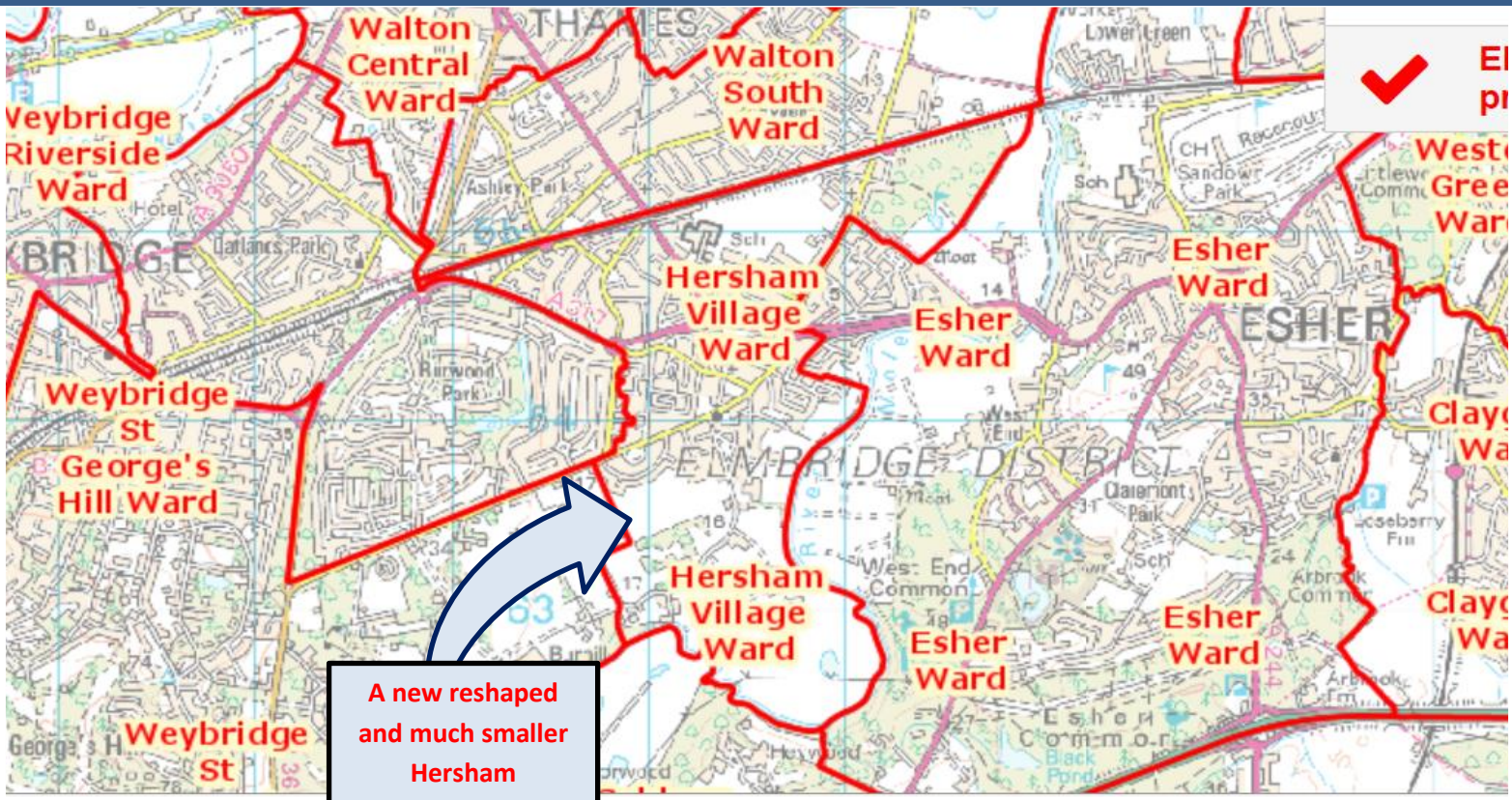


What would you think of a new smaller and re-shaped Hersham as below. – Let HRA know your thoughts ASAP before the Boundary Commission's deadline of 24th August-



FOR MORE CLICK HERE: [The Local Government Boundary Commission has published its recommendations and has invited comments by 24th August what do you think of the plan?](#)

Why have the above changes been proposed?

It's all linked to a plan to reduce the number of councillors across the council, which was first suggested by Elmbridge Council and now endorsed by the [Boundaries Commission](#). The planned reduction to 48 councillors affects the required population per cllr calculations which can only be re-balanced by substantially redrawing ward boundaries across the whole of Elmbridge including the long established boundaries of Hersham.

Hersham Residents

Association (the HRA) is a non-political organisation whose aims are to promote the interests of Hersham and its residents. It has been suggested that the changed ward boundaries as above could have a profound effect on Hersham, its community and sense of place. That's why we are keen to find out what you think, so we can represent the views of Hersham residents in our response.

The [Boundary Commission consultation proposals](#) would make Hersham, as recognised on the ward maps, significantly smaller than it is now.

The following long established Hersham areas would no longer be in be in a Hersham ward:

- Burhill Golf course
- Whitley Village and the land alongside 7 Hills Rd
- The Duke Rd area east of Mole Rd
- **and most notably**, The Longmore Estate – and Hersham Library! would become an Esher ward

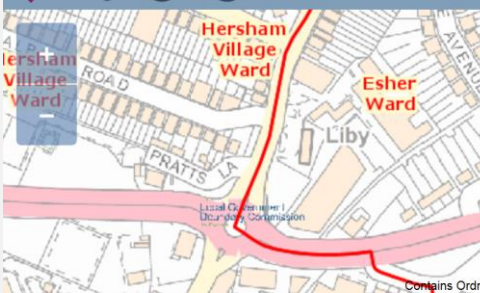
SO WHAT OF HERSHAM LIBRARY?

The current proposals suggest a boundary between Hersham and Esher up most of the Molesey Road; as a result Hersham Library would be in Esher.

Would Cllrs from Esher have the same passion about lobbying the County Council to keep the library open in future?

Focus on Hersham Library

Detail of proposed boundary which excludes Hersham Library from Hersham



The HRA suggest the boundary particularly needs changing here – do you agree?

The HRA will be responding to this consultation –what are your comments on our ideas below?

The HRA response will make some comments and suggested changes to the commission's suggestions – for example:-

- We are likely to comment that the Longmore Estate would not 'fit' with the Esher ward and should be included within Hersham.
 - **We will comment too that Hersham library should be located in Hersham!**
- We will also suggest that the area east of Mole Road which under the current plans would be in Esher – should be retained as part of Hersham by using the current boundary of the River Mole and the dual carriageway.

■ We might suggest that the new boundary to Hersham in the Turners Lane area be shifted westwards so as to include the Burhill golf club area. This area is sparsely populated and would be unlikely to affect the population balance calculation in any significant way.

Your views really count, so please send them to the Boundaries Commission reviews@lgbce.org.uk with a cc to info@hershamresidents.info by 19th August to give us time to take account of your views (before the commission's deadline of August 24th) Note you can also leave your comments on-line at their website .

More about why is all this happening? – and can we do anything?

Reduction in the number of councillors – plays havoc with the mathematics of cllr representation under the electoral system used in Elmbridge where a third of all cllrs are up for election every 4 years. Re-warding is necessary to comply with the Boundary Commission's guidelines to keep the number of residents per councillor roughly even at about 2,000, and hence each ward of 3 councillors must contain about 6,000 residents. The HRA has suggested that the electoral system could be changed to 'all-out' cllr elections every 4 years – this would allow much more flexibility and no need to re-ward. However, Elmbridge Borough Councillors rejected this option at a meeting last year. Whilst we understand that revisiting the Elmbridge decision is not an option, there may be areas we could explore with the commission about their flexibility in relation to the 'required' 6,000 electorate in each ward and whether this could be interpreted more flexibly.

But why does all this matter?

Hersham's community

A recognised identity and sense of community are intangible, but very valuable. They are not easy to create, but easy to dismantle. At the moment, Hersham has a greater sense of identity and community than many other places in easy commuter distance of London. The characteristics of Hersham have been gradually established within the existing Hersham boundaries over many years of continuity.

We feel strongly that changing the current boundaries would have the effect of starting a gradual but profound erosion of people's perceptions of Hersham as a place and community.

Whilst we realise the suggested boundary changes relate only to electoral matters, we feel they would inevitably, over time, become interpreted more widely and start to define the village, through for example estate agent's descriptions of properties, and the redrawing of local maps etc.

Focus on the Longmore estate

The Longmore Estate is on the north side of Hersham with a boundary on the east with Esher. Moving this boundary to merge part of Hersham and part of Esher makes little sense because the majority of people in this part of the village would not

feel they have a shared history or common identity with Esher. The sense of belonging to Hersham for people living on the Longmore Estate is strong - and we feel that many here are also likely to feel that their political identity would be overshadowed if they became part of a ward in Esher.

One longer term response might be to launch a campaign to establish a Hersham Parish Council to help establish Hersham as an independent and strong community with its own clear boundaries and identity – however to stand a realistic chance of success, the boundary would have to follow the new ward boundaries. Nevertheless this might be worth exploring, and if you would actively support this proposal please <mailto:info@hershamresidents.info>

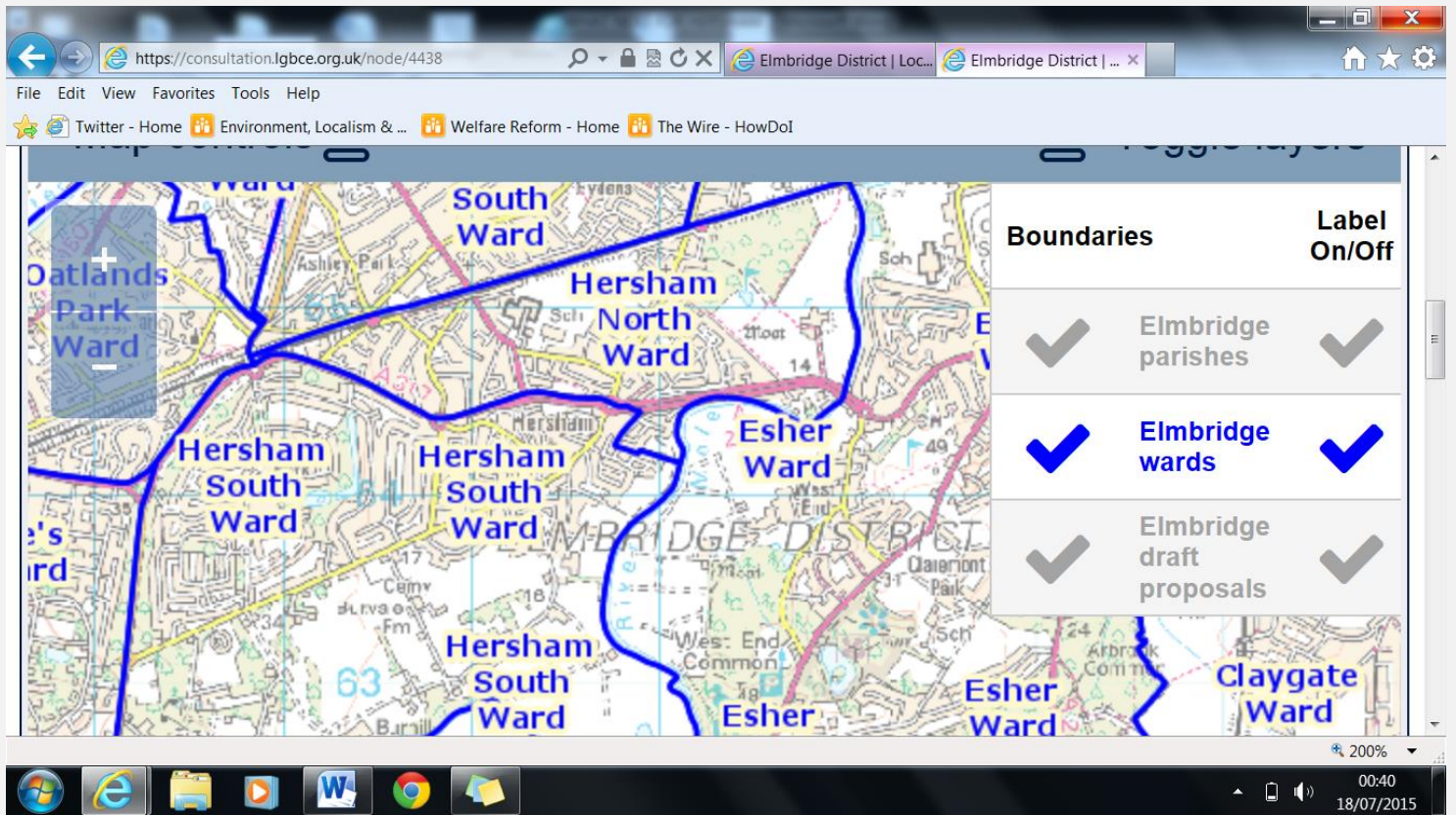
More about the HRA – why not join us? The HRA has a long history in Hersham going back to 1971 when it was created to help represent resident's views during negotiations about the creation of Hersham Green Shopping centre – replacing an old slaughterhouse! Hersham has come a long way since then – but still needs an independent 'community voice' to help make sure Hersham's interests are heard.

If you are not already a member – and you would like to find out more about us, you might want to visit <http://thehershamhub.co.uk/about-hra/>. If you would like more information about membership or about how you can get involved with the HRA, please email: info@hershamresidents.info or ring 01932 703175.

Maps showing the existing boundaries – for reference

For more detail see <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/node/4438>

Map 1: Hersham North and South (current wards)



Map 2 - Hersham South below (current wards)

