



PROPOSED CHANGES TO PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES FOR MITCHAM

**Submission to Boundary Commission for England
December 2016**

1. Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage takes an active interest in the future of the Cricket Green Conservation Area and its environs. We are the civic society for this part of Merton and part of the wider civic movement through membership of the national charity Civic Voice. We have been closely involved in the development of the Borough Character Studies, the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan and numerous development proposals in the area. We have worked with the London Borough of Merton and our local councillors to produce the Cricket Green Charter which establishes our approach to development and change in the area and has been acknowledged in the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan for Cricket Green (<http://mitchamcricketgreen.files.wordpress.com/2013/04/cricket-green-charter.pdf>). We have also contributed to production of the Merton Heritage Strategy as a member of the Merton Heritage Forum.
2. Mitcham has a long and proud history and a clear identity. This provides an important source of civic pride and social cohesion which in turn helps to address the significant economic, social and environmental challenges of the area.
3. We share the widespread dismay at proposals to redraw the Parliamentary constituency boundaries in a manner which will divide Mitcham and damage its identity. The proposed boundary line could not be more inappropriate. Among other impacts it will:
 - Divide Upper from Lower Mitcham
 - Separate Mitcham from its Common
 - Split Three Kings Pond from Three Kings Piece
 - Cut across Mitcham Cricket Green Conservation Area
4. We have supported the Mitcham Society's petition (<https://www.change.org/p/boundary-commission-for-england-keep-mitcham-in-a-single-parliamentary-constituency>) for a more sensible outcome and ask that any future proposals put Mitcham at the heart of its Parliamentary constituency and avoid damage to its coherence and identity.

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