

Surrey

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Comment text:

At paragraph 70, the LGBCE seeks evidence as to whether there are community links between East and West Clandon, which might justify moving East Clandon out of the Horsleys division and into the Shere division in order to improve electoral equality.

When I brought this consultation to the attention of East Clandon Parish Council 11 days ago, it was apparent that members were unaware of this consultation. I would urge the LGBCE to contact East Clandon Parish Council to seek their views directly.

For my part, I would observe that there are community links between East and West Clandon beyond their proximity and shared interests such as roads and footpaths. For example, the churches have the same vicar, and a number of facilities use the common name Clandon – the local station, the local primary school and shared sports facilities including a tennis club. Whether those community links are stronger than links with say West Horsley (there are also links with Send and Ripley) is a matter for East Clandon Parish Council and local residents. The Guildford borough ward of Clandon and Horsley includes both East and West Clandon, as well as East and West Horsley.

As well as improving electoral equality, moving East Clandon into the Shere division would give the division more coherence, as the shape of the division currently includes only a narrow isthmus between Tillingbourne and Send borough wards where it passes through West Clandon.

However, I suspect that most East Clandon residents would be unhappy with being part of the Shere county division because of the name. They will feel much greater affinity with the name Horsleys than with Shere.

Including East Clandon in the division would be an opportunity to give the division a more rational and inclusive name. It is anomalous that the division is called Shere when the largest settlement in the settlement is Send.

Uniting the Clandons would enable the division to be given a name which reflects its major settlements, such as Clandon, Send and Shere; or for consistency with the borough ward names Clandon, Send and Tillingbourne.

Paul Kennedy

Attached Documents:

None attached