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The Review Officer (Surrey)
Local Government Boundary Commission (England)
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London
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Date: 18 July 2011

Dear Sir or Madam

Electoral Review of Surrey County Council

I am writing in response to the review on behalf of the Molesey Residents Association (MRA). The MRA is a major local organisation representing the interests of the residents of Molesey, and holds all 9 Molesey seats on Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC), and both of the Molesey seats on Surrey County Council (SCC), and I hope that you will take account of our views in considering this issue.

There is one specific change to the current local government boundaries affecting Molesey which we believe is long overdue, and would like the review to make. Part of the land which is commonly referred to as Molesey Heath (and which forms part of the site of the former Molesey Sewage Works) currently falls within the boundary of Walton for the purposes of both EBC and SCC local elections. We believe that this is illogical, and that the opportunity presented by the current review should be taken to incorporate this part of Molesey Heath within the boundary of the West Molesey Division, alongside the rest of Molesey Heath. The area of land at issues is shown on the attached map of the area.

We believe that this area, and indeed the whole of Molesey Heath, forms part of Molesey's natural community. People living in Molesey regard Molesey Heath as clearly part of Molesey, and most are unaware that it forms part of Walton for electoral purposes.

A key point is that the only viable access to the land is from Approach Road in West Molesey. This part of Molesey Heath has been identified by EBC as a site which could be suitable for potential housing development in the future, although the Council's latest assessment is that there is no prospect of development in anything like the foreseeable future because of an assessed serious flood risk (the area has been flooded badly in the past), and the presence of methane below the surface (resulting from the land's former use as a refuse site). Any potential development would, however, have a significant impact on Molesey residents living close to Approach Road, but there would be minimal impact on those living on the Walton/Hersham side of the land.

The current SCC review presents an opportunity to ensure that the boundaries properly reflect the reality of the situation on the ground. Another important consideration is that nobody lives on the land in question, so the change we have requested can be made safely without having any impact on the size of the electorate in the affected electoral areas.

Yours Sincerely

Councillor Mike Axton, Elmbridge Borough Councillor, Molesey South
Nigel Cooper, Surrey County Councillor, East Molesey & Esher
Ernest Mallett, Surrey County Councillor, West Molesey