

# RA of E & E

residents associations of epsom and ewell

Treasurer: Keith Lugton.

Electoral Services  
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council  
The Town Hall  
The Parade  
Epsom  
Surrey  
KT18 5BY

15 September 2014

Dear Sirs,

## **Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places**

We refer to the Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places in the Borough of Epsom and Ewell. We note that the Chief Executive as Returning Officer for the Borough has considered all 28 polling districts in the 13 wards in the borough and is proposing to recommend no change in the boundaries of the polling districts or in the polling places. On the basis of "if it is not broken, do not fix it", we basically agree with this approach. However there are two areas where we would suggest a different approach.

The first is the polling place in polling district K(A) in Town Ward. We can understand the conclusion that the Ebbisham Centre can be seen as being appropriate, but only because "no other suitable premises have been located". We do not have any suggestions of more suitable premises but the Ebbisham Centre is not ideal and we encourage the Borough Council to continue to seek other premises within the polling district for future elections.

The second area is polling district G(B) in Stamford Ward. The electorate in this polling district has increased substantially and is likely to continue to increase. Moreover the increase has been mainly in the western part of the polling district but the polling station is more towards the eastern part of the polling district and in fact is outside the southern boundary of the polling district. There is reference in the Consultation document to West Park but not to Noble Park or to Manor Park, but we realise that West Park may be seen as a "catch all" description.

We think that it would be desirable to have a polling place nearer to the centre of population and we suggest the following possible sites could be considered for polling district G(B).

We understand that the New Cottage Hospital has a number of rooms and spaces which are not used a fair proportion of the time.

There are a number of other NHS buildings in and around Noble Park, such as Ramsay House, which may be available.

The barn attached to The Old Moat garden centre is used to sell Christmas trees at that time of year but it does not seem to be used much through the rest of the year, and it sits close to the residential areas.

Clearly we have not investigated any of these sites and we do not know whether they would be suitable or permitted. We felt however that we should at least put forward some possible solutions.

We have a further comment on the subject of Stamford Ward. We feel that the increase in the electorate in the West Park, Manor Park, Noble Park area could lead to a review of the Ward boundaries at some stage. The boundaries of Stamford Ward may look very logical on a map, but in practice they are not. The Wells area which forms polling district G(C) is totally separate from the rest of Stamford Ward. Indeed to get from Stamford Green to The Wells by road requires a detour through two other Wards.

We understand that a review of Ward boundaries would fall to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England rather than Epsom and Ewell Borough Council, and we realise that it is not germane to this consultation process but we ask you to bear this point in mind for future considerations regarding Ward boundaries.

Yours sincerely,

Keith Lugton,  
Treasurer

**Mr & Mrs G, 24/08/2014**

The polling station my wife and I use is situated in the local school in Ruxley Lane. The facilities are good, the polling staff helpful and pleasant, and the car parking facilities adequate. We are very satisfied.

**Response received via e-Borough Insight**