

Surrey

Personal Details:

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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Dear Sir/Madam

I refer to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's comment in its draft Recommendations for boundaries for Surrey County Council that the request for the Ewell Division be changed to Stoneleigh, Ewell Village and Nonsuch may cause "confusion for electors" and that you "would welcome further evidence from residents and other interested parties as to whether a different name might better reflect the communities in this area".

I am sorry that the Surrey County Council did not provide a sufficient case, but I wish to make that case in this submission.

Whilst Epsom itself is probably more widely known (through the Derby for example), Ewell is much larger and extends across three of the current E&E Divisions. If anything, the current designation of "Ewell" as a Division is confusing given that there is also currently a Division called West Ewell and my own Division includes Ewell Court.

The Borough Council dates back to 1937 and the borough itself contains 10 distinct Residents' Associations that coincide with ward boundaries and most of which have a large subscribing membership and are very active in the local community. Those include Stoneleigh and Auriol RA, Ewell Village RA and Nonsuch RA. Residents readily identify with these locations, whilst "Ewell" and "Epsom" are viewed as postal areas but not distinct communities.

Stoneleigh includes the borough's second largest shopping centre Stoneleigh Broadway. It also contains Stoneleigh Station, one of Surrey's most used stations and which is currently receiving an £11 million upgrade to make it step free. Ewell Village is the borough's third largest shopping Centre and Nonsuch includes Nonsuch Park and remnants of Henry VIII's Nonsuch Palace. People from across E&E visit Stoneleigh to travel and Stoneleigh Broadway and Ewell Village to shop (not Ewell) and Nonsuch Park for leisure (not Ewell).

Epsom and Ewell residents are very conscious of where they live, and community is important. Bordering London with its large council geographical areas and lack of distinct individual communities, we should highlight and promote localism, identify communities, and design them into our electoral arrangements.

The name Stoneleigh, Ewell Village and Nonsuch continues the identification of those communities already established across the Ewell part of the borough in the Divisional name of West Ewell as well as Ewell Court, Auriol and Cuddington. I hope therefore the Commission will support this name change.

With all good wishes

Eber

County Councillor Eber Kington

Residents Association County Councillor
Ewell Court, Auriol and Cuddington

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Attached Documents:

None attached