

Boundary Commission for England,  
35 Great Smith Street,  
London  
SW1P 3BQ

E-mail: [Riddlesdownresidents@gmail.com](mailto:Riddlesdownresidents@gmail.com)  
**5 December 2016**

Dear Sir or Madam,

### **Parliamentary Boundary Review - London Borough of Croydon**

The Riddlesdown Residents' Association (**RRA**) note the proposal for the Boundary Commission (BC) to publicly consult on proposals for a boundary review within the London Borough of Croydon.

#### **Background and History**

The comments and observations below are submitted by the Riddlesdown Residents' Association (RRA) which covers an area, currently located in the Wards of Purley (30%) and Sanderstead (65%) and a small part within the Kenley Ward (5% - Riddlesdown Common only; no dwellings). We represent about 1,400 households within our area. The boundary of the RRA area can be viewed on this link to our website:

<http://riddlesdownresidents.org.uk/therraarea.html>

Currently the RRA have to liaise on local matters, with three Councillors in the Sanderstead Ward and three Councillors in the Purley Ward. We are also currently represented by one MP (Croydon South).

Riddlesdown is a thriving community. It has the largest secondary school in the Borough of Croydon (Riddlesdown Collegiate with 2,000 children plus 250 staff), a railway station, eleven retail frontages on two sites, a church, a large Common and adjoining Green Belt land, as mentioned above. The topography of Riddlesdown, with local infrastructure, makes it an important area within the Borough.

#### **Parliamentary boundary changes for Croydon South; Proposal for Purley Ward to be placed into the Croydon Central Parliamentary Constituency**

- Purley & Coulsdon historically have been associated together (former Purley & Coulsdon UDC until 1965).
- Purley Ward is clearly not in the Central Ward and is geographically further south than the Fieldway Ward and most of the Heathfield Ward.
- To transfer the Shirley Ward from Croydon Central Constituency into another, adjoining London Borough does not make sense and thereby reduce the electorate within central area.
- Because the Coulsdon West ward boundary meets the Purley Ward in the centre of Purley District Centre (by Tesco) it makes a mockery that parts of Purley town centre will be in a different Constituency.

- Purley and Coulsdon Wards should be linked together, as they share transport links (such as the A23 and Brighton main rail line).
- Coulsdon and Purley Wards because they overlap geographically, have the benefit from having one MP representing both places. As mentioned above, the main train and road links run north / south through the two Wards and it could be detrimental to all residents in Purley & Coulsdon to change this.
- The RRA are also extremely concerned that if the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBCE) recommends new local boundaries for the Croydon Wards, and the Boundary Commission change the Parliamentary Constituency for Purley, we could then be liaising with two different sets of Councillors, in two Wards and two different MPs. This could be a logistical nightmare, if they are from differing political parties!

We hope the BC take on board the above comments and our concerns in removing the Purley Ward from the current Croydon South Constituency.

Yours faithfully

*Brian Longman and Phil Thomas*

Brian Longman (Chairman, RRA)

Phil Thomas MRICS (Planning & Environmental Committee Member, RRA)