

**DRAFT Response to The Local Government Boundary Commission for England's proposal of New Electoral arrangements in London Borough of Hillingdon submitted by Alison Holtorp, Chairman of Eastcote Residents' Association, March 2019**

**Executive Summary**

- To support the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's proposal for an Eastcote Ward.
- To achieve fair electoral representation for the Residents of Eastcote.

1. Eastcote Residents' Association (ERA), has been in continuous existence since 1930 and covers a well defined area as given in our previous submission dated 4th November 2018. I am writing this response as the current chair of ERA and am pleased to see that your proposal re-establishes the individual identities of both the Eastcote and the Ruislip communities. I am also pleased to see that each of the conservation areas, and the area of special local character, have been retained as whole areas and that each has been kept within the appropriate ward.

2. ERA informed residents about this proposal by placing Posters on Noticeboards and an article in our weekly newsletter and on the ERA Website, encouraging residents to 'have their say...'

3. In the LGBCE Draft Recommendations dated January 2019 it is stated that a 'resident argued that Wentworth Drive should all be in one ward'. This seems to be a very sensible request and it is therefore surprising to see that both Salisbury Road and Wiltshire Lane have been split along the middle of the road. Having different wards on opposite sides of the road is less than desirable.

- Whilst over 50% of the properties in Coniston Gardens and Maybank Gardens are members of ERA, I believe there is only 1 in Salisbury Road and none in Wiltshire Lane, from which we have never collected, so it would make sense for both sides of these roads to be in the proposed Northwood Hills Ward.
- It has also been brought to my attention that Northwood Hills Residents Association hold events on the green space on Salisbury Road, which would add weight to this suggestion.
- I only have the forecast numbers of electors by road and so for this purpose will have to assume half on each side of Salisbury Road (69) and I have counted 16 properties on Wiltshire Lane (33). This would make a total 102 moving from the proposed Eastcote Ward to the proposed Northwood Hills Ward leading to both wards having a variance of +2. (see Appendix 1)
- As both Somerford Close (forecast electors 76) and Egerton Close (47) open onto Wiltshire Lane it would also make sense for them to be in the proposed Northward Hills Ward.
- This would mean an adjustment of a further 123 moving from the proposed Eastcote ward, which would equate to a new variance of +1, to the proposed Northwood Hills ward, which would then have a new variance of +4.

**4.** Eastcote Shopping Centre was/is a mixed economy with more than its fair share of office buildings that have been or are being turned into residential units in Eastcote town centre either by applying for planning permission or under permitted development rights that allow for Offices to be converted into residential units. The council appear to have either underestimated (see appendix 2) or not allowed for this eventuality. Whilst it is difficult to quantify exactly how many units will eventually be built it probably equates to an added variance of around 1. Therefore it should probably be taken into account should the variance of any adjustments to the proposed Eastcote Ward mean that it is out of line with its neighbouring wards.

**5.** Finally, in relation to Pembroke Park, and the comments in your report, which point out that vehicular access for part of the estate is south through the proposed Eastcote ward. Using previously expressed opinion it would follow that this half might best sit within the Eastcote Ward.

- Moving those with vehicular access via Lime Grove (361) would, on top of the adjustments already mentioned give a variance for the proposed Eastcote ward of +4 and for the proposed Ruislip ward of +1.

However, this is a private estate and it was all built at the same time and as such has its own, very particular, problems which are undoubtedly best dealt with as a whole and as such it would be inappropriate to split it between 2 wards.

- Moving the whole estate (727) would give a variance for the proposed Eastcote ward of +7, and for the proposed Ruislip ward of -2, which would be unacceptable.

The area covered by the Eastcote Residents' Association is not dictated by the ward boundaries, so those Residents of Pembroke Park who identify with, and, consider themselves to be residents of Eastcote would continue to be welcome to join and participate in the running and attending of the Eastcote Residents' Association events.

**6.** If the LGBCE feel that they should move Pembroke Park into the proposed Eastcote Ward then perhaps they could look at compensating for this by moving the estate built off Southbourne Gardens, accessed via Mansfield Avenue, (which is closer to Ruislip Manor than Eastcote) into the Ruislip Manor Ward. This would unfortunately, as Ruislip Manor only has 2 councillors, have a great impact on this ward and would require reviewing its boundary with Ruislip. This is not something I feel qualified to comment on but I have spoken to my counterpart in Ruislip who is currently reviewing the boundary between the Ruislip Manor and Ruislip Wards.

**7.** ERA would be happy to provide additional information should it be required. Please contact [alison.holtorp@eastcotera.co.uk](mailto:alison.holtorp@eastcotera.co.uk).