

**2019 Electoral Review of the
London Borough of Wandsworth**
response to the draft recommendations
Adam Gray

Introduction

The draft recommendations are, in my opinion, a curate's egg: good in parts. I broadly support your recommendations for Tooting and Balham, though I would ask you to reconsider some of the ward names there, which I'll return to later on.

Although I have some concerns about the warding pattern in Battersea, I am not going to propose any alternative boundaries for Battersea because I recognise that there are only so many alterations I can reasonably expect you to make to your draft recommendations and I would rather focus on the two larger concerns I have in the west and centre of the borough.

These two core objections to your draft warding pattern can essentially be condensed to:

- the boundary between Roehampton ward and West Putney ward
- the proposed Wandle Valley ward and West Hill ward

Because changes cannot be made to one ward without knock-on effects to its neighbours I am proposing changes, of varying degrees, to ward boundaries in seven wards:

- Roehampton
- West Putney
- East Putney
- West Hill
- Southfields
- Wandle Valley
- Wandsworth Town & St Ann's.

Boundary between Roehampton and West Putney wards

Roehampton is the ward in which I live.

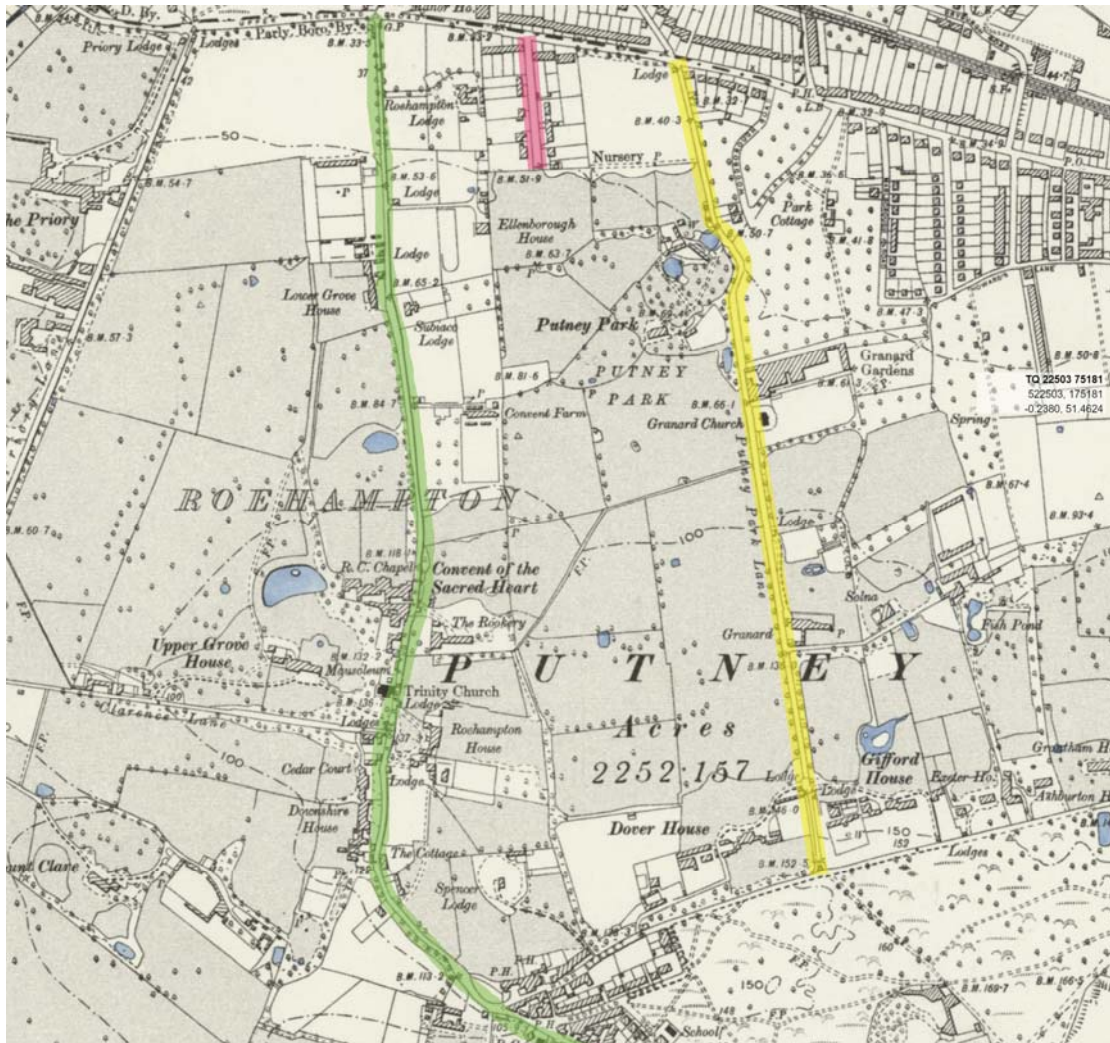
The main issue I have with the proposed boundary between the Roehampton and West Putney wards is the decision to use Dover House Road as a ward boundary, so splitting the cohesive Dover House/Roehampton estate in two. This would be a very poor outcome for the residents of that estate, and it isn't necessary - there is an alternative that better meets the statutory criteria.

You stated in the draft recommendations report that three respondents had asserted "*that this was the boundary of the Roehampton area*" (para 107). These three respondents are simply wrong. It is not. No local historian would support this assertion.

The boundary of Roehampton with Putney is - and has always been - Putney Park Lane; not the road running up the eastern edge of the estate but the historic gravel track parallel to it that runs from Upper Richmond Road uphill to Putney Heath.

You don't have to take my word for this: overleaf is a map of the area from 1899. Dover House Road did not exist beyond a stub (shaded pink) running no further than what is now Huntingfield Road. Putney Park Lane (yellow) did. When the London County Council built the Dover House estate was built in 1919 it was called the Roehampton Estate. The Dover House

area is part of Roehampton - everything west of Putney Park Lane is Roehampton, even if it can't all be squeezed into a ward called Roehampton.



1899 map of the Dover House-Putney Park area



Putney Park Lane physically separates Roehampton: the edge of the Dover House estate - on the left, from Putney - on the right.

Below is a flyer advertising the *Roehampton Estate* Garden Society show. That flyer wasn't just for the community west of Dover House Road - of course it wasn't! It was for the whole estate, both sides of Dover House Road. The council's Dover House conservation area appraisal explains why it is one cohesive whole here:

https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/media/1595/dover_house_final.pdf

The Municipal Dreams blog also discusses the importance of the Roehampton estate here:

<https://municipaldreams.wordpress.com/2014/06/10/the-dover-house-estate-putney-here-comes-uniform-town>

But even if those three respondents referred to in the draft recommendations were right that the technical boundary of Roehampton was Dover House Road, it makes no practical sense on the ground, in reality, today, to divide the estate. The Dover House estate is one cohesive whole.

Whilst house sizes vary across the estate, they are all of the same design and character. Its two sides almost mirror each other: there are two areas of allotments on each side; there are two sets of twin "squares": Gibbon Walk and Lysons Walks to the north-west of Dover House Road and Hobbes Walk and Henty Walk to the south-east. Huntingford Road crosses Dover House Road a quarter of the way up; Parkstead Road crosses in three quarters of the way up. Huntingfield Road in the west and Putney Park Lane in the east frame the estate.

I cannot see a single argument as to how dividing this unified, carefully planned estate in two best meets the criterion of convenient and effective local government for residents here. Moreover, you yourself made exactly the objection to the Liberal Democrat submission that divided the Alton Estate erratically as I am making to this boundary through the Dover House estate. How can it be wrong to divide that estate, but right for this estate? I submit that it cannot.

Of course, my argument proposing to unite the Dover House Estate in one ward is only of use if a way can be found to balance the electorates of Roehampton and West Putney wards. Fortunately, this is eminently possible.

In my original submission I proposed that because Roehampton's population had declined so dramatically (due, principally, to individual electoral registration that has largely purged the register of the university halls of residence) and because the ward had the largest acreage by far in Wandsworth, the ward should be reduced to its core: the Alton, the village and either the heath or Queen Mary's Place as a two-member ward with Clarence Lane as a logical natural northern boundary. But I also suggested how a three-member ward could be drawn - a plan not all that dissimilar to that submitted by Labour.



Given your preference for a three-member ward here, I recommend that the Commission re-examines the Labour Group's boundaries for Roehampton - though not in their entirety. I support the Labour Group boundary that runs between the Dover House Estate and Roehampton Lane (though in their submission they drew this boundary erroneously: it needs to run behind the western terrace of Huntingfield Road and Vanneck Square, not down the middle of Huntingfield Road.

Thus, everything that fronts Roehampton Lane: Roehampton Close, Emerald Square, the Eastwood Estates, Roehampton Close and Ellenborough Close, and Queen Mary's Place would be in Roehampton ward. I would also transfer everything west of the Dover House estate that fronts Upper Richmond Road from Marrick Close west, plus Putney Park Avenue, Dungarvon, Daylesford and Langside Avenues and Lantern Close to Roehampton.

Where I depart from Labour's proposed Roehampton boundary is that I believe everything that is in the existing Roehampton and Putney Heath ward should stay within it - and that includes Putney Heath.

In your draft recommendations you note that some respondents argued that Putney Heath is better located in West Putney. The reality is that Putney Heath is an isolated community that doesn't naturally fit in either Roehampton or West Putney. Any arguments about which ward it belongs in are tangential: it "belongs" with neither but has to be linked to one of them. But here are four arguments that lend themselves to the view that it is better warded with Roehampton than West Putney.

First, there is the issue of electoral equality. My proposed Roehampton would be significantly below the quota if this area is removed. In itself, this isn't a strong justification but set against the far worse alternative of dividing the Dover House Estate, it has some merit. I note that your draft recommendation for Roehampton has fairly high electoral inequality itself and returning Putney Heath to Roehampton (in exchange for the larger Dover House area that would stay in West Putney) would reduce that inequality.

Second, keeping this part of Putney Heath in Roehampton unites the whole of Putney Heath - the heath itself - in the same ward. Putney Heath straddles both sides of the A3 Kingston Road so on the draft recommendation, that part that links with Wimbledon Common stays in Roehampton but the rest goes into West Putney.

There are no electors living on the south side of the heath but its management has been fairly controversial and it makes sense to have one team of councillors holding the management committee accountable than two.

Third, the history of Putney Heath is that, before the A3 was constructed, it was the main route out of London. Vehicles would travel up Wildcroft Road to the Telegraph Public House then along Portsmouth Road (which was then not a cul de sac), across Roehampton Lane (which was then just a small lane) and down what is now called Norley Vale, which is of course part of the Alton Estate in Roehampton and Putney Heath ward. In other words, the historic outlook of the community on the heath is west to Roehampton, not south to West Putney.

Why am I making a historical case when you are not obliged to consider historical arguments for drawing new ward? Simply because the case you accepted in the draft recommendations is that

there was some intrinsic bond between Putney Heath and West Putney that must, in part, be based on some historic shared history. But what is that? There isn't really any.

The reality is that there is a seamlessness between the village and the heath that is lacking between the heath and West Putney. Roehampton residents are principal users of Putney Heath: it is on our doorstep, whether that doorstep happens to be the Alton estate frontage or the Roehampton Village frontage. The heath, Roehampton Village and the Alton are, essentially, one: the area at the top of Putney Hill, whereas everything in West Putney is downhill, away from it. Roehampton Church school and Holy Trinity church are on the heath but intrinsic to the village, for example.



Here at the junction of Medfield Street with Ponsonby Road; with Holy Trinity and Roehampton Church School in the background, you can see how intrinsic Roehampton Village and Putney Heath are

Fourth, there is something to be said for maintaining continuity if it can be maintained, as long as the continuity is not deleterious. Is anyone arguing that Putney Heath residents receive inconvenient and ineffective representation being in Roehampton - and even if the answer is yes - which it is not, can you be sure that this will be fixed by being annexed to West Putney despite being just as remote? If the answer is no, then it makes no sense to transfer this area from Roehampton.

Roehampton ward would therefore comprise:

- Roehampton Village and Putney Heath
- The Alton Estate
- Putney Vale
- Roehampton University
- All of Roehampton Lane and some streets to its north-east
- Roehampton Gate, Roedean Close and Priory Lane
- The Lennox and Woking Close estates

Proposed ward	Existing ward	Poll Dist	2019	2024
Roehampton	Roehampton and Putney Heath	RHA	956	1,028
	Roehampton and Putney Heath	RHB	2,938	2,999
	Roehampton and Putney Heath	RHC	2,955	3,411
	Roehampton and Putney Heath	RHD	1,897	1,919
	Roehampton and Putney Heath	RHE	1,022	1,040
	West Putney	WPB (part)	1,127	1,132
	West Putney	WPD (part)	857	857
			11,752	12,386

This would leave West Putney as a much more compact ward comprising, essentially, four distinct areas:

- The whole of the Dover House estate
- The Ashburton estate
- The residential avenues west of Putney Hill
- The more densely populated western side of Putney Hill and Upper Richmond Road west of the High Street

Approximately 1,250 electors would transfer from Roehampton ward back to West Putney ward in the WPB and WPD polling districts.

In exchange, approximately 240 electors would move from the WPD polling district to Roehampton ward, plus the Putney Heath section of the RPE polling district: around 485 electors. This net transfer from Roehampton to West Putney of about 600 electors reduces the electoral variance of Roehampton, which on the draft recommendations is 6% over the quota.

Although I am not using the exact same 2019 electorate numbers as you, I believe this will give Roehampton approximately 11,752 electors at present, increasing to 12,386 by 2025 - bringing it to 1.6% below the electoral quota.

Boundary between West Putney and East Putney wards

I very much like and support the principle of using Putney Hill as the divide between East and West Putney wards. Although some of the more modern, mansion blocks character of East Putney spills across Putney Hill to streets in the west, notably Cambalt Road and the Putney Hill end of Chartfield Avenue, Putney Hill is clearly a significant boundary and it is how most people differentiate between the eastern and western sides of Putney.

For that reason and others, I do not think your proposal to deviate from Putney Hill by running the boundary along Carlton Drive is a good one. Much like the division of the Dover House estate discussed above, though on a much smaller scale, it makes no sense to divide Carlton Drive in two. Carlton Drive is quintessential East Putney being just metres from the tube station. It is of a whole with Merciers Road, Rayners Road and the eastern stretch of St John's Avenue: an area of - in the main - 1950s tenement mansion blocks interspersed with some of the original detached houses and some newer housing developments, both private and public. Putting one side of it in West Putney will not be the least understood by residents there.

Because my proposed boundary changes between West Putney and Roehampton transfer more electors into West Putney than are lost, there is now no need to split Carlton Drive in half: this whole area: Carlton Drive, St John's Avenue, Rayners Road and Mercier Road could remain in East Putney whilst still maintaining high levels of electoral equality in both wards.

There are two remaining options. If very high electoral equality is the top priority, we could extend West Putney along Upper Richmond Road towards East Putney station, though rather than reach as far east as the District Line viaduct as in the draft recommendations, I'd suggest that the boundary stops at Oxford Road on the northern side and Downholme - No.101 - just opposite Oxford Road, on the other. Any further and the ward encroaches on core East Putney. That boundary would make West Putney just 3% below the electoral quota.

However, I think the prize of utilising Putney Hill as the ward boundary its entire length - with the clear, understandable division of wards that would represent, is worth a slightly wider degree of electoral inequality for West Putney ward. Removing that eastern stretch of Upper Richmond Road from West Putney would leave the ward 6% below the electoral quota by 2025 - still comfortably within the 10% electoral variance. I therefore argue that slightly greater electoral inequality is a price well worth paying for the more conducive, understandable ward boundaries that could be instituted here.

Proposed ward	Existing ward	Poll Dist	2019	2024
West Putney	East Putney	EPA (part)	2,355	2,416
	Thamesfield	TFB (part)	42	42
	Thamesfield	TFC (part)	143	143
	West Putney	WPA	2,887	2,906
	West Putney	WPB (part)	1,735	1,743
	West Putney	WPC	3,530	3,535
	West Putney	WPD (part)	1,050	1,050
			11,742	11,835

Wandle Valley ward

The remainder of my proposed adjustments to your draft recommendations are a fix to the other major concern: that of your proposed Wandle Valley ward.

This ward, in my opinion is utterly unjustifiable: it fails on all three statutory criteria:

- In terms of electoral equality, your Wandle Valley is, by my calculations, 18% below the electoral quota for a 3-member ward (10,326 electors or so by 2025). There is clearly a major error in your draft recommendations for this ward and neighbouring West Hill (which is 15% too large) and Wandle Valley should be rejected on this criterion alone
- In terms of best representing communities you are proposing to force together areas either side of three significant physical boundaries: the river Wandle, King George's Park and the industrial sites mainly to the east of the Wandle. Just two roads connect either side of this ward: they are clearly physically separated communities that orient themselves differently
- Finally, in terms of convenient and effective local government, there are problems with the current Southfields ward in that it extends too far north, causing poor outcomes for the

cluster of residents living in the north of the ward in Wandsworth town, but this alternative simply replicates the failings of that ward in a slightly different arrangement

Proposed ward	Existing ward	Poll Dist	2019	2024
Wandle Valley (draft recommendation)	Earlsfield	EFA	2,394	2,834
	Earlsfield	EFC (part)	1,481	1,496
	Fairfield	FFC (part)	1,253	1,561
	Southfields	SFC (part)	2,274	2,341
	Southfields	SFD	2,060	2,094
		Total	9,462	10,326
		Variance		-18%

I note from the draft recommendations that of all the submissions received for central Wandsworth, only one - Labour's - proposed such a ward (albeit alongside getting a handful of their activists to support their plan). With respect, quantity is not evidence of quality: these respondents would probably have supported joining Southfields to Queenstown or Furzedown if the Labour Party had proposed it. So: one partisan proposal for this divisive ward; everyone else who submitted a plan not coming close to such an idea.

Please ask yourself why Labour proposed such a tenuous ward. It is because these boundaries bung together four sizeable council estates that have never been in the same ward before: the Arndale Estate in Wandsworth Town (Southfields), the Wendlesworth Estate by Sainsbury's in Garratt Lane (Fairfield); the Henry Prince Estate and the Atheldene Estate (both Earlsfield). Of course they want a ward with those boundaries: it is the sort of ward I would have attempted to smuggle under your radar when I was Labour's election agent for the borough of Wandsworth. But this is a dreadful ward - truly awful in consequence for the residents who'll find themselves locked into it for two or three decades. It must not be allowed to stand.

The River Wandle has always been a major physical boundary: a ward boundary and a constituency boundary (indeed, a borough boundary further south) - not just on a whim but because it physically separates the communities either side of it.

And it isn't just the river itself. The river adjoins King George's Park, a large expanse of open space prising the two sides of the river further apart. And the Wandle has an industrial heritage which has meant that most of the area to the east of the river up to Garratt Lane (and parts of the western side) is not residential either - it is predominantly small industrial sites and warehouses. The two sides are connected only in two places: at Kimber Road and Penwith Road. So the boundary is far more than the river: it's also a large green space and non residential zones beyond that river. Any one of these features could usually be argued to be a major boundary between communities but all three together? That is why there has never been a cross Wandle ward - and it's why there should not be one now.

Just look at Kimber Road: one of those two connecting roads. There is no shared community here: a very small cluster of shops and flats near Garratt Lane on one side, in Earlsfield; then a void area as you cross the river and King George's Park until you reach Coleman Court at the western end, which is a winding tenement block of flats itself somewhat isolated from the rest of Southfields - let alone the areas across the Wandle. On the other side of Kimber Road to Coleman Court are more warehouses. There is no link.



Kimber Road at the Earlsfield end looking across King George's Park to Southfields, far in the distance. The Wandle can be seen on the left. If this is not a substantial physical divide between one side and the other I don't know what is.

The other connecting road is Penwith Road - just above the borough boundary. This road is more of a link between the two sides of the Wandle because it has housing along its length. But the character of the wider area north and south of Penwith Road does not feel like Earlsfield. If you visit Dounesforth Gardens: a small, quiet council estate one road north of Penwith, which backs onto King George's Park, it feels like you're in the countryside. The Merton Road end of these streets all look to Southfields - they are just across the road from the Southfields Grid - quintessential Southfields. So does the Arragon Road estate off Acuba Street, and the tenement blocks that are scattered from Acuba Road up Merton Road to Brathway Road.



The River Wandle near Kimber Road. Again, do these fences, fenced-off wild flower embankments, the river and the rear of houses on the other side look like a focal point of the community - or a boundary between communities?

Some of the respondents you cited rightly focussed on how remote the Arndale estate above Southside shopping centre in Wandsworth Town is from Southfields - indeed, I made this point myself. They are right. How then is it justifiable to locate the Arndale estate in a ward where Earlsfield is equally as remote? Earlsfield is just as far from the Arndale as Southfields is - actually slightly further.

So Wandle Valley ward cannot be the solution to the problem of convenient and effective local government for the Arndale estate - or the surrounding areas. Putting the Arndale in a central Wandsworth ward, where it belongs, is the solution.

I am therefore proposing the complete abolition of Wandle Valley ward, and the reallocation of its two councillors elsewhere. Here's how I propose that this could be done.

Southfields ward

I quite liked the Southfields of the draft recommendations. It does encompass core Southfields. I also think that the south-eastern corner of West Hill ward either side of Wimbledon Park Road, which you propose to transfer to Southfields, strongly identifies with that community: some of it is immediately across the road from Southfields tube station, for example, and Southfields Library is here.

So there is a very strong case for a smaller Southfields ward. But there are also far wider parts of West Hill ward that self-identify as Southfields: you will find residents that regard themselves as living in Southfields right the way up Augustus Road; along Sutherland Grove and Skeena Hill, along Beaumont Road. Pretty much all of the SW18 sections of West Hill ward, and plenty of those bits in SW19 identifies as living in Southfields. But everyone who identifies as living in Southfields cannot all be accommodated in Southfields ward - there are just too many of them. West Hill has always partly been "Southfields West" ward and I don't believe convenient and effective local government has been impaired because of this.

It's also the case that as you progress down Wimbledon Park Road towards the All England tennis club, identity with Southfields weakens rapidly. This area is physically prised apart from the Southfields Grid - again, the epicentre of Southfields - by Wimbledon Park and the District Line. Stand at the entrance to Wimbledon Park in Wimbledon Park Road and you can just about see the grid - but it is very distant. They are not the same community. The character of the area also changes. Large mansion blocks overlook the park and behind them the hill rises steeply up Victoria Drive to Winterfold Close and Albert Drive.

Therefore, I propose that the part of the WHD polling district transferred to Southfields ward in the draft recommendations should remain in West Hill. Instead, I propose keeping the SFD polling district and part of SFC in this ward. I proposed dividing the northern SFC polling district between three wards:

- The area north of Mapleton Road and east of Nevill Gill Close (in other words the Arndale Estate, the new tower blocks of Mapleton Crescent and the sheltered housing in Mapleton Road) I propose transferring to my revised Wandsworth Town ward, where it belongs.

- The area east of Buckhold Road and north of Granville Road, including the Hardwicks Way and Broomhill Road new development behind Wandsworth High Street, I propose transferring to a 3-member East Putney ward.
- The remainder of SFC: the area immediately north of Kimber Road and east of Merton Road would remain in Southfields ward

Proposed ward	Existing ward	Poll Dist	2019	2024
Southfields	Southfields	SFA	3,804	3,811
	Southfields	SFB (part)	1,942	1,949
	Southfields	SFC (part)	881	881
	Southfields	SFD	2,060	2,094
		Total	8,687	8,735

My proposed Southfields ward stays as a two-member ward, still retains those quintessential Southfields areas of the Grid, the local shopping centre around Replingham Road and the streets between Wimbledon Park Road and Merton Road, and reinstates the river Wandle, King George's Park and the Earlsfield industrial-warehouse quarter as the hard physical boundary they are.

My revised Southfields ward would comprise something like 8,735 electors by 2025: 4.1% above the electoral quota.

East Putney ward and West Hill ward

I propose that East Putney ward retain the three councillors it currently has, instead of being reduced by one. In order to achieve this, I propose a revision of the boundary between your proposed East Putney and West Hill wards.

As referenced in my comments regarding Wandle Valley ward, there is another significant electoral variance in your proposed West Hill ward which will be 15% too large by 2025. This major discrepancy, which cannot simply be fixed by transferring the Hardwicks Square area out of this ward, means that the warding pattern needs to be entirely revisited.

Proposed ward	Current ward	Current PD	2019	2025
West Hill (draft recommendations)	East Putney	EPB (part)	1,153	1,160
	East Putney	EPC (part)	1,185	1,191
	Southfields	SFC (part)	1,906	1,963
	West Hill	WHA	3,943	4,188
	West Hill	WHB	1,867	1,869
	West Hill	WHC	3,872	3,876
	West Hill	WHD (part)	254	257
		Total	14,180	14,504
		Variance		+15.2

The existing West Hill ward has significant and easily understood ward boundaries: Wimbledon Parkside in the east, the A3 in the north, the District Line to the east, and the borough boundary in the south.

In my original submission I proposed leaving West Hill ward unchanged. You asserted in the draft recommendations that I did not justify such a proposal. This is incorrect. Measure the current West Hill against your draft recommendation:

The current ward is projected to be 5% below the electoral quota by 2025. The draft recommendation will be 15% too large.

The current ward has, arguably, the strongest boundaries of any ward in Wandsworth: you do not really get more physical boundaries in London than a massive heath to the west; a constantly busy dual carriageway navigable only by one solitary pedestrian underpass to the north; the District railway line to the east and the borough boundary to the south. How do these boundaries not meet the statutory criterion please? The draft recommendation for West Hill cannot reasonably be argued to have coherent boundaries as it meanders towards Wandsworth town. Albert Drive is a residential backstreet; Victoria Drive is a residential backstreet; the almost untraceable boundary that chops out large chunks of the A3 - West Hill itself - and other minor roads is one of residential backstreets.

Within the existing boundaries of West Hill can be found a maze of almost entirely post-war small private and council estates, unlike older Southfields downhill and to the east. Three postal districts claim parts of West Hill ward but it is mostly SW19 and tends to see itself as Wimbledon more than either Putney or Wandsworth (though some of it regards itself as Southfields - as I discussed earlier).

There is nothing quite like West Hill ward anywhere else in Wandsworth; so again, the criterion of ensuring communities are warded in the way that best fits their unique circumstances are met by the existing West Hill ward. The communities currently in West Hill make sense; adding those you propose do not: they have nothing in common: they are Wandsworth communities.

And while I accept that "because it's always been this way" is not an argument you are permitted to give weight to, it also takes some hubris to dismiss the fact that in every single previous electoral review the review team has felt that the area should be warded in broadly the same way. Unless they were wrong; unless this area has suddenly changed radically; or unless there has been a huge weight of local argument demanding change I simply submit that the status quo - as a starting point - must have some merit to have survived so long.

I accept, however, that you wish to improve the level of electoral equality here, somewhat. Putting aside that the draft recommendation significantly worsens the electoral imbalance here, the draft recommendations appear to be attempting to fix a problem that I'm not sure exists - and fails even that challenge. The bulbous protrusion that has been bolted on to the ward does not bring into West Hill ward areas that naturally link to it - the connection is exceptionally tenuous and doesn't even include much more of West Hill itself, having carved out the Sutherland Grove estate for example.

This boundary appears to have come about in part because of your preference for the Labour Party's warding pattern, but also because a councillor noted that West Hill school was not in West Hill ward. This is true. But look at the map and you will see that also in this area is Southfields Road. So, applying the same logic, this section should be in Southfields ward. West Hill School is named because it is close to the road of that name, not because there is something intrinsically "West Hill" about the area the school was built in. It could have been named Merton

Road school, Broomhill School or Wandsworth Town school and no tenuous connection with West Hill ward would then ever have been attempted.

You also received submissions asserting that the current East Putney ward extended beyond areas that don't identify as East Putney, referring to this area. In reality, this patch that is covered by part of the EPB, EPC and SFC polling districts is a sort of no-man's land: different communities can make a case that it belongs with them, but some of it fits uncomfortably with each possible solution. In such a situation, the best that can be done is to ensure the whole area is united in one ward, rather than between wards, so that at least it has as much electoral clout as it can muster, even if some within it do not feel they identify with the ward they are in.

The streets in this area are unusual and distinctive for Putney: they feel far more suburban; more in common with places like Carshalton or Greenford; houses more spaced apart; built in the inter war years in that inter war style, later than most of Putney; and in a meandering street pattern. The character of housing on Cromer Villas Road is different to that of Sutherland Grove; Cromer Villas Road sweeps round into Viewfield Road with its central grass verge and the winding West Hill Road; Melrose Road and Gressenhall Road with the London Mosque and some tenement council blocks. They stand apart from West Hill ward and should not be paired with it.



Sispara Gardens in the atypical section of the current East Putney ward that is in dispute here. This area is unique and does not naturally fit with any ward. But it has been located with East Putney since 1978, and if the entire area, currently shared with Southfields ward, was joined together, it would increase the area's clout with its councillors.

Does the proposed fix in the draft recommendations improve things or make matters worse? It makes them worse because this area is still divided between wards, just as it is today, AND it is proposed to extend East Putney into the entirety of FFB polling district - the eastern end of which is quite clearly Wandsworth Town, not East Putney.

So even if it was clearly correct that this between-wards area around West Hill Road was not part of East Putney (and it's far from clearly correct), the draft recommendations do not resolve it; they don't even improve upon the current electoral arrangements.

How does chopping in half (I say half but it's more two thirds-one third) the entirely residential streets of Ringford Road, Haldon Road and Amerland Road, deliver convenient and effective local government to residents of those streets? It does not. How does a ward that runs from the border of Wimbledon village and the All England Tennis Club all the way to the new residential quarter around Hardwicks Square in the centre of Wandsworth town, do so? It does not.

I believe Sutherland Grove at the junction with West Hill is a fairly logical boundary between communities. To the west of Sutherland Grove the new Whitelands Park development faces away: it is walled off from Sutherland Grove; while on the eastern side the Sutherland Grove council estate does the same: they were both planned to be communities unto themselves, looking inward, not out to Sutherland Grove. Then the District Line serves as a further physical divide south of Cromer Villas Road.

The least unreasonable warding pattern for this atypical area, uphill from Southfields and somewhat downhill from most of West Hill is for it to remain in East Putney - and indeed the whole wider area be added to it to reduce confusion, instead of it being split with Southfields.

I therefore return to my original proposal that West Hill retain its existing boundaries - with one difference. I propose that West Hill be given the triangle of roads between Wimbledon Park Road and the district line: Granville Road, Wincanton Road, Hambledon Road, Gatwick Road, Pulborough Road and Crowthorne Close - an area known as the Southfields Triangle.

These are all roads that have previously been within West Hill ward (the versions of it prior to 1978); they are of broadly similar character to the Sutherland Grove section of West Hill the other side of the tracks, they can be accessed at both ends: Augustus Road and Granville Road; and they are a more compact contribution. Adding these roads addresses the slight electoral inequality of the existing West Hill, maintains strong clear boundaries, and ingrains the reality that West Hill ward is Southfields West rather than an entirely separate community.

Proposed ward	Existing ward	Poll Dist	2019	2024
West Hill	Southfields	SFB (part)	829	832
	West Hill	WHA	3943	4188
	West Hill	WHB	1867	1869
	West Hill	WHC	3872	3876
	West Hill	WHD	1969	1990
			12,480	12,755

To return to the FFB polling district, historically, the boundary between Putney and Battersea (or Wandsworth town) was Putney Bridge Road: everything west of the Wandsworth gyratory was always within East Putney ward. If you refer to the boundary reports from the 1999 electoral review you will see that Martin Linton, then MP for Battersea, supported the revisions to Fairfield ward except in respect of the streets coming into it from East Putney. It is widely recognised as the boundary between Putney and Wandsworth town. Not the Wandle.

I propose to revert to the pre-2002 boundary: Putney Bridge Road and the western edge of the gyratory: ensuring that East Putney does not extend into areas it has no business being.

Proposed ward	Existing ward	Poll Dist	2019	2024
East Putney	East Putney	EPA (part)	1,806	1,853
	East Putney	EPB	3,852	3,876
	East Putney	EPC	1,466	1,473
	East Putney	EPD	2,267	2,267
	Fairfield	FFB (part)	1,331	1,370
	Southfields	SFC (part)	1,952	1,952
	Thamesfield	TFC (part)	82	82
			12,756	12,873

My 3-member East Putney ward would have around 12,756 electors on last year's electorate figures, improving to 12,873 by 2025: 2.2% above the electoral quota.

West Hill ward would have around 12,480 electors in 2019 and 12,755 in 2025; just 1.3% above the electoral quota and on far stronger, natural boundaries.

St Ann's ward and Wandsworth Town ward

In the sections above I have reallocated one of the three proposed Wandle Valley councillors to East Putney ward. The other two councillors I propose to allocate to the east of the Wandle.

As a consequence of creating Wandle Valley ward, a very odd Wandsworth Town and St Anns ward curved all the way around the side of this ward right down to Earlsfield station. I do agree with you that Earlsfield Road should not be divided between wards: I just feel that it is better located in an Earlsfield ward, not a Wandsworth Town ward.

In my original submission, I proposed a 3-member Earlsfield ward that comprised almost a triangle of land north of the railway line, bounded by East Hill plus Wandsworth Common Northside, and Garratt Lane and the Wandle in the west. A similar proposal was, I believe, submitted by the Conservative Party. I maintain that this proposal is the best way to ward this area that rapidly transitions from Wandsworth Town to Earlsfield.

There is a marked difference in character between what you might call bustling, congested, shopping centre and municipal Central Wandsworth town; that is the area from the Thames south to East Hill and Wandsworth High Street; and the quieter, more sedate Wandsworth Town to the west of Wandsworth Common as it slopes towards Earlsfield. I submit that this difference justifies a warding pattern reflective of it.

Central Wandsworth is a dense, urban town centre. It has the town hall, the railway station, the historic York Road local shopping centre and the pleasant narrow streets up the side of East Hill called the Tonsleys; it has the massive Wandsworth roundabout and gyratory system and the northern end of Trinity Road which all rent the community apart. It even has the borough's main waste disposal plant in Smugglers Way, and a range of small, long-standing local pubs (most still bearing their original names), in part because of the presence until recently of the Youngs Brewery.

Most of this town centre has, for the current borough's existence, been in Fairfield ward but never - somewhat bizarrely - the town's principal shopping centre: originally the Arndale Centre but now renamed Southside. Nor has most of Wandsworth High Street. Both of these have been

warded in Southfields ward and I have already discussed the inappropriateness of that arrangement, both geographically and in terms of the poor service the estate above the Southside centre receives from its councillors as a result.

I believe it's time to put all of central Wandsworth town in one ward: a move that will lead to far more clearly understood wards than exist at present or which are being proposed in the draft recommendations. Given the miscalculations of electorate size in the draft recommendations for West Hill and Wandle Valley wards there is a final chance to draw central Wandsworth, in my opinion, properly.

In my original submission, I proposed a long, narrow Wandsworth town ward with the railway as the northern boundary and East Hill as the southern boundary, ranging from Strath Terrace in the east to Mexfield Road in the west.

I propose something roughly the same now, though my western ward boundary is now Putney Bridge Road on the western side of the Wandsworth gyratory. Instead of that western section of FFB polling district that I propose to return to East Putney ward I propose that Wandsworth Town ward take in the Southside shopping centre and the Arndale estate above it; plus the new tower blocks in Mapleton Road and Mapleton Crescent; the Sainsbury's supermarket across Garratt Lane, plus the South Thames College campus and the Garratt Lane Old Burial Ground.

This boundary encapsulates the whole of the central Wandsworth shopping centre and joins together all the civic and municipal buildings in the same ward, as well as the new development on the Ram Brewery site.

Proposed ward	Existing ward	Poll Dist	2019	2024
Wandsworth Town	Fairfield	FFA (part)	1,977	2,786
	Fairfield	FFB (part)	637	939
	Fairfield	FFD	3,616	3,629
	Southfields	SFC (part)	1,353	1,477
			7,583	8,831

The area of Wandsworth south of East Hill, behind the Sainsburys supermarket - the area you have chosen to label "St Ann's"; is a much quieter, residential area, with - generally - larger houses, more spaced apart. Although it is bordered by busy roads like Trinity Road and Garratt Lane, none tear through it, as they do the northern part of Wandsworth town.

There is a different orientation of this area between the uphill area closer to Wandsworth Common, and the downhill section closer to the Wandle. This was the principal justification for the way the current Earlsfield ward, either side of the station, being drawn: it looks odd, but it does accurately represent the different character of the uphill and downhill dynamic here. However, no one has proposed retaining the existing Earlsfield-Wandsworth Common wards configuration, and while there is a difference, it is just as arguable that the railway line and Earlsfield Road are a significant physical boundary that should be respected - something that inevitably results in northern and southern wards rather than eastern and western ones.

You have identified in the draft recommendations the difficulty of naming wards in this area. Earlsfield is both sides of the railway line. I therefore propose that we should abandon reference to Earlsfield in ward names: that this 3-member northern ward be called St Ann's and that the

southern ward (for which I propose no boundary changes, just changes to its rather lengthy name) be called Springfield - the historic name for the ward that existed on very similar boundaries prior to the 2000 electoral review.

Proposed ward	Existing ward	Poll Dist	2019	2024
St Ann's	Earlsfield	EFA	2,394	2,834
	Earlsfield	EFC	2,198	2,221
	Fairfield	FFC	2,687	2,999
	Wandsworth Common	WCA	3,142	3,152
	Wandsworth Common	WCC	1,568	1,570
			11,989	12,776

Ward names

I propose some adjustments to the ward names you proposed in the draft recommendations.

- In the Tooting area, the ward you have named Tooting Bec I propose be named Upper Tooting. Although Tooting Bec tube station is right on the edge of this ward, the area that far more closely identifies as Tooting Bec - not least because Tooting Bec Common is within it - is the ward you have proposed be called South Balham
- I therefore propose that "South Balham" ward be called Tooting Bec. While accepting that some of this ward is south Balham, just as some of Trinity is west Balham and other sections of this ward are Bedford Hill, Tooting Bec is the most appropriate designation for this ward
- As mentioned earlier, I think your proposed Wandsworth Common and Earlsfield ward name is somewhat problematic in that Earlsfield covers both sides of the railway track, and that earlier versions of Earlsfield were mainly north of the track. Likewise, while you've strived to keep as much of Wandsworth Common in the ward, chunks of it remain outside it. This new ward is very similar to the old Springfield ward - it's also a much less cumbersome name, so I propose it be named Springfield
- In Battersea, I propose that Lavender ward be renamed Lavender Hill ward.
- Also in Battersea, I propose that Riverside ward be renamed Battersea Riverside given that it is not the only riverside ward in the borough. Alternatively, St Mary's Riverside, in recognition of this important church and parish
- I again suggest that a better name for Thamesfield ward be Putney Riverside, simply because no one in central Putney says they live in Thamesfield

Minor boundary changes involving no electors

Could I finally ask you to consider tidying up some of the ward boundaries where this involves no transfer of electors?

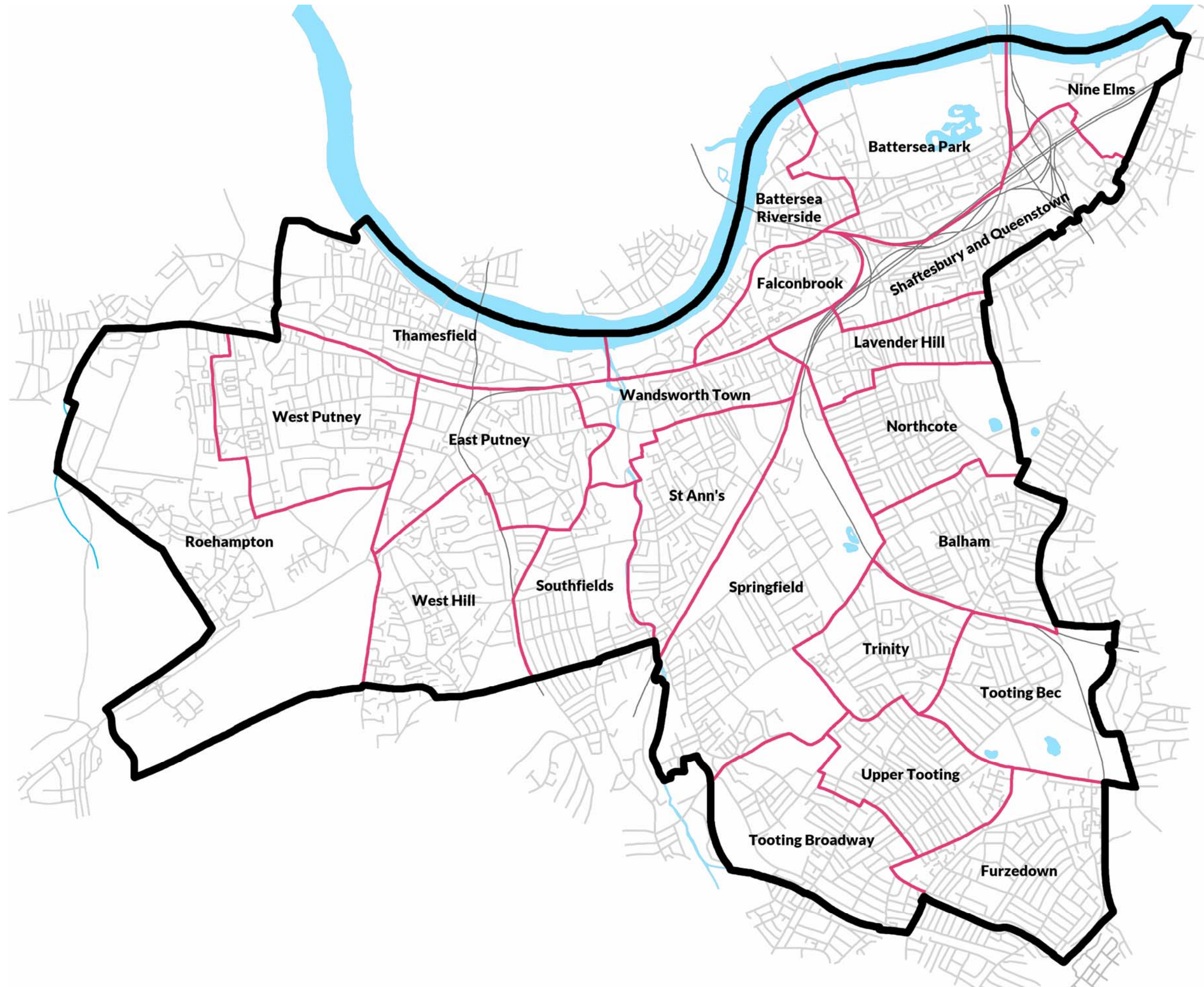
In respect of Falconbrook ward, could all of Clapham Junction station be transferred to Lavender Hill ward so that Falconbrook's southern boundary is the most northerly railway line along its length? It just looks neater, in my opinion.

In conclusion, I believe that the changes to the seven central and western wards that I have suggested improve upon the draft recommendations by better reflecting how communities orient themselves and thereby by improving upon the convenience and effectiveness of local government in Wandsworth, and seek to prevent the quite egregious Wandle Valley ward which does the exact opposite.

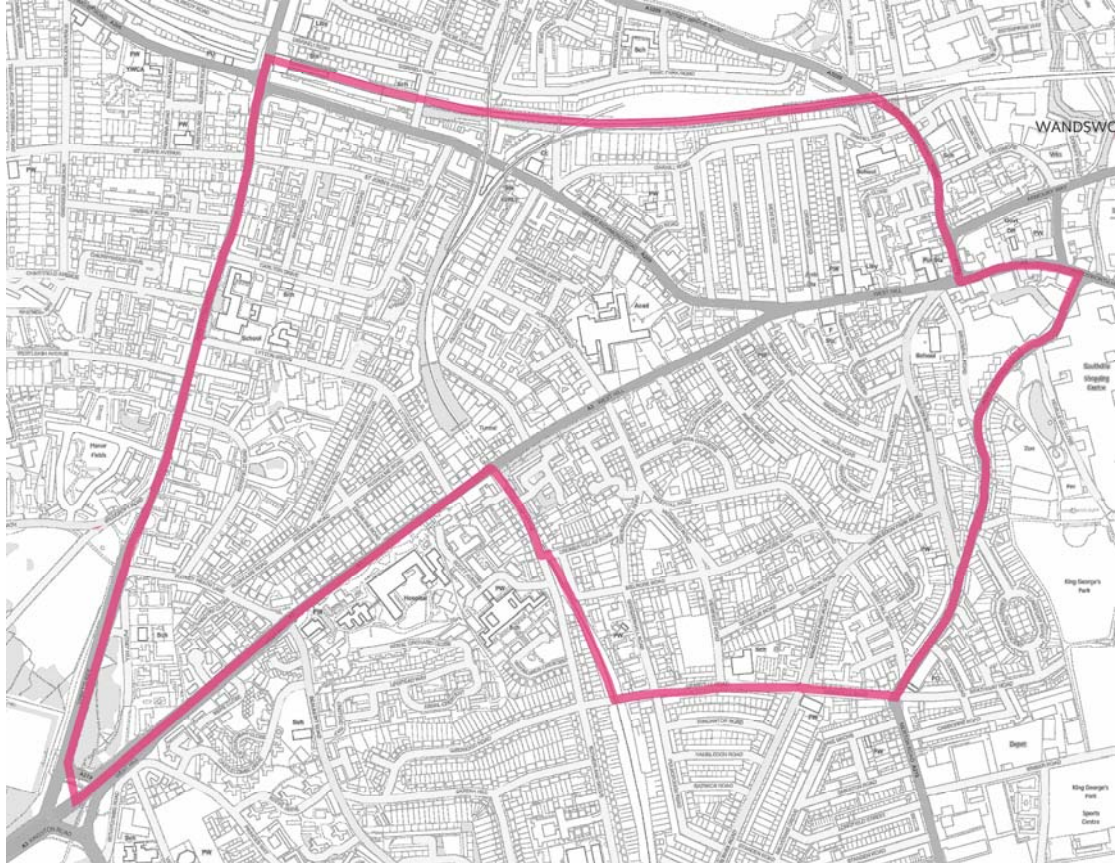
Detailed breakdown of wards

Proposed ward	Existing ward	Poll Dist	2019	2024
East Putney	East Putney	EPA (part)	1,806	1,853
	East Putney	EPB	3,852	3,876
	East Putney	EPC	1,466	1,473
	East Putney	EPD	2,267	2,267
	Fairfield	FFB (part)	1,331	1,370
	Southfields	SFC (part)	1,952	1,952
	Thamesfield	TFC (part)	82	82
				12,756
Roehampton	Roehampton and Putney Heath	RHA	956	1,028
	Roehampton and Putney Heath	RHB	2,938	2,999
	Roehampton and Putney Heath	RHC	2,955	3,411
	Roehampton and Putney Heath	RHD	1,897	1,919
	Roehampton and Putney Heath	RHE	1,022	1,040
	West Putney	WPB (part)	1,127	1,132
	West Putney	WPD (part)	857	857
				11,752
St Ann's	Earlsfield	EFA	2,394	2,834
	Earlsfield	EFC	2,198	2,221
	Fairfield	FFC	2,687	2,999
	Wandsworth Common	WCA	3,142	3,152
	Wandsworth Common	WCC	1,568	1,570
				11,989
Southfields	Southfields	SFA	3,804	3,811
	Southfields	SFB (part)	1,942	1,949
	Southfields	SFC (part)	881	881
	Southfields	SFD	2,060	2,094
			Total	8,687
Wandsworth Town	Fairfield	FFA (part)	1,977	2,786
	Fairfield	FFB (part)	637	939
	Fairfield	FFD	3,616	3,629
	Southfields	SFC (part)	1,353	1,477
				7,583
West Hill	Southfields	SFB (part)	829	832
	West Hill	WHA	3943	4188
	West Hill	WHB	1867	1869
	West Hill	WHC	3872	3876
	West Hill	WHD	1969	1990
				12,480
West Putney	East Putney	EPA (part)	2,355	2,416
	Thamesfield	TFB (part)	42	42
	Thamesfield	TFC (part)	143	143
	West Putney	WPA	2,887	2,906
	West Putney	WPB (part)	1,735	1,743
	West Putney	WPC	3,530	3,535
	West Putney	WPD (part)	1,050	1,050
				11,742

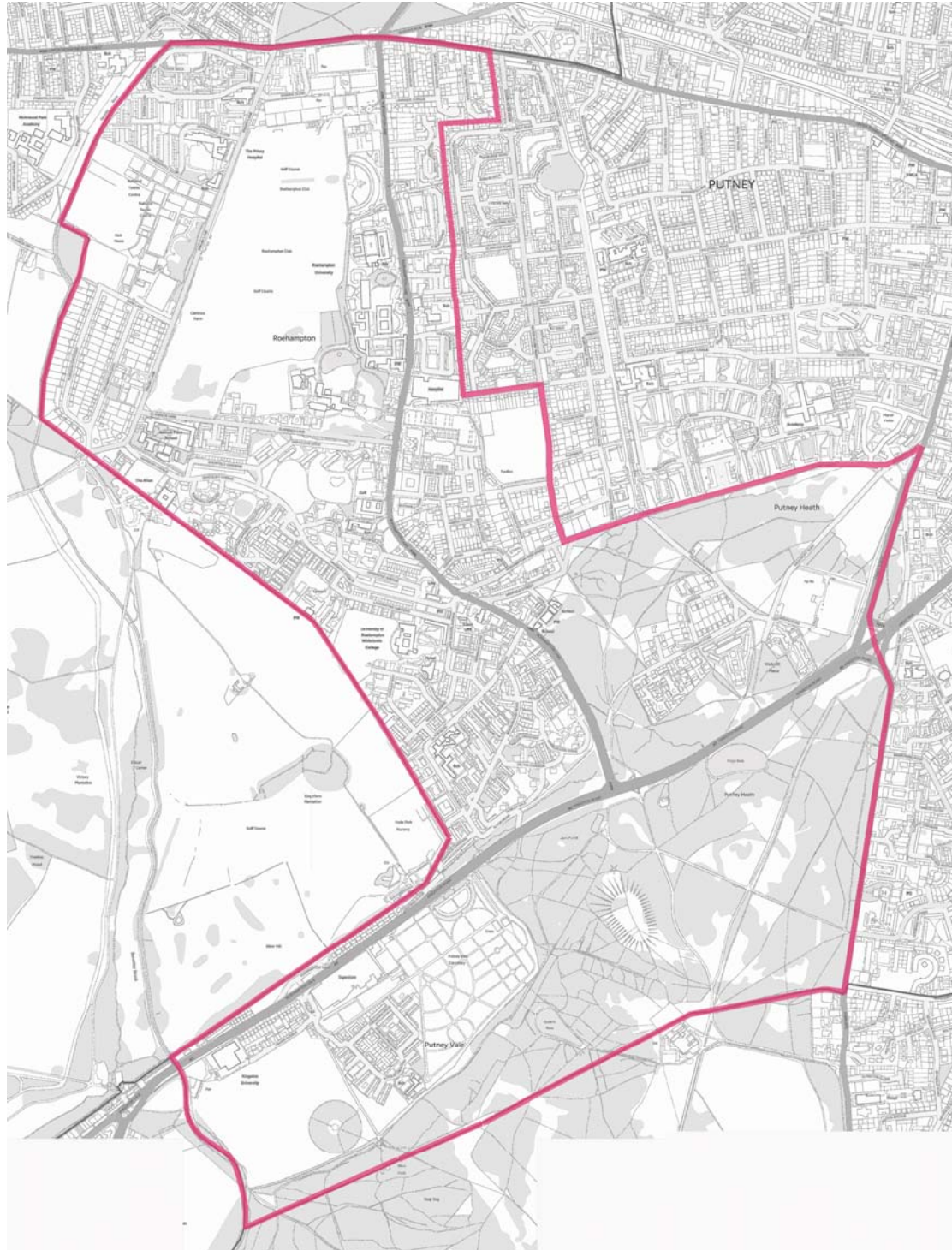
Map of my alternative warding submission



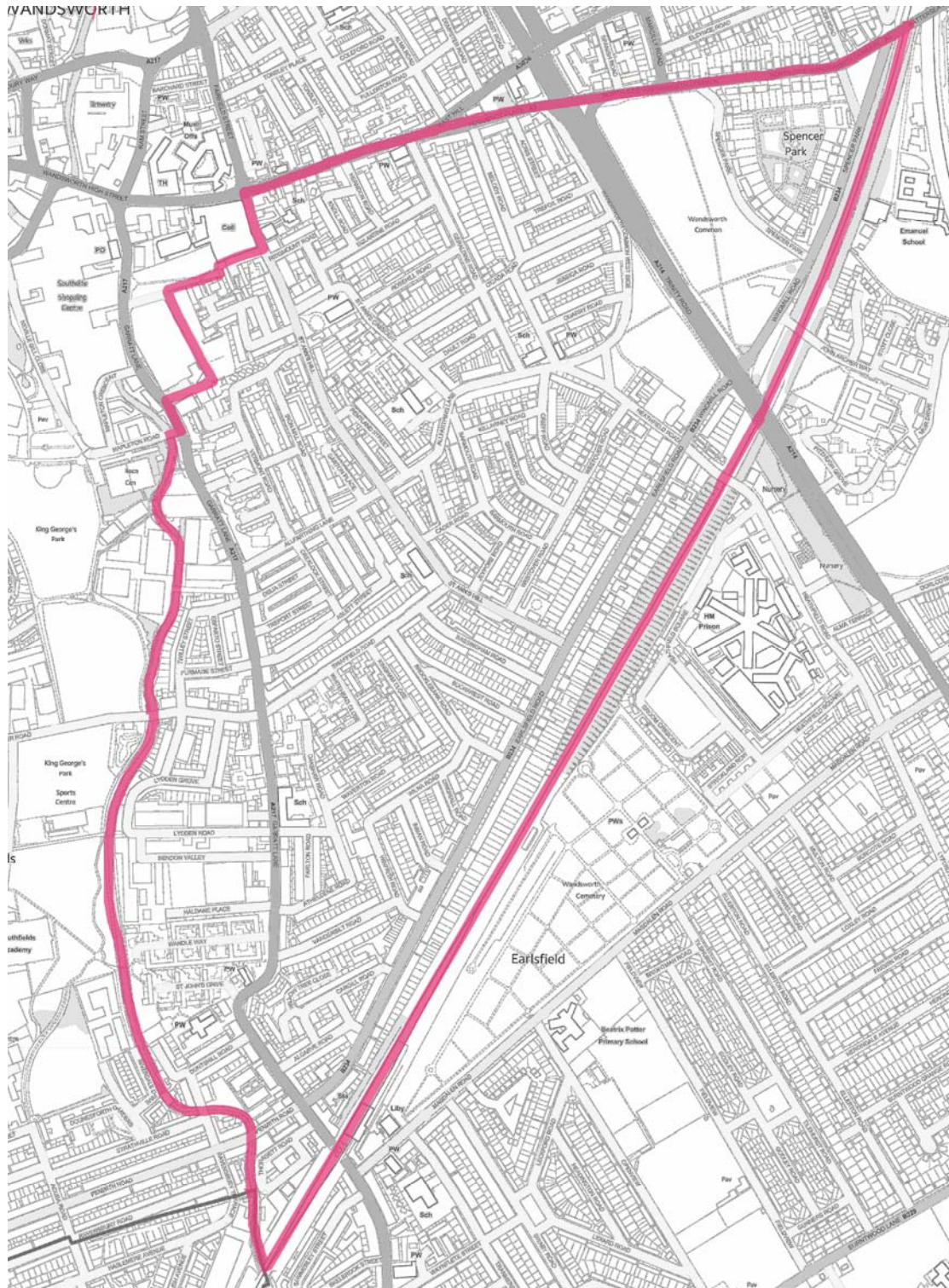
East Putney ward (3 councillors)



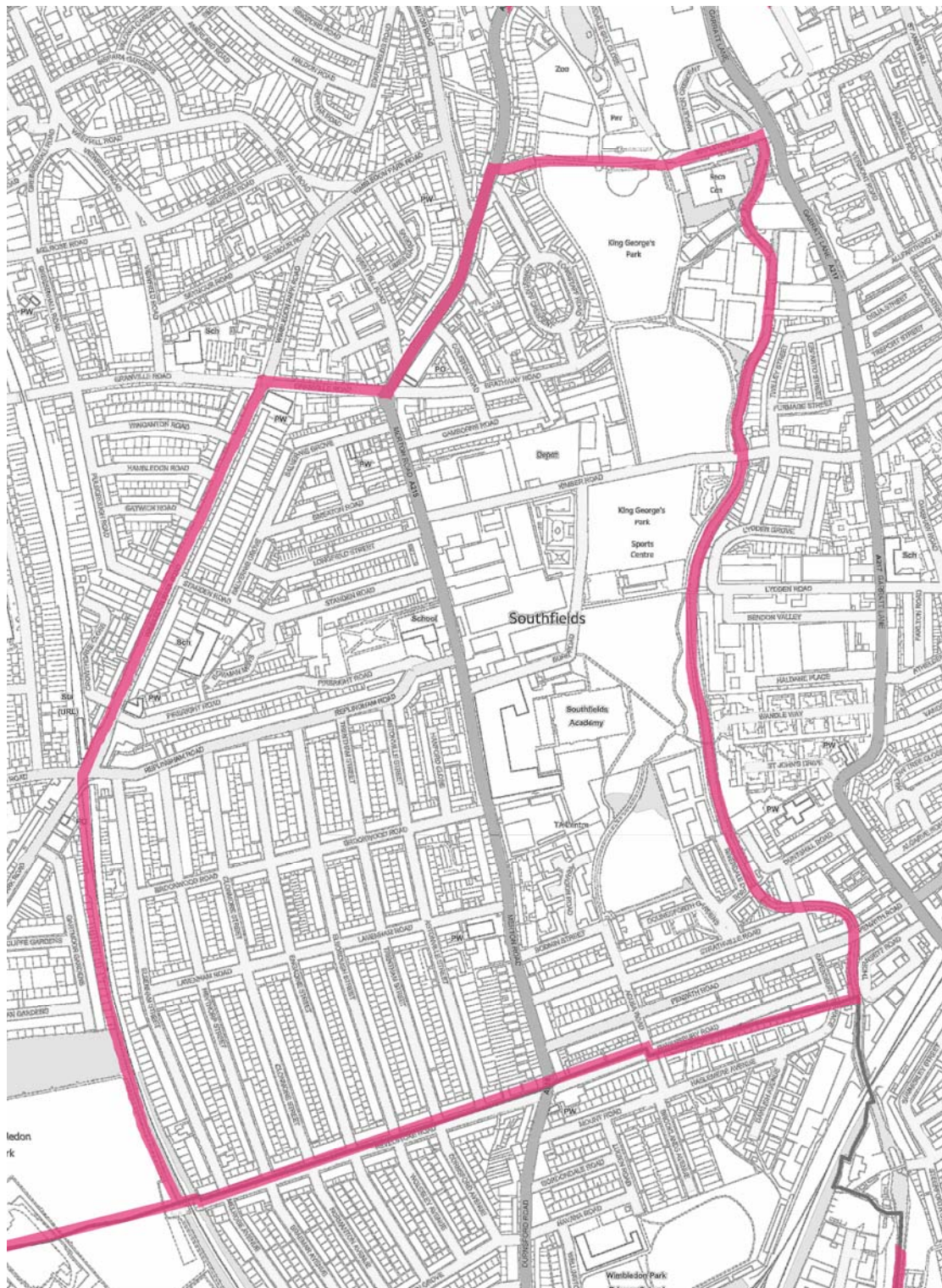
Roehampton ward (3 councillors)



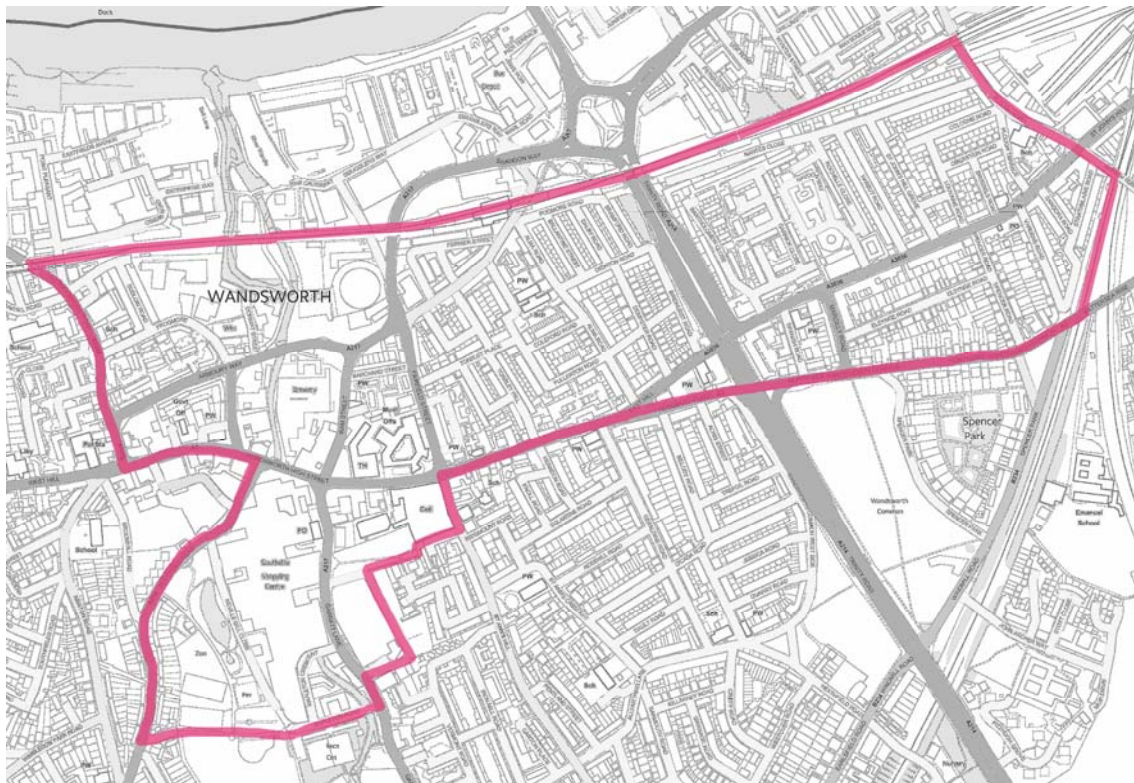
St Ann's ward (3 councillors)



Southfields ward (2 councillors)



Wandsworth Town ward (2 councillors)



West Hill ward (3 councillors)

