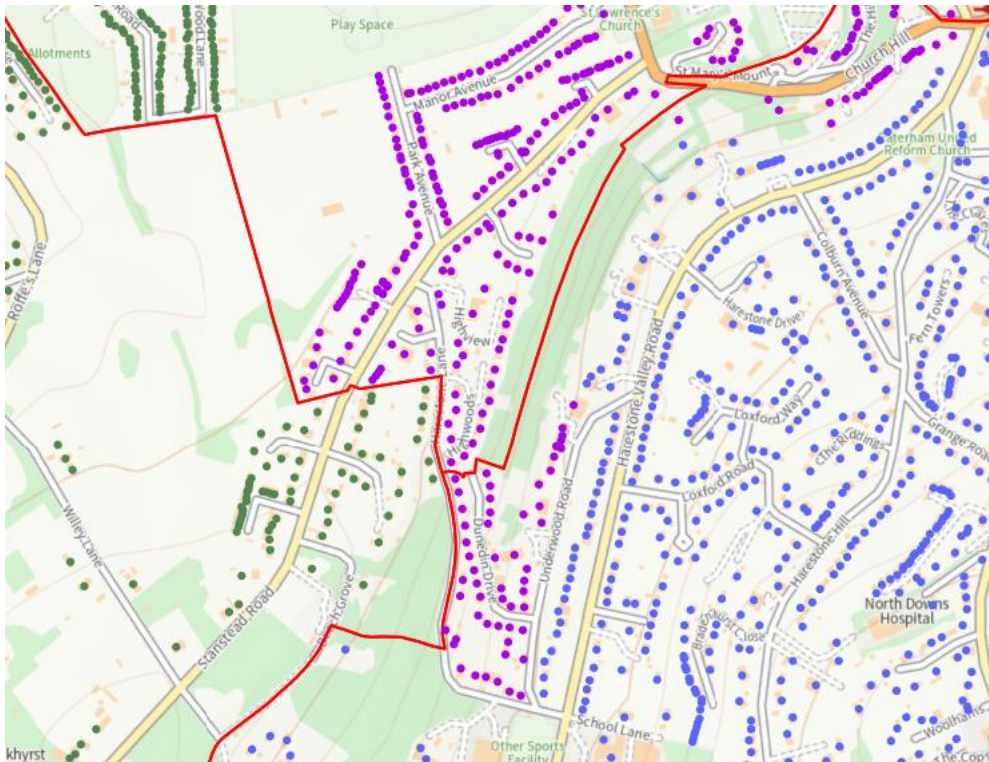
The boundary of Portley and Queens Park wards should follow between Addison Road and Eldon Road, Gordon Road, Bourne Lane, Foxon Lane, along the town path between Foxon Lane and Buxton Lane, and then along the Commission's proposed boundary. This will achieve better electoral equality in both Queens Park and Portley & Whyteleafe along with reflecting the identities of each community in the area.

Gordon Road, Bourne Lane and the town path between Foxon Lane and Buxton Lane are natural boundaries between communities, and I believe that this boundary better reflects the community of North Caterham as a whole.

Most properties north of the boundary look towards Coulsdon, Whyteleafe and Kenley for social activities. Many residents go to the Wattenden Arms pub in Kenley and go to social clubs in and around Old Coulsdon and Kenley. Most children in this area go to secondary school locally at Oasis Academy Coulsdon.

On the other hand, the properties south of the boundary look more to Caterham for social activities. And most children in this area go to secondary school locally at De Stafford School.

Harestone Lane, Dunedin Drive and Underwood Road



The electoral equality in Valley ward is at 113% which is not within the acceptable range of the Commission's guidelines. A solution to achieve good electoral equality while being sensitive to the area's character is to move Underwood Road, Dunedin Drive and Harestone Lane into Queens Park ward. These roads link with the rest of Queens Park via Harestone Lane and roads such as Highwoods and Highview are similar in character to Underwood Road and Dunedin Drive rather than Harestone Valley Road. This move will ensure that Valley is within the 10% tolerance range of the Commission.

This boundary does cross parish boundaries which is not ideal but this is the best solution to achieving electoral equality for all of the wards in Greater Caterham as this boundary groups similar roads together which have got a natural connection.

Ward names

I don't believe the proposed names of the wards put forward by the Boundary Commission are reflective of the communities they cover.

Queens Park contains a portion of Caterham Valley parish, and the natural centre of the ward is no longer Queens Park itself. Furthermore, only residents living around Queens Park in roads such as Queens Park Road, Manor Avenue and Park Avenue say they live in Queens Park. Other residents in the ward say they live in Caterham. There are parts of the ward which are not close to Queens Park so calling this ward "Queens Park" is not reflective of its character. I propose renaming this ward **Caterham Central**. This name is neutral as there is no name that will reflect this ward unless there are geographical qualifier.

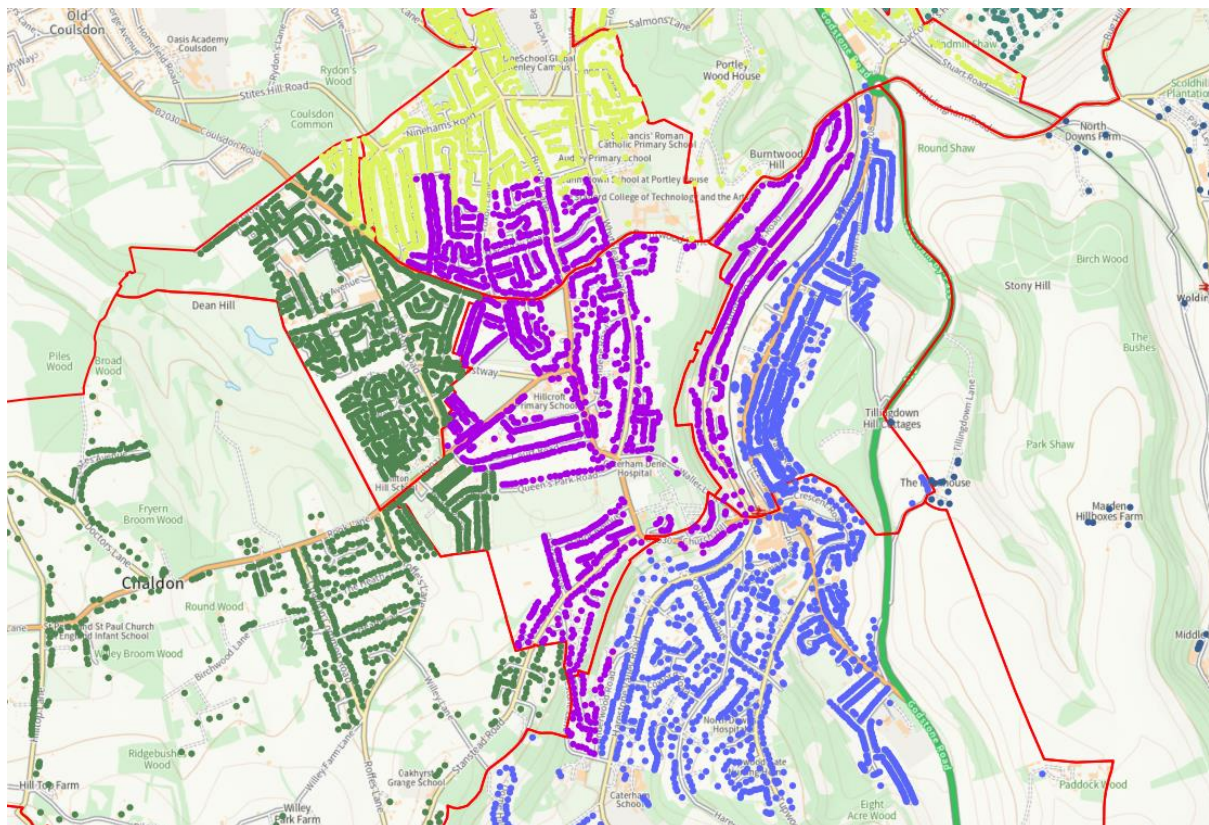
Valley ward also doesn't reflect where it is. There are lots of valleys in Tandridge due to its hilly nature. And residents don't say they live in Valley, they say they live in Caterham Valley. Calling this ward Harestone & Valley would be odd as it makes the ward seem like

two separate communities when it is one community. I propose that the name **Caterham Valley** or **Caterham East** would better reflect the community in this ward. My preference would be to continue the consistency of having geographical qualifiers in Caterham by calling this ward **Caterham East**.

Portley & Whyteleafe is also a problematic name. No resident in Portley identifies where they live as Portley. They say they live in Caterham or Kenley. Furthermore, the historic Portley manor is at the southern tip of the ward and not the geographic nature, which for the Caterham portion is Ninehams Road.

As Ninehams Road borders Coulsdon Common, **Caterham Commonside** could be an acceptable geographic name for the ward. I would prefer to continue the consistency of having geographical qualifiers for Caterham so I propose renaming this ward **Whyteleafe & Caterham North**.

Map of Proposed Boundaries



LEGEND

Green	Westway & Chaldon
Yellow	Whyteleafe & Caterham North
Purple	Caterham Central
Blue	Caterham East

Tandridge

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Organisation Name: Tandridge District Council (District or county councillor)

Comment text:

Related subject: Caterham

Please see attached a PDF form with my views with maps as further evidence

Attached Documents:

- Response to Boundary Commission Tandridge 2023.pdf