

Surrey

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Comment text:

Related subject: junction of Esher and Cobham boundaries within Oxshott

Oxshott has always been split between two divisions. In practice therefore the residents are used to being represented by two councillors. This has never been ideal: it has both advantages and disadvantages.

The differing quality of our two councillors used to be an issue but now we have two equally committed ones and they have worked very well for the village. But this may change again depending on personalities.

There are two councillors to jointly apply pressure appropriately on different parts of SCC when the whole of Oxshott is involved. But having an arbitrary line - now effectively down the A244 instead of the railway - means this has to be coordinated even better as the actual centre of the village is represented now by two councillors not one. For example funding for the centre has to be coordinated between two divisions, so Oxshott could miss out. An instance is work on the A244 would require input from two councillors with Highways.

Oxshott is fortunate that it currently has a well supported residents group called FEDORA The Voice of Oxshott, which manages relationships with both Surrey and Elmbridge councillors thus acting as a go between and ensures there is joined up thinking and action on important local matters. But this may not always be the case and Oxshott could become the poor relation again, as it has in the past.

The concern must also be if Surrey councillors of different political persuasions were to exist in Esher and Cobham, as then combined agreement for Oxshott needs by the two may not be possible. One wonders if the Elmbridge lib Dems have engineered these boundary changes for electoral

reasons more than practicality, in the hope that ward boundaries can subsequently be changed to enable a greater chance of Lib Dem candidates being elected to become Borough councillors.

Attached Documents:

None attached