

To: Boundary Commission (England)

30<sup>th</sup> July 2021

### **Draft Recommendations on New Electoral Arrangements**

On behalf of London Green Party, please find our comments on your draft proposals for the Boundary Commission's 2023 Review of Parliamentary Constituency boundaries in Greater London

The London Green Party are largely satisfied with the recommendations being made, however would like to make some suggestions in the following areas:

Hackney North and Stoke Newington  
Islington North  
Kentish Town and Bloomsbury  
Tottenham  
Kingston and Surbiton  
Richmond Park  
Wimbledon

### **Hackney and Islington**

London Green Party would like to mirror the recommendations made by Islington and Hackney Green Party in proposing the following

- Dalston to remain in Hackney North & Stoke Newington.
- Stamford Hill West to move to Tottenham (as well as Woodberry Down).
- Tufnell Park ward to remain in Islington North
- Brownswood to move to Islington North instead of Tottenham.
- Junction ward to move from Islington North into Kentish Town and Bloomsbury

### **Keep Dalston in Hackney North & Stoke Newington.**

Dalston is a ward in the Borough of Hackney, and moreover it is one of the major urban, commercial and cultural centres of the borough (along with Hackney Central, Shoreditch and Stoke Newington). Hackney Council's draft Dalston Plan (May 2021) states that it is "Hackney's largest town centre". The ward includes Ridley Road market, which is over 130 years old and an important part of Hackney's cultural heritage (<https://hackney.gov.uk/ridley-road-market>). We know from our extensive work in the community that Dalston residents identify strongly with the borough and as Hackney residents. It is very clear to us that local people would object to being made part of an Islington constituency – a borough and neighbourhood with which they have no real affinity or connection. Members of the Save Ridley Road campaign group have already commented on the Boundary Commission's proposal that "Dalston is the beating heart in Hackney both culturally and socially.

We note from the London Region report (paragraphs 59-60) that, as a result of other changes, it

is necessary to add one more ward to Islington North so that it remains within electorate limits. We also understand the point made that Dalston has road and rail links to Islington North. However, the ward has even stronger transport links to the rest of the borough of Hackney – the A10 north and south, the Overground south to Shoreditch, and the Overground east to Hackney Central/Wick. We do not think that transport links to Islington are a good enough reason to cut the strong economic and identity ties that Dalston has with the rest of Hackney.

## **Move Brownswood into Islington North**

We believe that Brownswood is a more appropriate ward to add to Islington North, because:

- It is well connected to the rest of Islington North, via the A503 (Seven Sisters Road) and Finsbury Park rail/tube station, located just to the west of the ward (and itself a significant urban centre).
- By contrast, it is poorly connected with other parts of the borough of Hackney.
- It is relatively isolated in the north-west corner of the borough, with no rail or major road links to other areas.
- Unlike Dalston it is not an urban centre, containing mostly residential streets.
- We do not believe that most Brownswood residents identify particularly strongly with Hackney. People in the area often identify themselves as living near Finsbury Park, which is in the borough of Haringey.
- Our proposal would result in a more compact, less elongated shape for Islington North.

## **Move Stamford West into Tottenham**

The change by itself would mean Tottenham constituency falling below the electorate limit and Hackney North & Stoke Newington exceeding it. We therefore also propose moving Stamford Hill West, as well as Woodberry Down, into Tottenham. This would be a good fit: the ward is well connected to Tottenham via the A10 and Stamford Hill and Stoke Newington rail stations. These proposals would ensure that Dalston is not isolated as an orphan ward in another constituency. Instead, a contiguous set of three wards in the north west of the borough of Hackney would form part of other constituencies.

## **Move Junction into Kentish Town and Bloomsbury instead of Tufnell Park**

We note that in the 2018 Boundary Commission review both Tufnell Park and Junction wards were candidates to be moved into the Camden seat. We believe that Junction Ward is the stronger candidate to be moved and has stronger ties to the Camden area than Tufnell Park ward.

Junction ward contains Archway station, a well used station serving 8.7 million passengers a year. Tufnell Park station meanwhile serves less than half at 4.05 million. Archway station represents a much more significant shared transport hub, with residents in Highgate (Camden), Highgate (Haringey) and Islington (Junction) using the station.

Junction ward also features the shops around Archway station, which is one of the biggest high streets north of Holloway Nags Head. It includes multiple supermarkets and a post office. This is a much more significant shopping hub than in Tufnell Park. Junction Road and area is somewhere Camden residents and Islington residents will shop at, meanwhile Tufnell Park

features no similar shopping hub of significance. Indeed many Tufnell Park residents are more likely to travel to Holloway Nags Head, which is firmly in Islington.

There are multiple reasons why Junction ward is a stronger candidate to be part of the Camden constituency and they include:

- Waterlow Park represents the largest green space in the area and will be a shared place of leisure and recreation for Junction and Highgate (Camden) residents
- Dartmouth Park is similarly a green space shared by Junction and Highgate (Camden) residents
- IQ Student Accommodation in Tufnell House (Junction ward) is a major hub of students, and is conveniently located for UCL university. Including Junction ward in Kentish Town and Bloomsbury will unite the constituency with where students live and study
- Whittington Hospital spans both the Junction and Highgate ward
- Travel wise large sections of the Tufnell Park ward are more likely to travel down to Caledonian Road station (Islington) or use the Holloway Road bus corridor than Tufnell Park station
- St Joseph Primary, Acland Burghley School, Brookfield Primary and Parliament School (Camden schools) all take significant numbers of students from Junction (Islington) ward

These proposals remained within the 5% population tolerance specified by parliament. Our calculation of the resulting electorate sizes is as follows:

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Tottenham: 75,516 as proposed

- Less 6,348 from Brownswood
- Plus 5,670 from Stamford Hill West

New electorate: 74,838

Islington North: 71,924 as proposed

- Less 6,640 from Dalston
- Plus 6,348 from Brownswood
- Less 8,702 from Junction
- Plus 8,506 from Tufnell Park

New electorate: 71,436

Hackney North & Stoke Newington: 75,401 as proposed

- Less 5,670 from Stamford Hill West
- Plus 6,640 from Dalston

New electorate: 76,371

Kentish Town and Bloomsbury: 74,997 as proposed

- Less 8,506 from Tufnell Park
- Plus 8,702 from Junction

New electorate: 75,193

## **Recommendations in relation to South West London**

London Green Party would like to support Kingston Green Party's recommendation in relation to the Kingston & Surbiton, Richmond Park and Wimbledon Constituencies

The changes are as follows:

- Old Malden and St James Wards to remain in Kingston and Surbiton BC
- Coombe Hill and Coombe Vale to move from Richmond Park BC to Wimbledon BC
- Grove Ward to move from Kingston and Surbiton to Richmond Park

These proposals would not affect the electoral quota tolerances of any of these seats but would be more coherent in representing the various communities than the commission's current proposals.

As a consequence of these proposed changes we would also propose to change the name of Richmond Park constituency to Richmond and Kingston and Kingston and Surbiton constituency to Surbiton and Malden

### **Old Malden and St James Ward to remain in Kingston and Surbiton BC**

These two wards should remain in a seat based around New Malden.

Old Malden ward has an extensive boundary with Sutton to the south and Epsom and Ewell (Surrey County Council) to the south west but only a short boundary with West Barnes ward in the Wimbledon constituency. The ward is unlike Wimbledon being typically outer London suburbia adjacent to the green belt. A key feature in the ward is the Hogsmill valley which runs to the west of the ward and connects to the communities of Tolworth and Surbiton.

St James ward straddles the A3 dual carriageway with the area south identifying strongly with Old Malden and Worcester Park and those living north identifying with New Malden. Although St James ward shares a boundary with Wimbledon constituency (West Barnes ward) at Motspur Park most local people regard it as a 'hard' boundary because of the railway level crossing. Like Old Malden, most people in the ward do not identify with Wimbledon.

Bus routes in both wards are focussed on Kingston as the primary shopping area and also Kingston Hospital and its A&E department.

So we are clear that including these wards within Wimbledon should fall on the grounds of a lack of community coherence. Instead we propose that Coombe Hill and Coombe Vale should be included in the Wimbledon seat.

### **Coombe Hill and Coombe Vale**

These two wards share many community facilities, school catchment (Coombe Hill Primary and Coombe Girls secondary), golf courses and both sit on the land rising away from Kingston and New Malden. They are some of the wealthiest communities in the area with large detached properties and many private estates – a similar profile to residents in Wimbledon Village. People in these two wards look across the A3 to Wimbledon with Wimbledon Common at the bottom of Kingston/Roehampton Vale. Coombe Hill residents are contributors to the Wimbledon and Putney Conservators who levy an additional charge through the residents Council Tax bills and many residents share the same SW15 postcode.

In a previous boundary commission proposal these two wards were included in the Wimbledon constituency, and we believe should be again as they far more connected to Wimbledon than St James and Old Malden. As the inclusion of Coombe Hill and Coombe Vale wards would result in the iconic Wimbledon Common being represented by one constituency, we are proposing to rename Wimbledon BC to Wimbledon Common BC

### **Grove ward**

We propose that Grove ward should be included in Richmond Park constituency and the name changed to Kingston and Richmond Riverside.

Grove ward covers most of Kingston town centre including the ancient Parish Church (the only grade 1 listed building in the Borough) and the Medieval market. The Parish Church was the site of the crowning of seven Saxon kings – starting, in the ninth century, with King Athelstan as the first king of all England. Despite this historic centre the railway currently divides the town centre (with one of the largest shopping centres outside of central London) and the north Kingston residential area (which currently lies entirely within the Richmond Park constituency). The town centre's one way system runs through both Grove and Canbury wards – currently in two different constituencies.

Combining the north Kingston wards with Grove ward unites Kingston town centre. It also recognises the key feature of the Richmond Park constituency – the River Thames. Grove ward contains the final stretch of publicly accessible riverside walk at the Queen's Promenade and including Grove ward would unite all the Thames riverside areas in a single constituency from Hammersmith Bridge to (essentially) the Greater London boundary.

New electorate numbers

Kingston and Richmond Riverside - 75860

Surbiton and Malden - 74826

Wimbledon Common – 74402

Yours sincerely

Sharron Sumner

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