



## **Re Consultation new ward boundaries Tandridge District Council**

East Surrey Conservative Association is the association representing all Conservative candidates and councillors who stand for election for Tandridge District Council. It is considered that published proposals have some significant issues as regards to equal representation throughout the District.

It is understood that the final boundaries will be in place for about 20 years going forward.

The Association is sure the Boundary Commission is aware of the topography of the District. In the Northern sector, the predominate feature being the North Downs. In the South of the District are the lower expanses of the Low Weald and the Greensand Ridge. The District has large areas of Green Belt, (Over 90%) Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty ( a consultation on expanding this is also current) and Sites of Special Scientific interest as well as the Gatwick Noise Swathe\*. These are relevant to this consultation as they severely limit areas of potential development to predominately the North of the District.

*\*(In particular the current and possible future noise impacts of Gatwick Airport, including those resulting from a potential second runway, should also be recognised as a possible constraint on locations within the District for new housing allocations.) GAL 2017 20339 [gatwickairportnonhousing.pdf](https://www.midsussex.gov.uk/gatwickairportnonhousing.pdf) ([midsussex.gov.uk](https://www.midsussex.gov.uk))*

### **Proposed wards south of the District,**

Bletchingley and Nutfield,

Godstone,

Dormansland and Felbridge,

Lingfield and Crowhurst,

Oxted South,

Oxted North,

**will all under the present proposals have fewer councillors per elector.**

Burstow, Horne and Outwood will have 3% more by 2028.

## **Proposed wards North of the District.**

Warlingham East,

Chelsham and Farleigh,

Warlingham West,

Woldingham,

Portley and Whyteleafe,

Queen's Park.

Valley,

Westway and Chaldon

**will all have above average councillors per elector by 2028.**

**In order to make the proposed wards more equitable ESCA would support the following proposals:**

**Chaldon** continue as a single councillor ward as Woldingham. Chaldon has a single identity, predominately rural with considerable farming and equestrian interests and pride in its mention in the Domesday book. Very different from the urban feel of Westway ward, which was originally built mainly in the nineteenth century as housing for workers at the Metropolitan Asylum and the Guards Barracks, both of which are now large estates, housing families many of which are new to the area.

**Westway, Queen's Park, Portley** currently three two-member wards be configured into two three-member wards with the boundary being an East West line.

**These four wards would correspond to the existing county division.**

The roads west of the railway line in **Whyteleafe**, Downsway, Maple Road, Maple Close, and some properties along the A22 that are proposed to be part of Warlingham West to remain in Whyteleafe. They are topographically separate from Warlingham and Transport links (buses and trains) are predominately North/South not East/West. The station name of Upper Warlingham is a historical anachronism; the station is clearly in the valley of Whyteleafe and not on the hillsides of Warlingham. There is also considerable development proposed within the new ward boundaries so increasing the number of electors per councillor by 2028.

**Caterham Valley and Whyteleafe** split into two three-member wards

North section of existing Valley ward and Whyteleafe

South section existing Harestone ward and southern section of Valley ward. The Stafford Road section to be part of these wards and not part of Queen's Park. Stafford Road runs along the valley from Church Hill to Burntwood Lane. West of Stafford Road is a strip of open land and the cemetery,

giving clear separation between Caterham Hill and Valley. (Stafford Road currently does not abut Queen's park, South it is neighboured by flats on Church Hill, that are part of Harestone Ward and North it connects with Burntwood Lane also not in Queen's Park)

### **This configuration corresponds to the existing county council division.**

In order to allow for the extra councillor in Chaldon, it is proposed that **Oxted North, Oxted South and Limpsfield** be configured as two three-member wards and one two-member ward, with Tandridge village remaining in Oxted North so that the over representation is removed. The anomalous position of the few homes south of the B2029 who are in Oxted North Ward should be regularised by placing them in either Godstone or Lingfield.

**Tatsfield** remains as a single member ward. It's position high on the ridge above Limpsfield and its singular identity as a meridian village foster a sense of identity that is not shared. Transport links support a close affinity with Biggin Hill and other areas within the London Borough of Bromley. The village has a primary school, but many secondary and college age students attend schools in Biggin Hill, and Orpington. It's concerns and issues may not be shared with residents and possibly elected councillors of Limpsfield who are primarily Oxted-focused. Although currently some of the Tatsfield ward extends South of the M25 this is always a surprise when mentioned and those few homes in this position should be transferred to the new Limpsfield ward. Tandridge District Council offices are situated in the current Limpsfield ward reinforcing the perception of Limpsfield's primary focus being Oxted. As mentioned in the report as regards Woldingham there is a concern that if part of a three member ward Tatsfield *"may not receive direct representation from a councillor who recognises local need."*

Further consideration should be given to **Felbridge** remaining as a single member ward. This would mean that **Lingfield and Crowhurst** remain as a two-member ward with Felbridge a single member ward. Felbridge's focus and identity is primarily to the South and Sussex. There is a primary school in Felbridge, though older students attend schools elsewhere, many in East Grinstead. The local station and shopping are also in East Grinstead. The postal address for residents in Felbridge is East Grinstead. In Felbridge next door neighbours can be in different counties!

### **Proposed Wards no changes to Boundary Commission proposals.**

Bletchingley and Nutfield

Godstone

Burstow Horne and Outwood

Warlingham West Chelsham and Farleigh

Woldingham

Oxted South

# Tandridge

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## Comment text:

**Related subject:** Complete Tandridge District Council area

Please see attached document. ESCA supports some of the proposals, Godstone, Oxted South, Burstow, Horne and Outwood, Bletchingley and Nutfield but has concerns about the others

## Attached Documents:

- RESPONSE TO BOUNDARY COMMISSION PROPOSALS AUGUST 23.docx