

# 2019 Electoral Review of the London Borough of Wandsworth

**submission on ward boundaries**

# Introduction

## Summary

I am proposing that the London Borough of Wandsworth have 21 wards from 2022, of which sixteen will be three-member wards and five will be two-member wards.

At present, of the existing wards on a 58-member electoral quota, four wards have an electoral variance greater than 10% and by 2024 ten (50%) will vary by more than 10%, with Queenstown varying by 57%.

Of my proposed wards, just two would vary from the electoral quota by more than 10% if they existed right now; zero are projected to do so by 2024 - indeed only one would have an electoral variance forecast to be in excess of 5%.

I propose no changes to the boundaries of three wards: Southfields, Thamesfield and West Hill. With the exception of the Wandsworth town area where significant projected development makes this impossible, my proposed wards are clear successors to existing wards. In other words, I have been able to create a warding pattern that both demonstrates exceptional electoral equality and minimises, as far as can be achieved, disruption to the existing pattern of wards.

## About me

I have lived in Roehampton on and off since 2003. I was Wandsworth Borough Organiser for the Labour Party for five years from 2000, though I am not affiliated with any of the major political parties today. I attended Elliott School (now Ark Putney), am a member of the Putney Society and have lived either side of this part of the Thames all my life. In other words I know the borough well and have no partisan motivation for my submission.

## This submission

Wandsworth is, geographically a tricorn borough - it has three corners: Roehampton, Queenstown and Furzedown.

A boundary submission can begin anywhere, but it is far more likely to come a cropper if it does not work from these "corners" inwards. On top of those corners there are four major town centres: Battersea, Putney, Tooting and Wandsworth; and a further four minor town centres: Balham, Furzedown, Roehampton, Southfields and what I've called "Wandsworth Road" - that is the isolated area in Queenstown ward which is barely a community in itself but looks to the area around Wandsworth Road.

Therefore, this proposal begins with wards in the Putney constituency - essentially the area west of the River Wandle; then shifts to the Tooting and Balham area; then Battersea, and finally Wandsworth town.

After each of the three parts to this submission: Putney, Tooting and Battersea, I have provided maps showing in more detail than the borough map on the subsequent page, each of my proposed wards.

I am grateful to Wandsworth's online GIS system which enabled me to check exact property numbers to ensure I was able to put the right households in the correct wards.

**Adam Gray**

05 August 2019



## Summary data for proposed wards

Ward	No of Cllrs	2019		2024	
Balham	3	12,492	+6.3	13,043	+3.6
Earlsfield	3	11,716	-0.3	12,776	+1.5
East Putney	3	12,010	+2.2	12,302	-2.3
Furzedown	3	12,196	+3.8	12,623	+0.3
Graveney	3	11,787	+3.3	12,262	-2.7
Latchmere	3	11,641	-0.9	12,532	-0.5
Lavender Hill and Queenstown	3	12,351	+5.1	12,975	+3.0
Nine Elms	3	5,712	-51.4	12,170	-3.5
Northcote	3	12,391	+5.5	12,841	+2.0
Putney Riverside	3	11,757	0.0	12,705	+0.9
Roehampton	2	7,919	+1.1	8,478	+1.0
St Mary's Park	3	11,869	+1.0	12,423	-1.3
Southfields	3	12,805	+9.0	12,990	+3.2
Tooting and Summerstown	3	11,221	-4.5	12,827	+1.9
Tooting Bec	3	11,057	-5.9	12,402	-1.5
Trinity	2	8,121	+3.7	8,475	+1.0
Wandsworth Common	2	7,960	+1.6	8,203	-2.3
Wandsworth Riverside	2	5,809	-25.8	8,239	-1.2
Wandsworth Town	2	7,458	-4.8	8,521	+1.5
West Hill	3	11,432	-2.7	11,923	-5.3
West Putney	3	12,429	+5.8	12,725	+1.1
	58				

## Detailed breakdown of wards

Proposed ward	Existing ward	Poll Dist	2019	2024
Balham	Balham	BHA (part)	1,433	1,449
3 councillors	Balham	BHB	3,175	3,398
	Balham	BHC	2,606	2,751
	Balham	BHD	1,886	1,938
	Nightingale	NGB	3,392	3,507
		Total	12,492	13,043
Earlsfield	Earlsfield	EFA	2,311	2,834
3 councillors	Earlsfield	EFC	2,159	2,221
	Fairfield	FFC	2,636	2,999
	Wandsworth Common	WCA	3,073	3,152
	Wandsworth Common	WCC	1,537	1,570
		Total	11,716	12,776
East Putney	East Putney	EPA	4,123	4,269
3 councillors	East Putney	EPB	3,788	3,876
	East Putney	EPC	1,453	1,473
	East Putney	EPD	2,232	2,267
	West Putney	WPC (part)	414	417
		Total	12,010	12,302
Furzedown	Furzedown	FDA	2,501	2,627
3 councillors	Furzedown	FDB	2,886	2,956
	Furzedown	FDC	2,548	2,643
	Furzedown	FDD	2,980	3,037
	Graveney	GNB (part)	1,281	1,360
		Total	12,196	12,623
Graveney	Graveney	GNA	4,460	4,566
3 councillors	Graveney	GNB (part)	2,264	2,405
	Graveney	GNC (part)	2,287	2,334
	Tooting	TTB (part)	1,217	1,307
	Tooting	TTE (part)	1,559	1,650
		Total	11,787	12,262
Latchmere	Latchmere	LMA	4,007	4,541
3 councillors	Latchmere	LMB (part)	3,038	3,173
	Latchmere	LMC	1,313	1,424
	Queenstown	QTE	2,403	2,561
	St Mary's Park	SMD (part)	880	833
		Total	11,641	12,532
Lavender Hill and Queenstown	Queenstown	QTC	2,458	2,547
3 councillors	Shaftesbury	SBA (part)	4,089	4,266
	Shaftesbury	SBB	2,982	3,115
	Shaftesbury	SBC	2,822	3,047
		Total	12,351	12,975

<b>Proposed ward</b>	<b>Existing ward</b>	<b>Poll Dist</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2024</b>
Nine Elms	Queenstown	QTA	2709	9111
3 councillors	Queenstown	QTB	2011	2063
	Queenstown	QTD (part)	992	996
		Total	5,712	12,170
Northcote	Balham	BHA (part)	1,785	1,805
3 councillors	Northcote	NCA	1,831	1,925
	Northcote	NCB	3,324	3,375
	Northcote	NCC	2,862	2,923
	Northcote	NCD	2,122	2,326
	Shaftesbury	SBA (part)	467	487
		Total	12,391	12,841
Putney Riverside	Thamesfield	TFA	2,448	2,522
3 councillors	Thamesfield	TFB	3,549	3,662
	Thamesfield	TFC	2,727	2,844
	Thamesfield	TFD	3,033	3,677
		Total	11,757	12,705
Roehampton	Roehampton and Putney Heath	RHA	944	1,028
2 councillors	Roehampton and Putney Heath	RHB	3,002	2,999
	Roehampton and Putney Heath	RHC	2,960	3,411
	Roehampton and Putney Heath	RHE	1,013	1,040
		Total	7,919	8,478
St Mary's Park	Latchmere	LMB (part)	250	261
3 councillors	Queenstown	QTD (part)	2,417	2,428
	St Mary's Park	SMA	2,587	2,692
	St Mary's Park	SMB	3,813	3,975
	St Mary's Park	SMC	2,802	3,067
		Total	11,869	12,423
Southfields	Southfields	SFA	3,797	3,811
3 councillors	Southfields	SFB	2,759	2,781
	Southfields	SFC	4,186	4,304
	Southfields	SFD	2,063	2,094
		Total	12,805	12,990
Tooting	Earlsfield	EFD	3,113	3,217
3 councillors	Tooting	TTA	2,573	2,650
	Tooting (part)	TTB	1,106	1,187
	Tooting	TTC	2,194	2,464
	Tooting	TTD	2,051	2,125
	Wandsworth Common	WCD (part)	184	1,184
		Total	11,221	12,827

<b>Proposed ward</b>	<b>Existing ward</b>	<b>Poll Dist</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2024</b>
Tooting Bec	Bedford	BFA	2,652	2,909
3 councillors	Bedford	BFB	2,900	2,978
	Bedford	BFC	3,129	3,264
	Bedford	BFD	1,985	2,077
	Graveney	GNC (part)	328	335
	Nightingale	NGC (part)	391	436
	Tooting	TTE (part)	381	403
		Total	11,057	12,402
Trinity	Nightingale	NGA	3,123	3,199
2 councillors	Nightingale	NGC (part)	1,733	1,927
	Nightingale	NGD	2,306	2,363
	Wandsworth Common	WCD (part)	959	986
		Total	8,121	8,475
Wandsworth Common	Earlsfield	EFB	3,788	3,920
2 councillors	Wandsworth Common	WCB	2,393	2,414
	Wandsworth Common	WCE	1,779	1,869
		Total	7,960	8,203
Wandsworth Riverside	Fairfield	FFA (part)	699	1,708
2 councillors	Latchmere	LMD	2,170	2,240
	St Mary's Park	SMD (part)	1,323	2,117
	St Mary's Park	SME	1,617	1,971
		Total	5,809	8,036
Wandsworth Town	Fairfield	FFA (part)	1,977	2,786
2 councillors	Fairfield	FFB	1,952	2,309
	Fairfield	FFD	3,529	3,629
		Total	7,458	8,724
West Hill	West Hill	WHA	3,883	4,188
3 councillors	West Hill	WHB	1,817	1,869
	West Hill	WHC	3,795	3,876
	West Hill	WHD	1,937	1,990
		Total	11,432	11,923
West Putney	Roehampton and Putney Heath	RHD	1,739	1,919
3 councillors	West Putney	WPA	2,871	2,906
	West Putney	WPB	2,841	2,875
	West Putney	WPC (part)	3,095	3,118
	West Putney	WPD	1,883	1,907
			12,429	12,725

## part one

# Putney, Roehampton and Southfields

There are currently six wards within the Putney constituency: East Putney; Roehampton and Putney Heath, Southfields, Thamesfield, West Hill and West Putney. These six wards are represented by eighteen councillors, though the area will be entitled to just seventeen councillors by 2024.

### Roehampton ward

The ward furthest from the electoral quota, with just under 11,000 electors, is Roehampton and Putney Heath. This is a vast ward geographically (at least in terms of densely-packed London): the largest in the borough, mainly because it includes all of Putney Heath, a slice of Wimbledon Common, and the grounds of the Roehampton Club which include an 18-hole golf course.

It is divided into five polling districts; each covering a distinct community.

**RHA** covers the Putney Vale estate, the houses along the A3 dual carriageway (Kingston Road and Roehampton Vale); the Richardson Evans playing fields, a small modern housing estate along Stag Lane, and the Kingston University campus.

**RHB** and **RHC** cover the Alton estate, the (largely) listed council estate once the largest in Europe. RHB covers the more densely packed Alton East, set around Alton Road and opened in 1958, while RHC is far more spread out across the undulating fields of Mount Clare: more Brutalist.

**RHD** is Roehampton north of Clarence Lane and Roehampton Gate. It is somewhat difficult to label this area because the main population centre is in the far north, on the Lennox and Woking Close estates, right on the edge of East Sheen. Generally, residents here do not identify with Roehampton, but nor are they Putney or Sheen. There is also a set of electors living adjacent to Richmond Park in Roehampton Gate, Roedean Crescent and Priory Lane. The main Roehampton University campus, plus the majority of the university's halls of residence can be found in this polling district too.

**RHE** is historic Roehampton Village and Putney Heath. Until 2002 the village was not part of Roehampton ward as Roehampton Lane formed the ward boundary.

The area has not, in fact, lost population at all: the reason the ward has suddenly become substantially smaller has been the introduction of Individual Electoral Registration which wiped well over a thousand Roehampton University students off the register. In 2014, the local government electorate of Roehampton and Putney Heath was 11,034. In 2018 it was 9,749. Yet in this period the university has actually built substantially more accommodation for its students within the ward; and other residential developments unconnected with the university have also come onto the register.

This is not to make any special pleading for the ward; it is simply to explain that while changes will be made to its boundaries the population here is growing, not declining, at least whilst the university is in session.

There are two ways to adjust for this marked decline in Roehampton's population. The ward can either be expanded, adding over a thousand more electors. This is both possible and justifiable: whilst Roehampton Lane is a major boundary there are hundreds and hundreds of electors living between the lane and the Dover House estate.

These include the twin Eastwood Estates: Aubyn and Toland Squares; the new Queen Mary's Place development around Roehampton House plus a smaller similar development further north: Emerald Square; the three avenues off the north end of Roehampton Lane: Langside, Dungarvon and Daylesford Avenues; Roehampton Close and Ellenborough Place, and other assorted developments. Moving these developments into Roehampton ward would bring the electorate to within a respectable distance of the electoral quota.

An argument against crossing Roehampton Lane can hardly be made given that this busy road is already crossed between the village and the Alton; and further north plenty of Alton residents send their children to Sacred Heart Primary School; plenty of visitors attend Queen Mary's Hospital; plenty of university students



stream across the Lane to their rented accommodation on the Dover House or Eastwood estates.

The alternative option is to remove some areas from the ward and reduce its representation to two councillors. The existing Roehampton and Putney Heath ward minus the RHD polling district is an excellent size for a 2-member ward, with strong physical boundaries (Clarence Lane - the divide between RHD and the rest of the ward - is essentially a brick wall along one side of its entire length) and is the less radical option.

Advocates for this 2-member proposal should also consider one further change. The Queen Mary's Place residential development has been built since the last boundary review. It is currently in West Putney ward but it is relatively isolated from the bulk of that ward, sandwiched between the rebuilt Queen Mary's Hospital; Roehampton playing fields, and the boundary of Roehampton ward. Comparatively, when the development was built, pedestrian and cyclist access was opened up between Queen Mary's Place and Roehampton village via Akehurst and Nepean Streets. There is, in other words, a strong argument for transferring Queen Mary's Place from West Putney to Roehampton ward.

There are just over 600 electors living in Queen Mary's Place. There are just shy of 500 electors living in the Putney Heath half of the RHE polling district; so a swap would make little difference to the electorate of the ward - it's just that they cannot be accommodated together: that would make the ward too large.

In my opinion this choice is finely balanced. Yes Queen Mary's Place is isolated and is probably a better fit in Roehampton and Putney Heath. Equally, it's a sizeable stand-alone development, little engaged with the wider community in any direction. And it is hardly cut off: it is easily accessible - far more easily accessible than Putney Heath.

This is a central London borough: it is not an isolated village in the Lake District - it is always worth keeping some sense of perspective when discussing isolation in a massive city. Putney Heath will be isolated whether it's annexed to Roehampton or to West Putney.

My slight preference is to leave Putney Heath in Roehampton and Queen Mary's Place in West Putney; not least because doing otherwise makes the wards look

odder, but it would be entirely reasonable to swap the two communities around.

My proposed two-member Roehampton ward (I propose dropping the "Putney Heath" section as this community is tiny, and it survived without being name-checked in West Putney and earlier versions of Roehampton ward) comprising all of the existing Roehampton and Putney Heath ward minus its RHD polling district, would be 1% above the electoral quota by 2024.

### **West Putney ward**

Let's now look at the consequence of a 2-member ward for the RHD section that I propose to transfer to West Putney ward. These are electors that are isolated wherever they end up warded.

There is a big gap between the end of the Alton estate and the residents of Roedean Crescent, Roehampton Gate and Priory Lane. In between the two are two schools, playing fields and a stables. The two communities have nothing in common: on the one hand a modernist council estate; on the other three of the most expensive, exclusive residential streets in Wandsworth.

In turn, there is an even larger gap between Roedean Crescent, Roehampton Gate and Priory Lane and the Lennox and Woking Close estates at the far end of Priory Lane; past the vast Bank of England sports club grounds; past the ATP Tennis Centre; past a prep school and past the Priory Clinic.

And, in turn these areas are completely separated from the part of RHD that faces Roehampton Lane rather than Priory Lane, that is: what is left of the Roehampton University halls of residence registered students, the curved residential tenement block called Roundacres, and the residents of the thatched cottage adjacent to the Roslyn Park rugby club ground up by Upper Richmond Road.

As I said earlier, few of these residents regard themselves as living in Roehampton but they are not part of Sheen and not really part of Putney either: they just have an SW15 postcode, but a postcode does not of itself make an identity. It's exactly the same for residents of Putney Vale and the parts of SW15 across the boundary with Kingston: they aren't part of Putney but they're a

long way from Kingston or New Malden. Neither one place nor the other.

Because they are neither here nor there, in my view it is less traumatic to transfer this polling district from Roehampton to West Putney than make any other changes to what might be called "core" Roehampton: the RHA, B, C and E polling districts.

### **West Putney ward**

The current West Putney ward covers, essentially, Putney Hill west of the road called Putney Hill - six neighbourhoods essentially.

- There are the large mansion blocks north of Upper Richmond Road, either side of Dryburgh Road and the swimming pool
- Then there are the long avenues of massive detached and semi detached town houses running up the hill.
- The Dover House estate: a 1920s cottage estate east of Putney Park Lane is the third of the wards communities
- Then there is the neighbourhood to the east of Roehampton Lane I discussed in the Roehampton ward section: roads that face away from the rest of the ward
- The Ashburton estate: essentially the whole area north of Chartfield Avenue south to the heath, is the fifth
- And two further mansion block developments: Exeter House and Manor Fields, both on the edge of the heath, are the final neighbourhood

RHD cannot be added to West Putney ward without this ward shedding some territory to East Putney ward to offset the gain of nearly 2,000 electors by 2024.

East Putney - very much the ward that appears to have been left over when all the other wards were drawn - currently straddles most, but not all, of Putney Hill. I propose transferring the remaining uphill section of West Putney north of Westleigh Avenue: essentially the Manor Fields housing development and Westleigh Avenue east of (and including) Cotman Close to East Putney. That affects just over 400 electors and moves West Putney west so that both sides of Putney Hill (the road) are completely in East Putney.

There is one further question in respect of West Putney that the Commission may choose to consider.

Since the ward was created in 1978 it has included the huge Ashburton council estate between Putney Heath and Westleigh Avenue. But it has not included what is known as the "Lower Ashburton" estate: Whitnell Way which is just across the ward boundary in East Putney. This is anomalous and illogical.

Although the Lower Ashburton is of a different style to the larger Ashburton estate, as their names suggest they are a pair and should, ideally, be in the same ward. There are just over 400 electors in Whitnell Way which could be offset by expanding East Putney further into the residential avenues of Putney Hill; and/or into the population-heavy mansion blocks on Upper Richmond Road. Moving the East Putney boundary to Dryburgh Road would transfer Richmond Court, Ormonde Court and Belvedere Court from West to East Putney and would balance the electorates as well as creating a clearer boundary in this area.

My proposed three member West Putney ward; almost all of the existing ward plus the Roehampton and Putney Heath RHD polling district, would have an electoral variance of just 1.1% above the electoral quota by 2024

### **East Putney ward**

Other than the just discussed changes to the ward's boundary with West Putney I wish to propose no further changes to the existing ward. Although East Putney is something of a sprawling ward East Putney - the area either side of the tube station of the same name - has a distinct character to West Putney.

The ward contains far more mansion blocks than West Putney, which has a more traditional street scene. Carlton Drive, Keswick Road, Putney Hill and West Hill all have significant electorates living in similar post-war private residential blocks; which have been added to significantly in recent years by huge developments along Upper Richmond Road east of the hill, as developers have grabbed the opportunity to convert largely derelict post war office buildings into new residential towers.

There is a very different community south-east of West Hill, where Putney suddenly begins to morph into Southfields. This area though is atypical of both areas; it's much more suburban, it has an eccentric, winding road layout with more interwar semi detached homes. I

discuss this area a little more in the Southfields ward section.

Away from Putney Hill and West Hill, the V shaped section rising up to Tibbetts Corner roundabout comprises a relatively rare, for this ward, section of terraced housing in Rusholme Road, Holmbush Road and Lytton Grove. And there is a further small section of terraced housing between Upper Richmond Road and the railway line around Oakhill Road. This area is shared with the Fairfield FFE polling district - prior to 2002 most of these streets were in East Putney.

My proposed three-member East Putney, just gaining those Putney Hill fringes from West Putney, would be 2.3% below the electoral quota by 2024.

### **West Hill ward**

The existing West Hill ward is a little on the small side - within 10% of the electoral quota but not that comfortably inside it. However, the ward also has exceptionally strong boundaries: Putney Heath to the west; the A3 to the north; the district line to the east and the borough boundary to the south.

West Hill cannot really be argued to have a cohesive identity: it is a maze of winding streets leading to clusters of relatively small developments with little connection to each other, up a steep hillside from Southfields tube station. But it is this that, somewhat counter-intuitively, makes it a coherent ward: the communities within it, as disparate and individualistic as they are, are unlike anything in any other ward.

They are not a continuation of the Wandle Valley side of Southfields; they are not like Putney - most of this area is either SW19 or SW18 - and in any event, are physically separated from Putney by the A3. Putney Heath and, again, the A3, separates the area from Roehampton.

The only realistic change that could be made here might be to transfer the Sutherland Grove estate on the edge of Sutherland Grove and West Hill, but I just don't think the 5.3% electoral variance by 2025 is sufficiently great to merit a change that will make the ward boundary look odd.

Prior to 2002, this area was divided between two 2-member wards: Parkside, covering the southern sections

of the ward, essentially (but not quite) south of Augustus Road; whilst West Hill covered the northern estates but illogically crossed the A3 to include that V of uphill East Putney. Neither of these wards had sound boundaries and the current West Hill certainly doesn't have an electorate vaguely close to deserving four members within its bounds, so I do not support a 2-member warding pattern here.

An unchanged West Hill ward would, as I've just said, be 5.3% below the electoral quota by 2025.

### **Putney Riverside ward**

Thamesfield ward - the ward that spans the entire riverside of Putney, is closer to the electoral quota than West Hill, and again covers a coherent (albeit massive) area: from Putney Common all the way east to the mouth of the Wandle.

I propose no changes to the boundaries of Thamesfield, though I would request that consideration be given to the ward name. Whilst the reason for this ward's name is obvious, no-one - I would hazard not a single person - identifies themselves as living in "Thamesfield". This is Putney Riverside; world famous for being the start of the University Boat Race; an iconic stretch of the Thames, and I therefore suggest that the interests of convenient and effective local government would be better served by renaming this ward Putney Riverside.

Putney Riverside, unchanged in every respect apart from its name, will be just 0.9% above the electoral quota in 2025.

### **Southfields ward**

I did consider the possibility of making East Putney a 2-member ward so that two further 2-member wards could be created from the current Southfields ward (with some of Fairfield ward) but the numbers didn't work out, at least in my relatively tardy attempts at stacking them up.

Nonetheless, I believe there are some problems with the existing Southfields ward, so let's turn to that - the last of the wards wholly west of the Wandle.

The current Southfields ward is massive - as of course are all the wards in this very large borough. But Southfields is, to me, a special case. It spreads far beyond the area most people would identify as Southfields - an area which is fairly easily defined: the SFA and SFB polling districts.

**SFA** covers the Southfields grid, south of the local shopping centre of Replingham Road. These are exceptionally long residential streets between the District Line and Merton Road.

**SFB** covers somewhat older, historic Southfields either side of Wimbledon Park Road as it rolls gently down from the tube station. Granville Road is the northern boundary of this area; Merton Road the eastern boundary, the borough boundary with Merton lies to the south.

Southfields includes two further areas: **SFD** is the area between Kimber Road and the borough boundary with Merton in the south - the bulk of the population of this area lives in long streets running from Merton Road to Garratt Lane; they feel more like Earlsfield than Southfields. Nonetheless, lying on the Putney side of the Wandle, I do not propose separating this area from the other two core Southfields polling districts.

The last area is the one that is least comfortably, and least justifiably in Southfields ward. The **SFC** polling district is the whole of the ward north of Granville Road: this area is central Wandsworth, including the massive Southside (formerly Arndale) shopping centre and the tower blocks that rise above it; as well as the main part of King George's Park, a chunk of Wandsworth High Street and the new housing apartments that have sprung up here recently.

If you know the borough and you are standing in Wandsworth High Street by the entrance to Southside, on the bridge over the Wandle, you are miles from Southfields, literally and figuratively. Yet you're in Southfields ward. This area has no business being in the same ward as Southfields and by that I mean in terms of the most effective local government arrangements for its residents as well as the geography of the area.

The Arndale estate above Southside shopping centre is, in my view, one of the more problematic council estates in the borough. The blocks were poorly conceived; they isolate their residents and they generate an almost endless stream of problems: refuse disposal problems,

ventilation problems; access problems. Sudbury Court, the tallest of the blocks, was identified as having similar cladding to Grenfell Tower and has been stripped of it in the months since that disaster. This is a big estate: four tower blocks and two tenement blocks: around 500 electors. It suffers very poor voter turnout, in no small part because its councillors' focus tends to be on the other end of the ward: Southfields proper. It suffers from political indifference - and my contention is that if ward boundaries facilitate such a situation there is a case for changing them.

SFC is of completely different character to the rest of Southfields to the south. As well as the Arndale estate, the housing around Longstaff Crescent, Buckhold Road and the top end of Merton Road is completely different: terraced cottages running down the western side of King George's Park of a not dissimilar character to the Dover House estate, or Totterdown estate elsewhere in the borough.

But this end of the ward has also seen enormous population growth recently: hundreds of flats have been built to the west of the Arndale in Hardwicks Square and its surrounds; a private tower block, Argento Tower, has been built off Mapleton Road and another adjacent to it is almost complete. This SFC section is now almost a mini metropolis in its own right.

As mentioned, briefly, in the paragraphs about East Putney ward, I did look at whether it would be possible to chop Southfields in two, creating a core 2-member Southfields ward of the SFA, B and D polling districts, and putting the rest of the ward, along with East Putney more or less east of the tube station, and a bit of Fairfield. Of course this is possible, but not easily.

Nonetheless, SFC, with over 4,300 electors projected by 2025, could stand alone as a single member ward.

I believe there is plenty of justification for this: creating a 2-member Southfields-proper ward in the south far better embodies that community than the giant 3-member ward does. The differences between Southfields and the northern Wandsworth area are, as I hope I have gone some way to demonstrating, utterly different; are unconnected and look to entirely different communities in the borough: one around Southfields tube and the Replingham Road shopping area; the other the centre of Wandsworth Town, on the east-west trajectory between Putney and Clapham Junction.

This new metropolis is diverse: a mix of terraced, housing, a giant council estate and new private apartment blocks - all centred on King George's Park and the Wandle. This area also does not share much commonality with any other surrounding area: Garratt Lane is a major boundary.

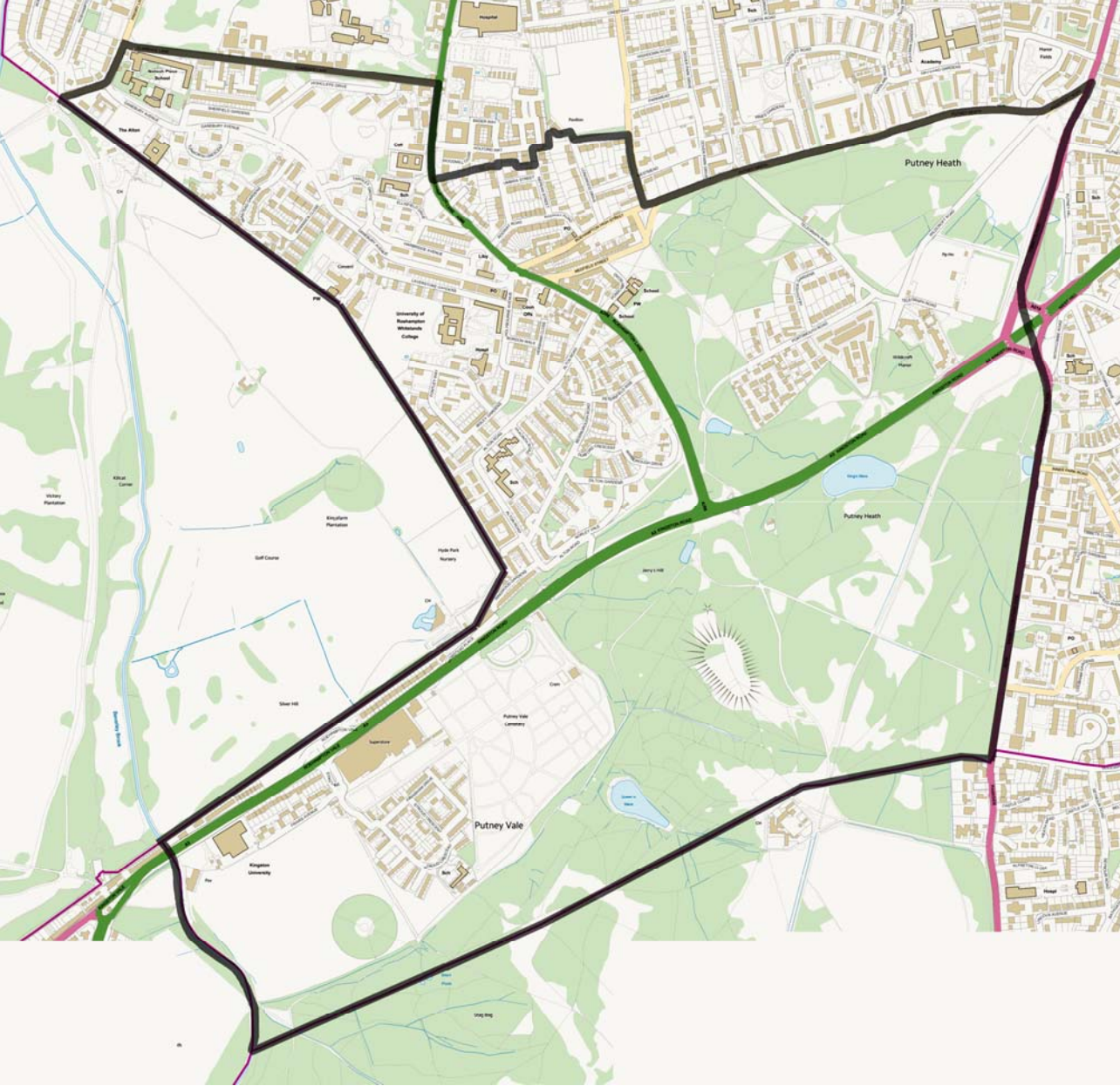
So there are two options for this ward. Leaving the ward entirely unchanged would leave it 3.2% above the electoral quota by 2024.

Alternatively, a 2-member core Southfields ward would contain 8,686 electors by 2024, 3.5% above the electoral quota. And a single member King Georges Park ward comprising just the SFC polling district, would have 4,304 electors, amounting to an electoral variance of 2.5% above the quota. Either option is perfectly viable. I prefer the more radical change for once: the 2-member and single-member ward option here.



# Roehampton ward

2 councillors

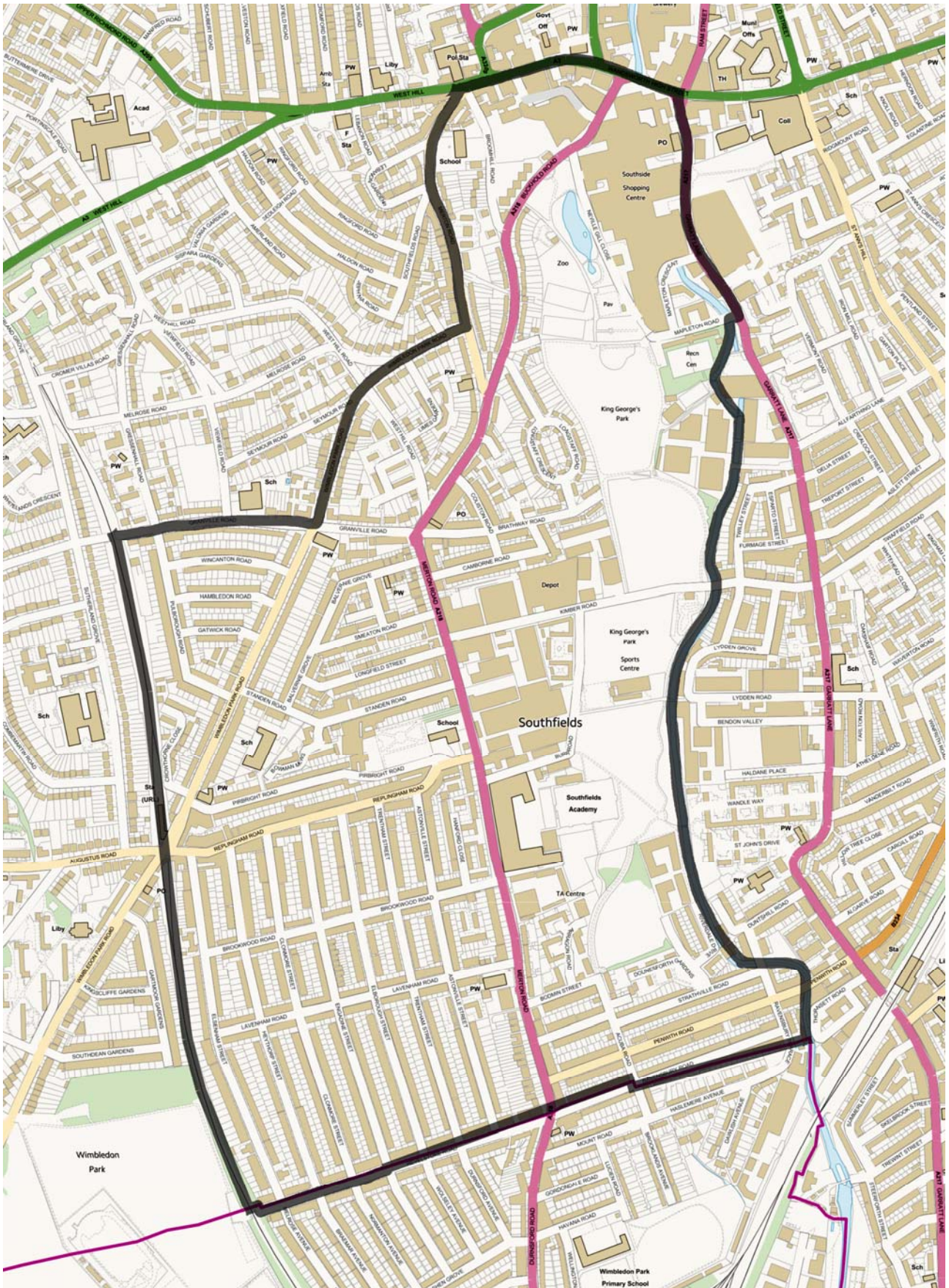






# Southfields ward option one (unchanged)

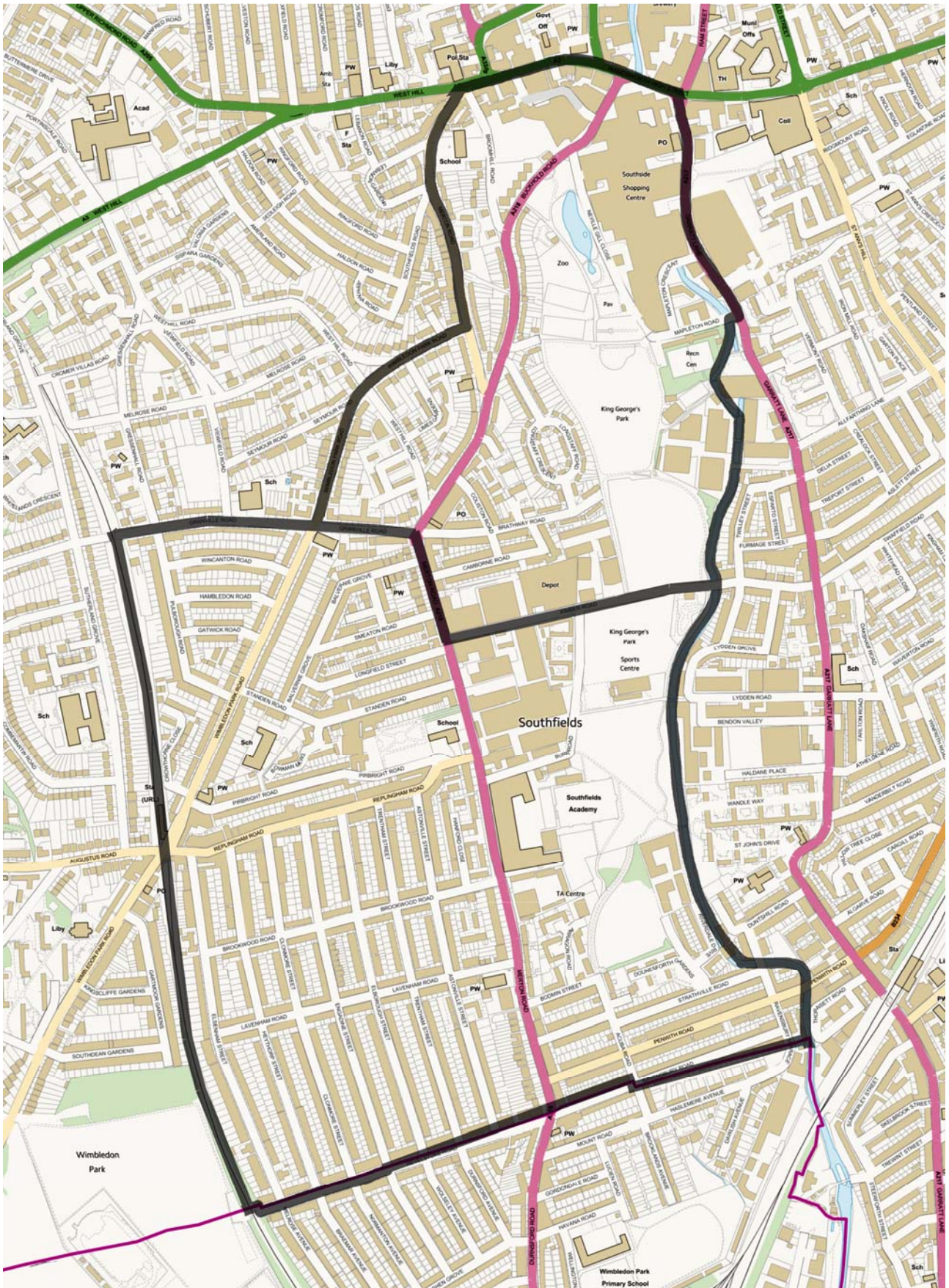
3 councillors



# Southfields ward option two

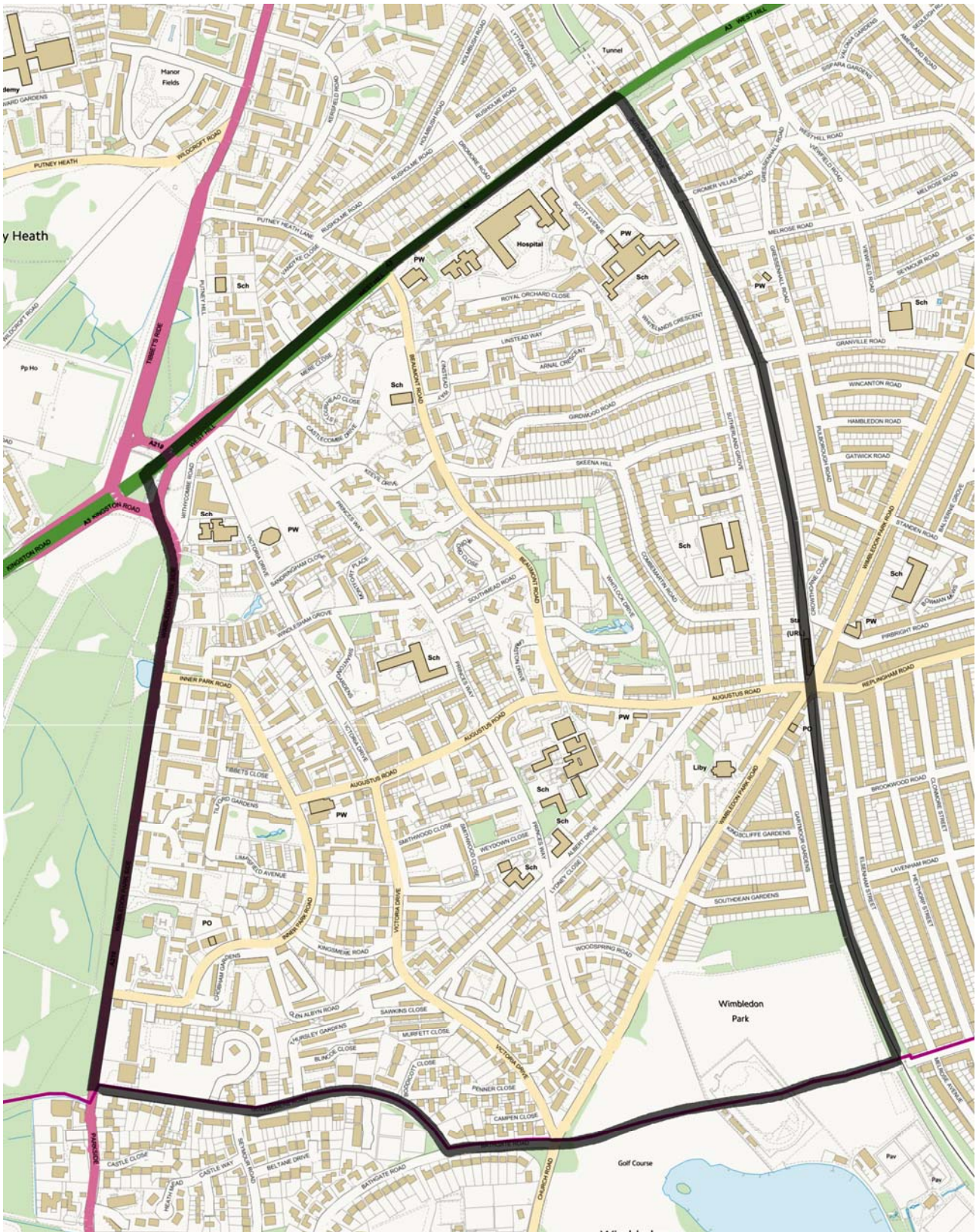
2 member Southfields ward

Single member King George's ward



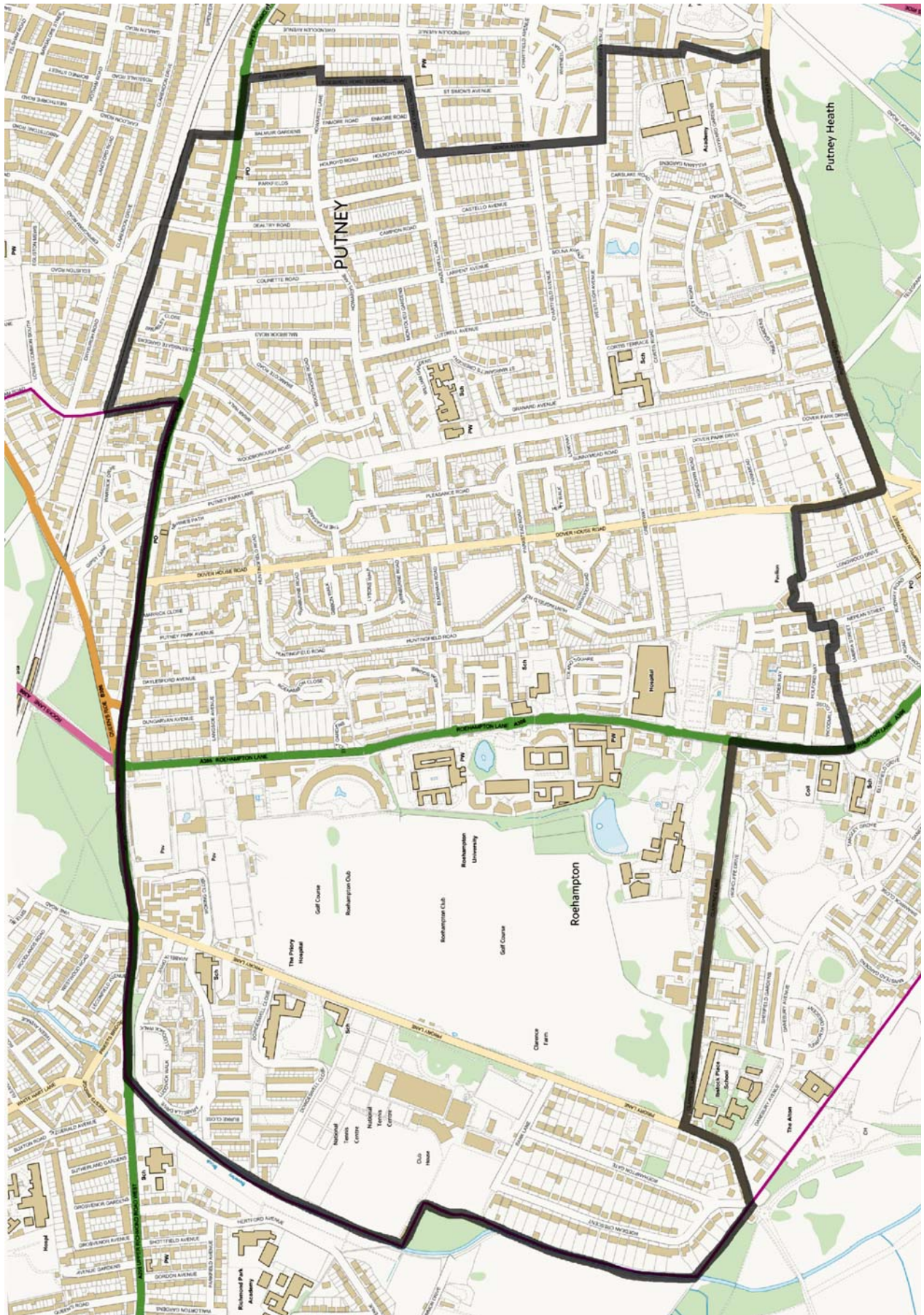
# West Hill ward (unchanged)

3 councillors



# West Putney ward

3 councillors



## part two

# Tooting and Earlsfield

There are seven wards within the Tooting constituency: Bedford, Earlsfield, Furzedown, Graveney, Nightingale, Tooting and Wandsworth Common.

I am not going to be proposing wards entirely within the constituency boundaries: I believe that the eastern section of Nightingale ward, for example - that part east of the railway line - should be united with the rest of Balham that side of the tracks. The boundary between Fairfield and Wandsworth Common/Earlsfield is not significant in most parts - it's residential backstreets, and I believe a better warding pattern can be proposed for that area too.

But broadly speaking the area bounded by East Hill/Wandsworth Common North Side in the north; the railway in the east, the borough boundary and Wandle in the south and west is entitled to nineteen councillors. This is down two from the existing pattern (21 councillors currently, with the section of Nightingale I propose transferring to Balham not quite offset by the bit of Fairfield being moved in from Battersea).

Tooting's wards have not kept pace with the overall growth of the borough and this is costing the area two councillors.

When considering wards in Tooting, one has to start in the south where options are limited by the borough boundary. This does not just apply to Furzedown, which looks a bit like an upside down Apollo rocket command pod, but also to Bedford ward, which is almost as hemmed in: by the borough boundary, Tooting Bec Common and the railway on three of its sides.

But let's start with Furzedown.

### **Furzedown ward**

The ward will be 11% over-represented by 2025. There are only two options for enlarging it. Either the relatively new Heritage Park site (the former Tooting Bec Hospital) is transferred from Bedford ward; or the triangle of land between Church Lane and Rectory Lane is transferred from Graveney ward.

My preference is for the second option for the following reasons. First, the Graveney section is more directly linked to Furzedown than Heritage Park, which is tucked away across a section of Tooting Bec Common from other populated parts of Furzedown. Heritage Park is part of a larger section of Bedford ward to its north; it would be isolated in Furzedown.

Second, whilst both sections under consideration are relatively new, the Graveney section is older and more in keeping with the layout of Furzedown. It is permeable: you can move through from Church Lane to Rectory Lane: Heritage Park is boxed off and fenced in: a far more confined, defined community.

Third, removing this section of Graveney makes it possible to install Upper Tooting Road as a far more logical boundary between Graveney and Tooting wards.

Fourth, transferring this section rather than Heritage Park gives Furzedown almost exact electoral equality: it will be just 0.3% above the quota by 2024.

A redrawn Furzedown ward, adding the triangle of land between Church Lane and Rectory Lane will be just 0.3% above the electoral quota by 2024.

### **Tooting Bec ward**

That choice has a knock-on effect for Bedford ward. Had I opted to remove Heritage Park, Bedford would be a good way distant from the electoral quota for a 3-member ward; it would be easier to draw a 2-member ward.

Bedford is a ward of at least two distinct parts: the area around Bedford Hill feels more Balham-y than the Tooting Bec parts along Balham High Road and Tooting Bec Road.

Having chosen not to remove Heritage Park from Bedford, the ward is going to be 11% too small - the same as Furzedown was before it got enlarged. I propose, essentially, two remedies for this.

First, I propose returning the small finger of territory up by the railway line that got transferred to Nightingale ward at the last electoral review, solely to improve the electoral equality of the two wards, back to this ward. That small area will have over 400 electors in it by 2024.

Second, and more substantially, I propose altering the boundary between Bedford and Graveney and Tooting wards - the GNC and TTE polling districts. Instead of this boundary being Topsham and Mantilla Roads, I propose moving that boundary west one street, so that it now runs down the centre of Moring and Brudenell Roads. This also transfers a handful of electors in Avoca Road and Franciscan Road which traverse these north-south running roads.

These changes transfer an extra 1,100 electors into Bedford ward, reducing its electoral inequality substantially.

I propose one other change: to this ward's name. Bedford is an opaque title referring to a relatively small corner of the ward. Tooting Bec is a far more widely identifiable name: it refers to the common in the east of the ward; the tube station in the west of the ward and the road in the south of the ward.

My renamed, 3-member, Tooting Bec ward will be 1.5% below the electoral quota by 2024.

### **Graveney ward**

Having looked at Furzedown and Bedford/Tooting Bec, we next need to deal with Graveney ward. Graveney was already 13% over-represented before the changes I've just proposed. After them, it is now 26% too small.

To an extent, Graveney and Tooting wards need to be viewed as a pair: they cover Tooting proper, essentially either side of Tooting High Street and Upper Tooting Road. But not quite. The existing Tooting ward is a much larger ward geographically and sprawls across to the Graveney side of Upper Tooting Road.

This polling district: TTE, contains over 2,000 electors, and I propose moving it to Graveney as the principal means by which we recoup the electorate lost earlier. It also makes a huge amount of sense: there is no discernible difference between the streets in TTE and the wider Graveney side of Upper Tooting Road: that bustling, busy,

main road is a much more consequential boundary (albeit that it is also, of course, the hub of the Tooting community).

This change almost offsets the losses Graveney sustains to Furzedown and Bedford/Tooting Bec. But we need to find at least 1,500 additional voters to deal with the fact that Graveney was already 11% too small.

I propose finding them in the far west of the ward, across Tooting High Street, in the TTB polling district. The south western corner of Tooting ward is physically isolated from the rest of that ward by the vast St George's Hospital site. There are several streets running from the borough boundary east to Coverton Road; roads like Tooting Grove, Aldis Street and Effort Street, all almost trapped as it were, between the High Street and the hospital. These roads have no links to the streets north of the hospital compound; ever so slightly more perhaps with the roads to the west just behind Garratt Lane; but are essentially a neighbourhood on their own.

Adding this section of TTB - approximately 1,300 electors by 2025, along with the whole of the TTE polling district gives Graveney ward an electorate of just over 12,200 - 3.6% below the electoral quota by 2024.

### **Tooting and Summerstown ward**

The changes to the three south-eastern Tooting wards have a growing ripple effect. Tooting ward, which was just 6% below the electoral quota for a 58 seat council, is now 33% too small, having lost TTE and half of TTB. In fact, with no other changes the ward would almost be appropriate as a two member ward.

That is certainly an option, but I prefer retaining three councillors here. The ways I propose to reinflate the electorate here are threefold.

In the north east of the ward, I propose sorting out the messy and opaque boundary that divides the cluster of streets between Trinity Road and Glenburnie Road. Instead of dividing them between Tooting and Nightingale wards, I propose moving the whole lot into Tooting, so that the ward's eastern boundary becomes Trinity Road. This also transfers to Tooting from Wandsworth Common ward a small cluster of newish developments south of Ernest Bevin Academy.

Second, I propose moving the ward's northern boundary north to Burntwood Lane. This transfers the new Springfield Hospital housing from Wandsworth Common and the isolated Aboyne Estate from Earlsfield ward.

Finally, in the north west of the ward, the current boundary is Wimbledon Road. Immediately north of Wimbledon is the area known as Summerstown, a small cluster of streets south of the warehouse quarter by the Wandle that separates these streets from the rest of Earlsfield by some fair distance.

I think Summerstown is better pared with Tooting, with which it is closer. This creates a much more logical, more easily understandable boundary for Tooting ward, instead of a round-the-houses boundary of cemeteries and open spaces. Burntwood Lane is an important local boundary: it is a long road that provides a continuous thoroughfare from Garratt Lane onwards to Nightingale Lane and then Clapham. It is more than just a physical boundary; it is where Tooting becomes Wandsworth - it's a community boundary.

My proposed Tooting and Summerstown ward would be 1.9% above the electoral quota by 2024.

### **Trinity ward**

There is one final ward in this area south of Burntwood Road and Bellevue Road: Nightingale. Nightingale is a ward of at least two - but most definitely two halves: it is bisected by the railway line north west of Balham station. The bit from which Nightingale gets its name lies north of the railway line: Nightingale Square, firmly on the Balham side.

I believe the railway is a significant boundary - there is no permeability beneath the viaduct: you can only traverse it at either end: Balham High Road and Bellevue Road. I therefore believe that the polling district north of the railway should reasonably be warded with the Balham area that side of the tracks.

That polling district, NGB, contains over 3,500 electors. Its loss, coupled with the fact that Nightingale was already projected to be 9% below the electoral quota unchanged, and the fact that Bellevue Road and the uphill end of Burntwood Lane is a major physical boundary (north of them is Wandsworth Common), makes this ward ideal for a 2-member ward.

As mentioned earlier, the section that justified calling this ward Nightingale is part of that NGB section moved out of the ward, so I propose renaming this slimmed down ward Trinity.

My two-member Trinity ward would have 8,403 electors by 2024 and be just 1% above the electoral quota.

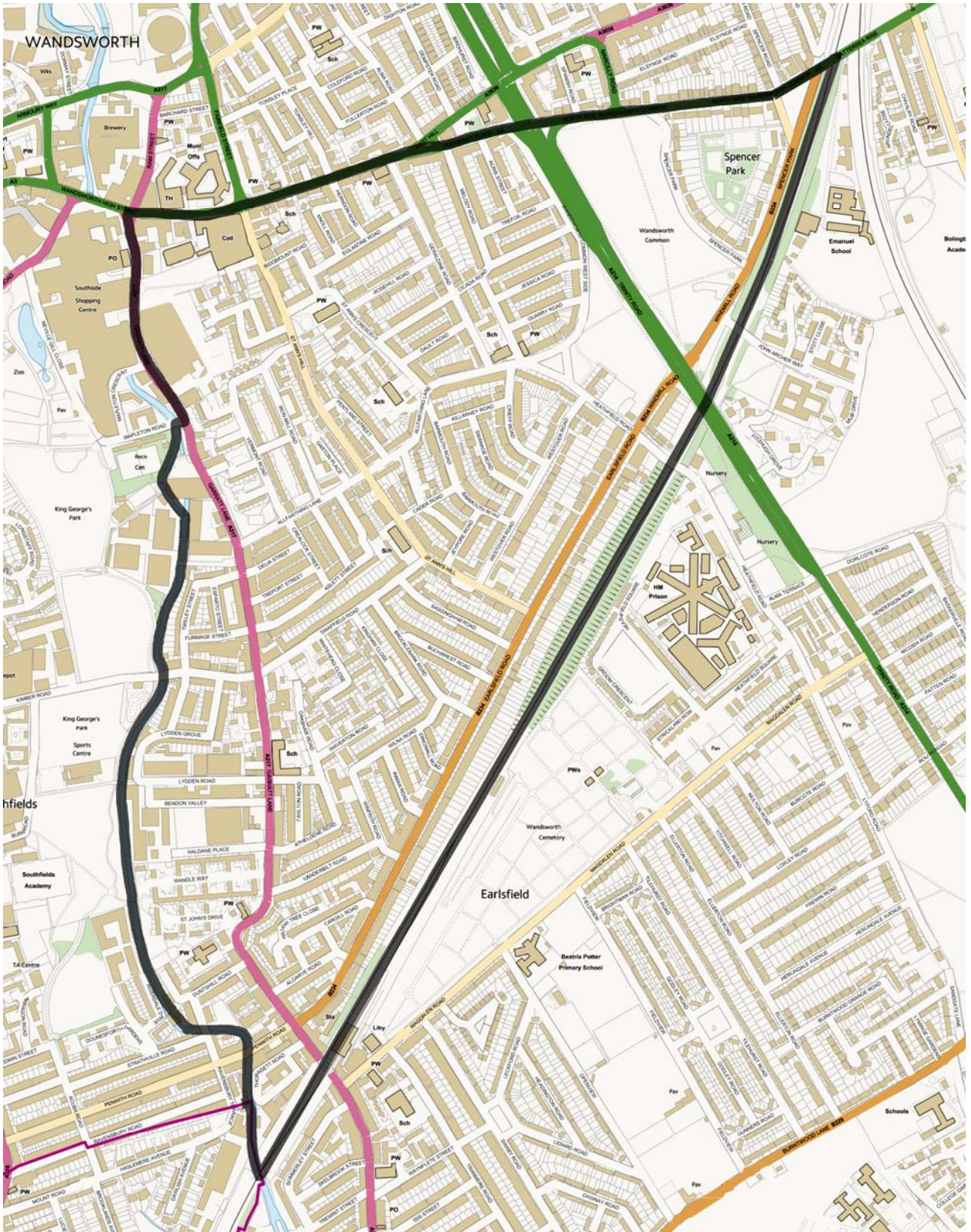
### **Earlsfield ward and Wandsworth Common ward**

This leaves the parts of SW18 in the Tooting constituency to be warded. The area within the constituency is only entitled to four and a bit councillors. To get that allocation up to five, and to create far stronger ward boundaries, I propose that instead of the remarkably convoluted ward boundary between Earlsfield and Wandsworth Common; moreover between Earlsfield, Wandsworth Common and Battersea's Fairfield ward, Wandsworth High Street, East Hill and then Wandsworth Common Northside is used instead. This creates a square of central Wandsworth with the Wandle and the railway line at the western and eastern sides; with a further branch of the railway bisecting the area diagonally.

In fact, I propose to reinstate that diagonal railway line as the boundary between my two proposed wards in this area. To the north west of the line, my proposed 3-member Earlsfield ward would be 1.5% above the electoral quota by 2024; and to the south east, a 2-member Wandsworth Common (which could alternatively be renamed Magdalen, given sections of the common are also in Earlsfield and Trinity) would be 2.3% below the electoral quota. I believe these boundaries make sense, are clear and concise, and unite communities far better than the existing, weirdly shaped Earlsfield and Wandsworth Common wards.

# Earlsfield ward

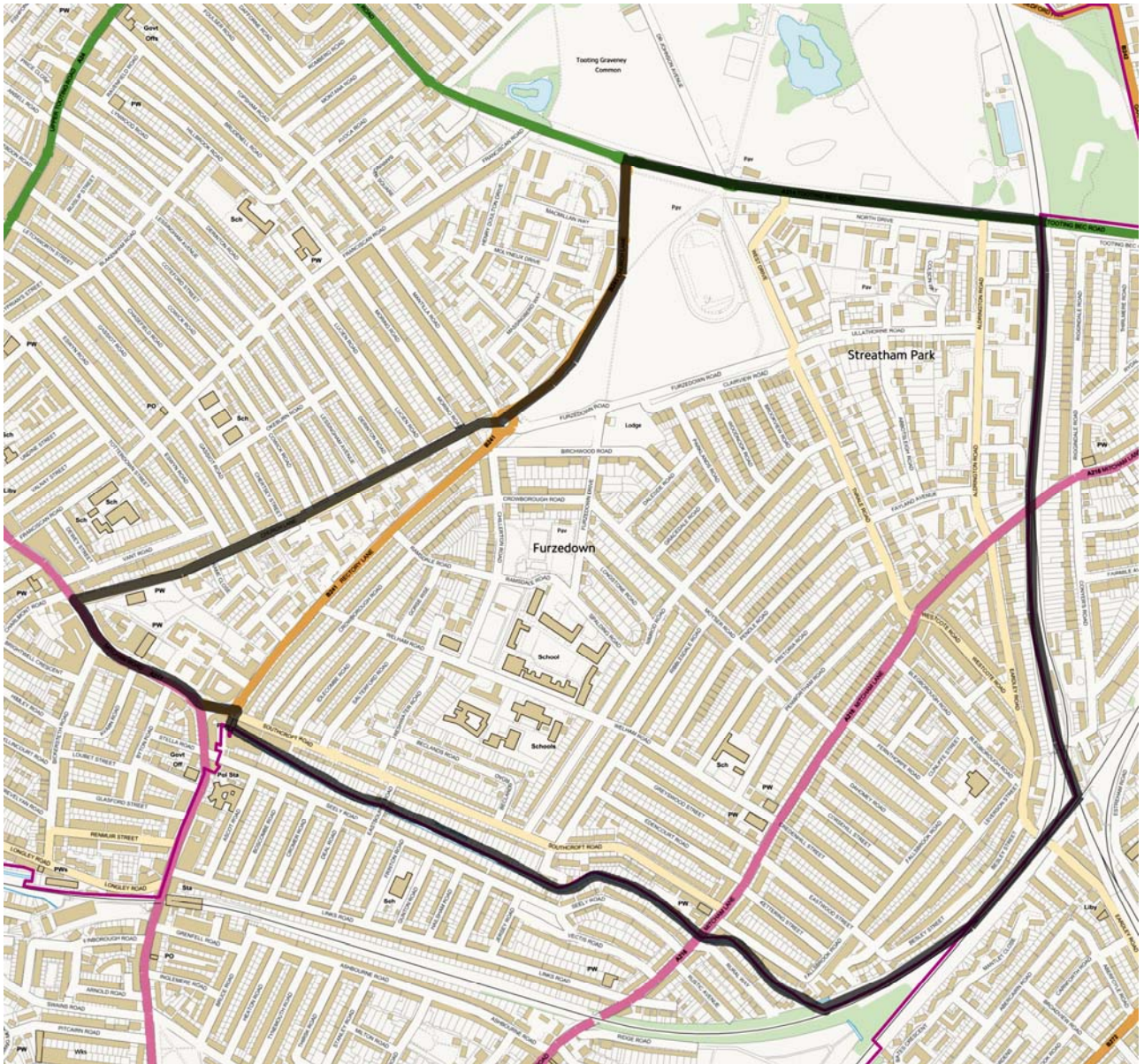
3 councillors





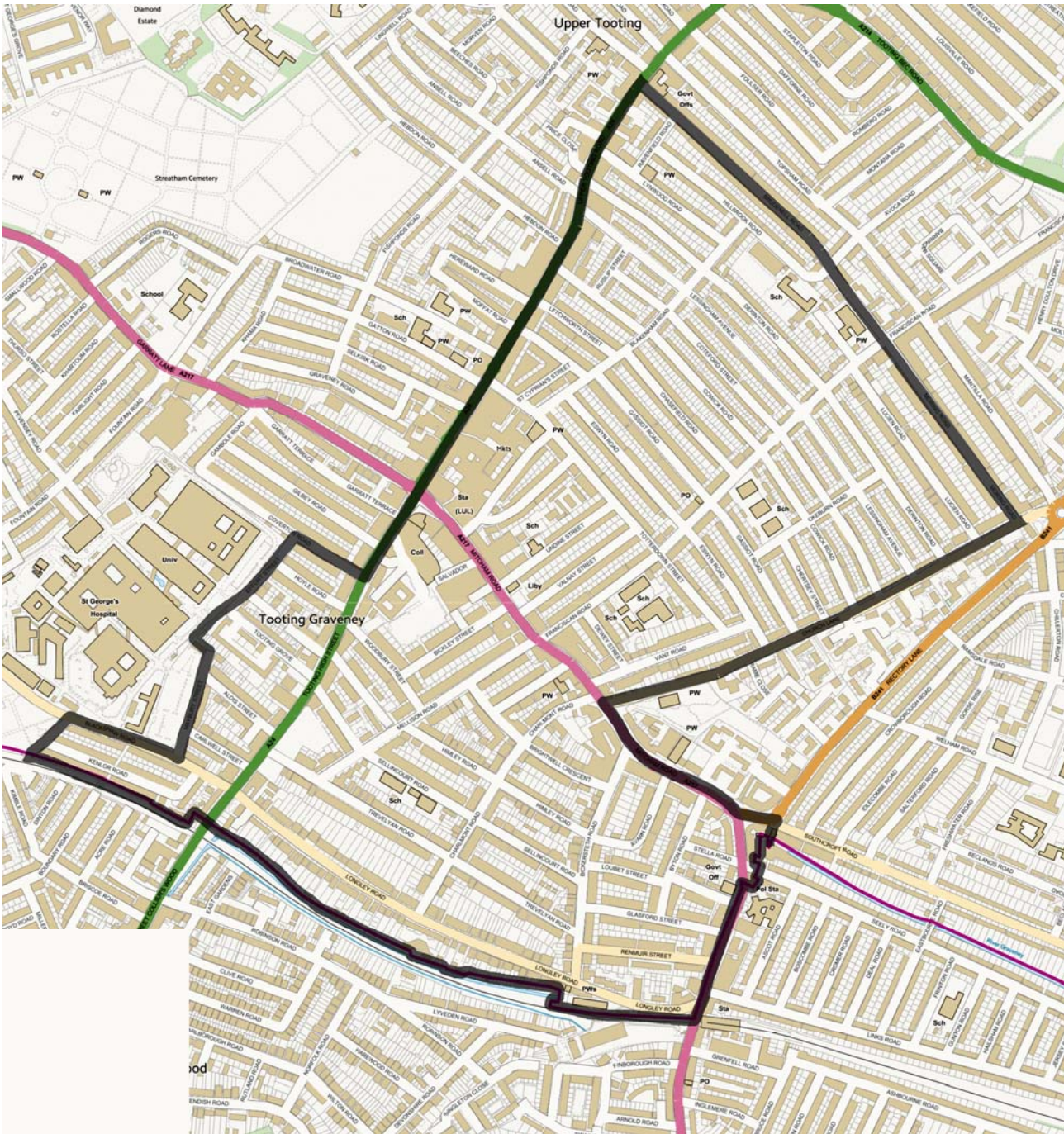
# Furzedown ward

3 councillors



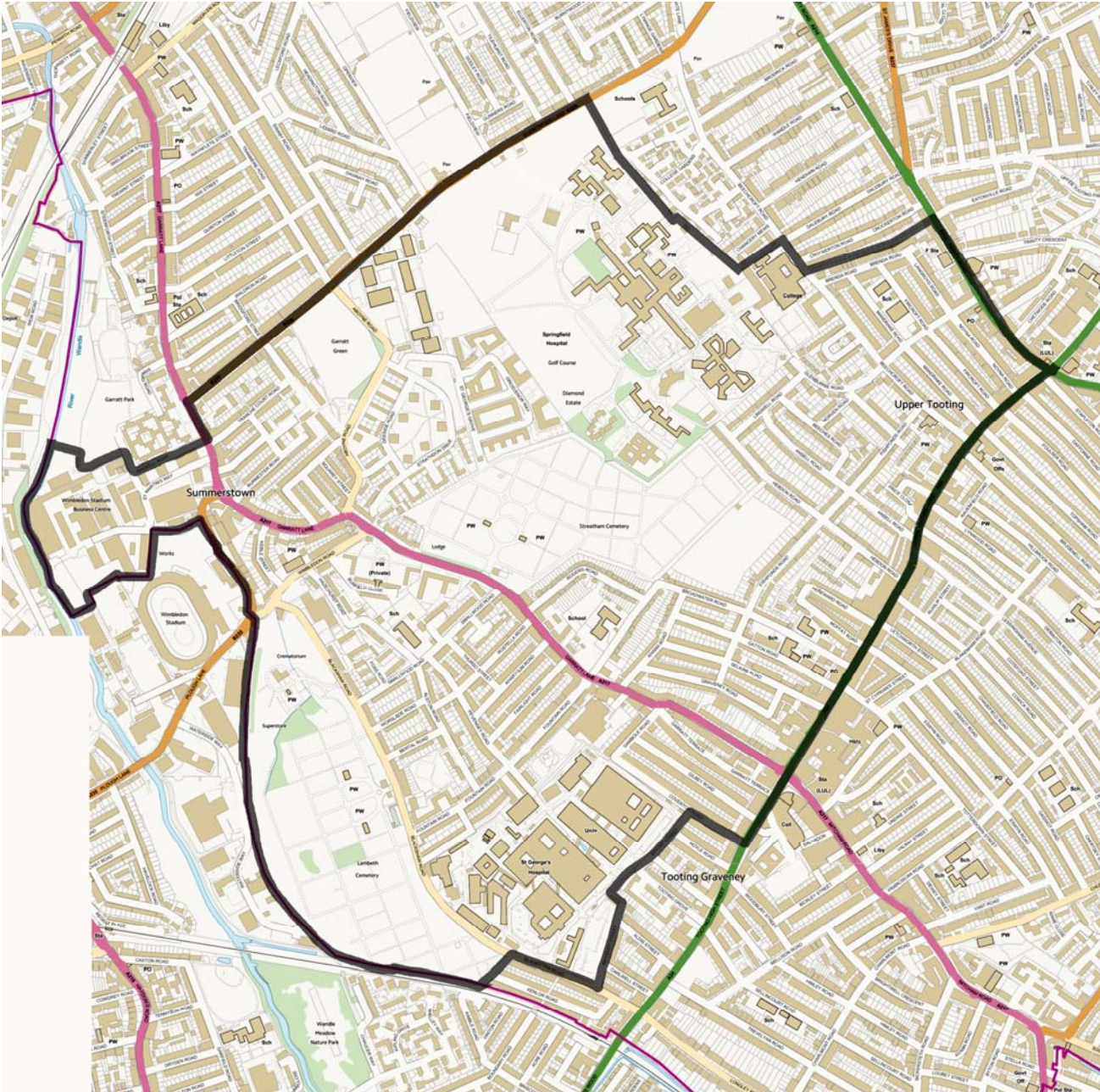
# Graveney ward

3 councillors



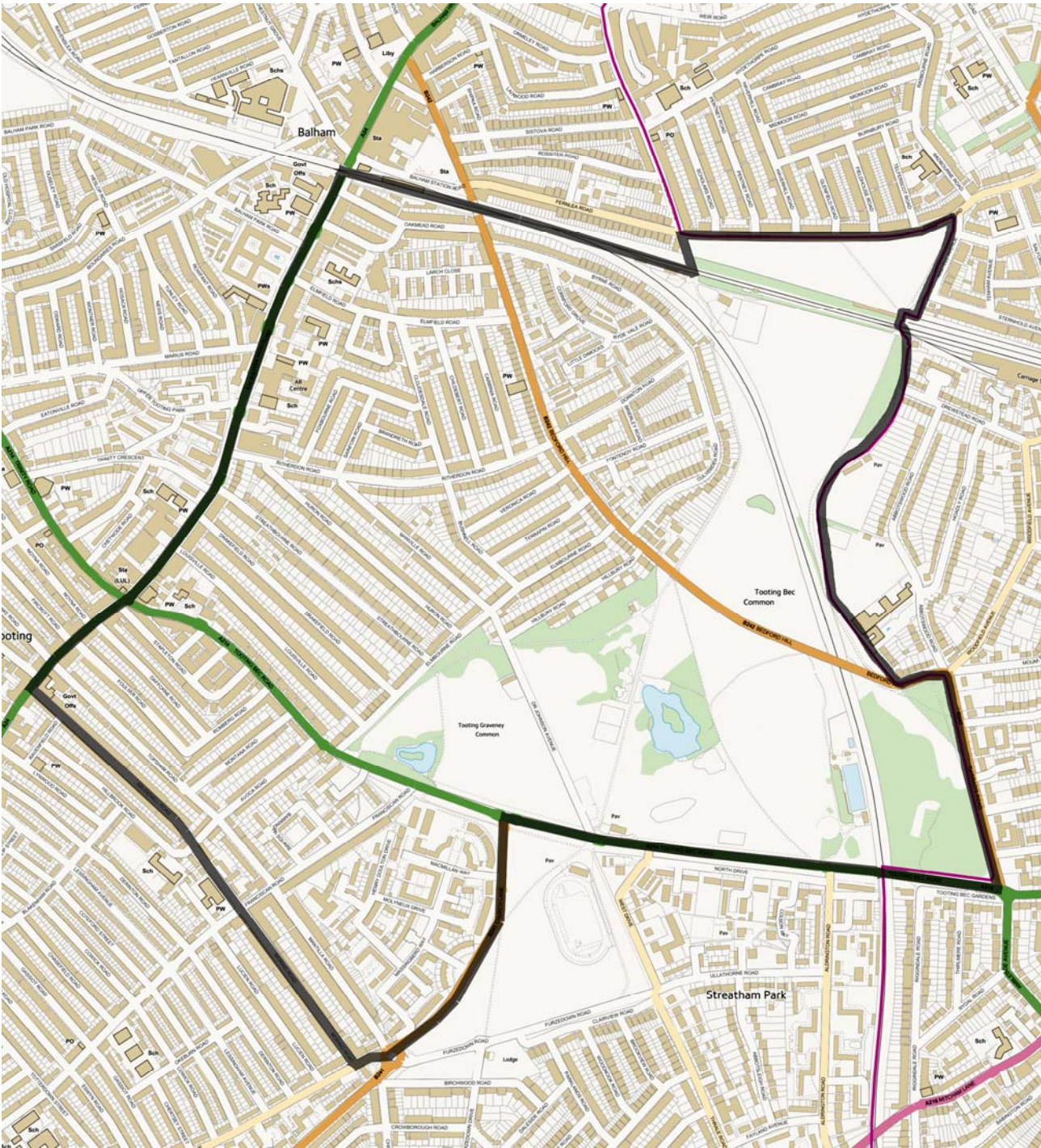
# Tooting and Summerstown ward

3 councillors



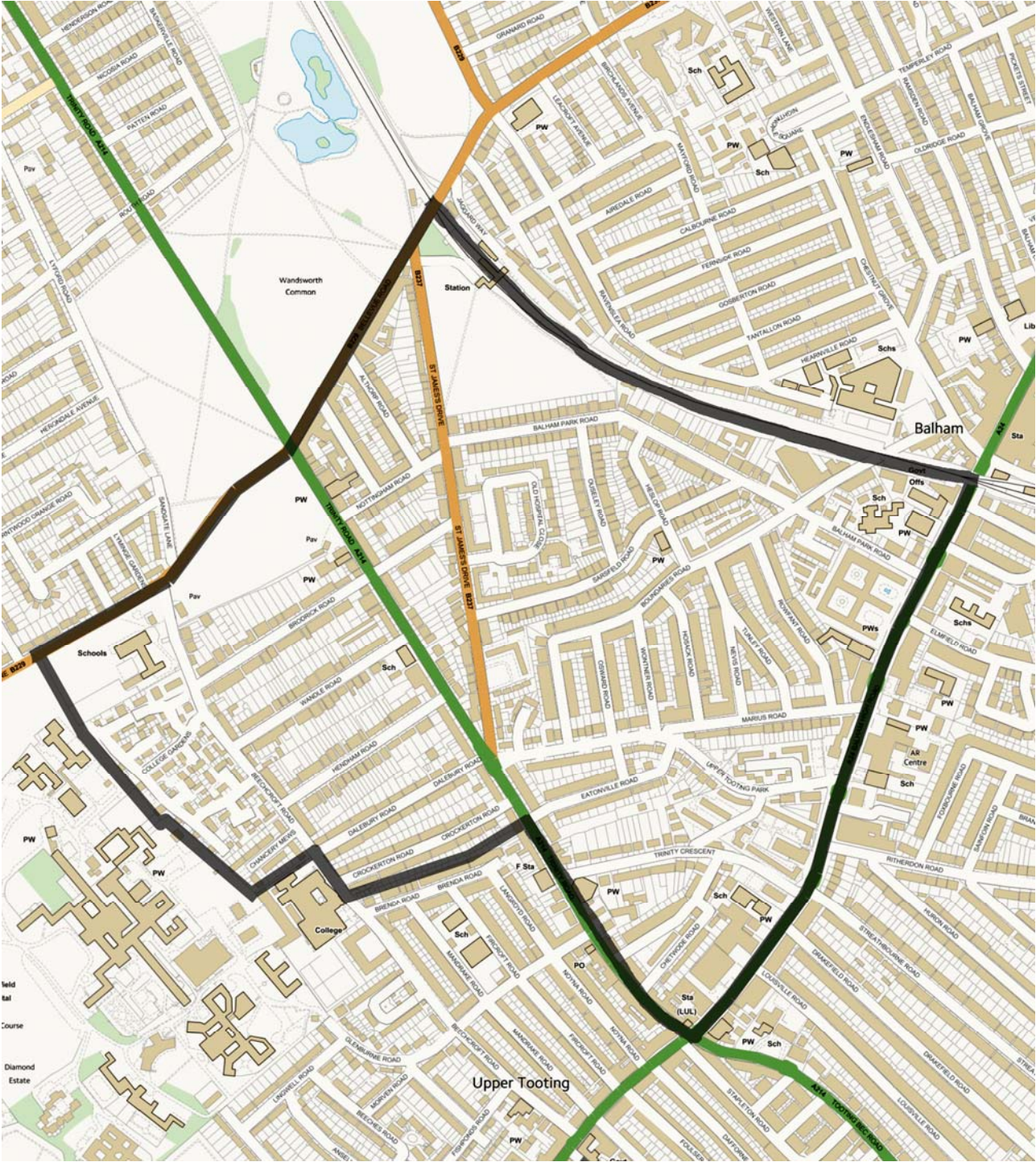
# Tooting Bec ward

3 councillors



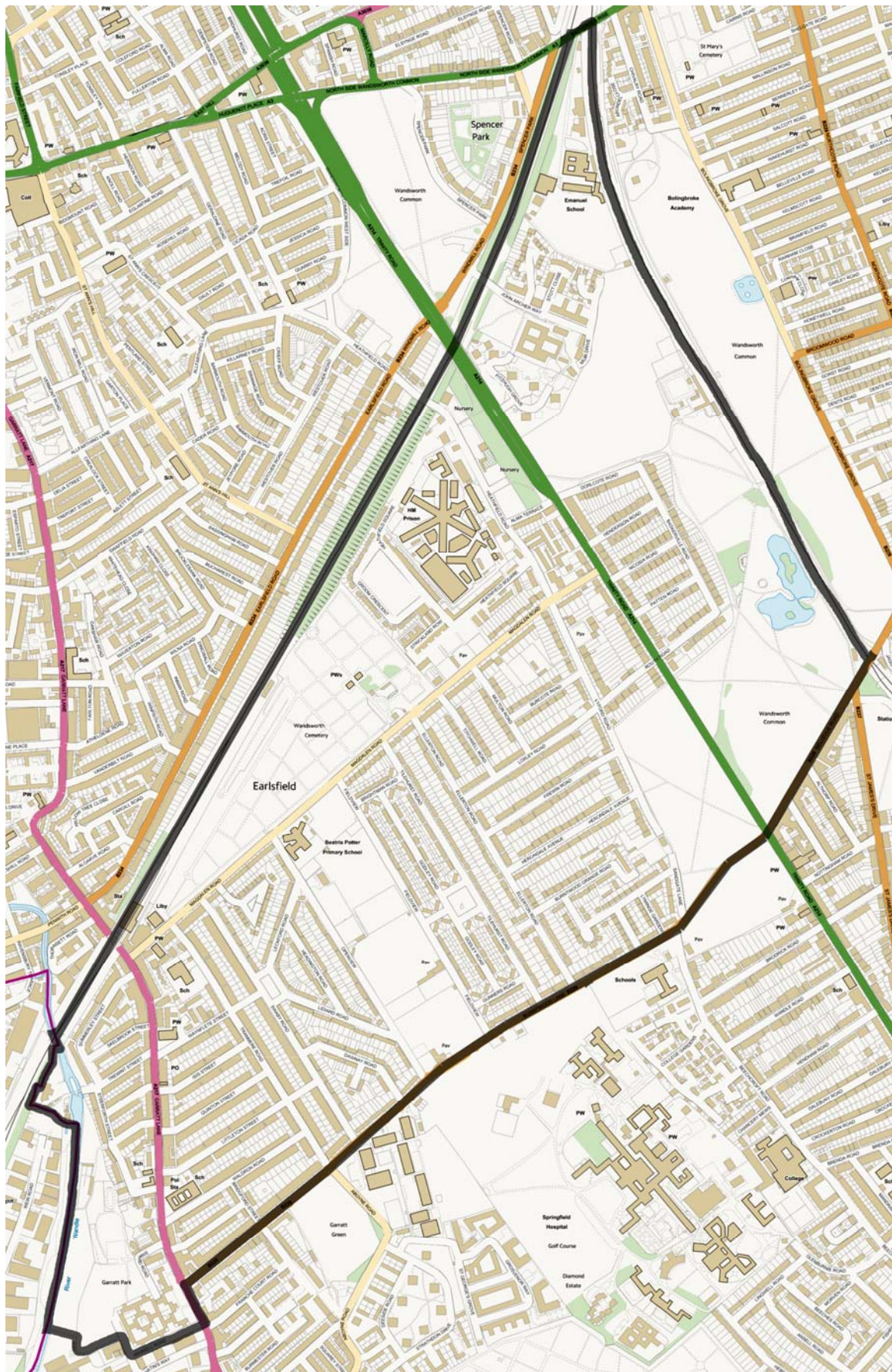
# Trinity ward

2 councillors



# Wandsworth Common ward (alternatively: Magdalen ward)

2 councillors



## part three

# Battersea, Balham, Nine Elms and Wandsworth town

The big driver of population and electorate change in Wandsworth Borough is Battersea. The two councillors lost in the Tooting area, and the one lost in Putney (Roehampton), are replaced by, effectively, one whole new ward in the north east of the borough. Looking in more depth, it's slightly more complex: yes, three new councillors are anticipated in Nine Elms; but one is also going to be allocated to Wandsworth Town, growing not quite as fast. That means a further councillor is going to be lost in the wider Battersea area - in Balham.

I propose to start in this area, in part because Battersea is shaped a bit like a corkscrew and this southern area has very limited warding options with the borough boundary to the south and east, and the physical boundary of the Balham branch of the mainline to the west.

Taking the two wards in this "Battersea South" area, Balham and Northcote together, they are almost 3,300 electors below the electoral quota for a 58 seat council. Good job, then, that in the Tooting section I proposed transferring the NGB polling district, with 3,507 projected electors, across to the Balham side of the boundary.

### Balham ward

This makes warding the area relatively straightforward.

The existing Balham ward is three parts Balham proper (the BHB, C and D polling districts) and one part "between the commons", north of Nightingale Lane - an area that ideally should be warded with Northcote. NGB is also Balham proper, so I basically want to trade NGB (in) for BHA (out). But the electorate numbers don't quite work on a straight swap. We need NGB, but we also need almost half of BHA as well.

I therefore propose to one a new northern boundary along Thurleigh Road - the next east-west running road north of Nightingale Lane for its entire length.

This ward, now truly unites all of Balham east of the railway line, would be 3.6% above the electoral quota by 2024.

### Northcote ward

I propose only very minor changes to the existing Northcote ward.

The ward gains that northern bit of BHA polling district, just discussed, worth 1,800 electors. To inch the ward that little bit closer to the electoral quota, I propose a small change with the boundary of the current Shaftesbury ward.

At present, that boundary is Lavender Sweep, which runs between Battersea Rise and Lavender Hill. I propose moving it further east to run down the middle of Elspeth Road, the A3220 (leaving the roads north of Lavender Hill untouched).

This moves four fairly densely populated roads with just over 400 electors, from Shafesbury to Northcote.

My revised Northcote would be 2% above the electoral quota instead of 16% below it as currently projected.

### Nine Elms ward

I now propose leaping to the north eastern corner of the borough: the current Queenstown ward. This is where most of the projected electorate growth is forecast because of the Nine Elms redevelopment zone, including Battersea Power Station and the new US Embassy quarter.

Queenstown is projected to be 57% under-represented by 2024 or, to put it another way, entitled to five councillors instead of the current three. I propose a dramatic reduction in the size of the core of this ward, achieved in three ways.

First, I propose transferring out of Queenstown the area around Battersea Park. That this area is in Queenstown at all is a little odd, by which I simply mean that since 1978 St Mary's Park ward (the park referred to being Battersea Park) has been without the park itself. It used to be part of that ward, and I propose rectifying the anomalous naming

issue by handing it back. That area - the QTD polling district - removes almost 2,500 electors; not the 3,500 the polling district currently has because instead of running up Queenstown Road to Chelsea Bridge, QTD runs up the Victoria railway line, just to the east of it. That may not look much of a difference, but there has been a huge amount of residential development in this wedge between the two: 900 voters are now on the register here and we want to retain them in Nine Elms ward, not transfer them to St Mary's Park.

The second change is to transfer the Doddington and Rollo estates - the QTE polling district - to Latchmere ward, from which they were moved in 2002. This removed 2,500 electors.

The third and final change is to move the area from which Queenstown ward derives its name: Queenstown Road and the wider Queenstown Diamond. This area, the QTC polling district, is worth a further 2,500 electors.

In other words, we are left with a ward comprising QTA - the Battersea Power Station/Nine Elms side of the ward; and QTB - the estates off Wandsworth Road. It would have the borough boundary to the north and south east, and the Victoria mainline that runs across the ward vertically past Wandsworth Road station to its west.

This ward would begin egregiously small: 51% over-represented; but by 2024 would be just 3.5% below the electoral quota. Because it has lost the Queenstown area from which it gets its name, I propose naming this new ward Nine Elms.

### **Lavender Hill and Queenstown**

Let's now look at the wards I have transferred fragments of the old Queenstown to. Starting in the south, with the QTC polling district: the Queenstown Road area.

Because of the severe, massive physical boundaries carving through Battersea in the form of the railway lines, this section can only be paired with Shaftesbury, also south of the Waterloo to Clapham Junction mainline.

Shaftesbury ward was already 13% too small on a 58-member council, and I transferred a further 487 electors to Northcote to redress that ward's electoral imbalance.

I propose adding the whole of that QTC polling district to Shaftesbury ward. The two areas link together well: they share a local shopping centre at the south end of Queenstown Road; the east end of Lavender Hill, and the west end of Wandsworth Road.

I propose renaming this ward Lavender Hill and Queenstown, as Lavender Hill is a far more widely recognised place, the Shaftesbury estate covers barely a third of the current ward and even less of the new one, and Lavender Hill runs through the centre, almost from one end to the other. Queenstown also deserves preserving in a ward name, both for historic reasons and because it contributes a healthy chunk of electorate.

Lavender Hill and Queenstown ward would within 3% of the electoral quota by 2024.

### **St Mary's Park**

Lets now return to the Battersea Park section - the QTD polling district. I mentioned that the park used to be part of the old St Mary's Park ward, prior to 1978 - and when it was, it was on the exact same boundaries as I propose here: essentially QTD plus the existing St Mary's Park polling districts of SMA, B and C.

I also want to iron out that odd little dink in the ward's southern boundary, where parts of Brynmaer Road and Kersley Street ended up in Latchmere ward. On my proposal, the ward's southern boundary is Battersea Park Road, all the way from the West London railway to Queenstown Road and Chelsea Bridge.

My 3-member St Mary's Park, including the eponymous park once again, would be 1.3% below the electoral quota by 2025.

### **Latchmere ward**

I now turn to Latchmere ward. The long strip of central Battersea, bounded by York Road and Battersea Park Road to the north and the Waterloo mainline to the south; and from the Wandsworth roundabout in the west and Queenstown Road in the east, contains too many electors to fit into one ward.



Various arrangements have been made to best represent these areas: since 2002 all of the western and middle sections of this area have been in Latchmere but the eastern end - the Doddington and Rollo estates - has been in Queenstown.

Before that, the Doddington and Rollo and the middle section (Battersea Fields) were in Latchmere, and the huge area of council estates immediately north of Clapham Junction station were divided, opaquely, between Latchmere and the now abolished St John ward; with the ward's far western section: the estates just east of the roundabout, in St John as well.

Go back even further and Latchmere comprised the middle sections of the current ward plus the area between Battersea Bridge Road and Albert Bridge Road - what is currently the SMC polling district. There was a Winstanley ward covering the York Road, Winstanley and Kambala estates (though this in the era before these estates were created).

So Latchmere has had changeable boundaries. I'm proposing further change to them this time. My latest incarnation of this ward runs from Plough Road in the west to Queenstown Road in the east, comprising the Clapham Junction estates; the Latchmere Road and Burns Road areas, Battersea Fields and the Doddington and Rollo estates - in other words the LMA, LMB, LMC and QTE polling districts.

I have also added the Yelverton Road area, sandwiched between the West London Line and York Road, to this ward. This area, of just over 800 electors, is isolated whichever ward it's contained within because of its physical boundaries, but is both needed by Latchmere to improve its electoral equality, and shares some connections around Falcon Road and Battersea Park Road/York Road/Battersea High Street.

Latchmere ward would be just 0.5% below the electoral quota by 2024.

### **Wandsworth Riverside ward and Wandsworth Town ward**

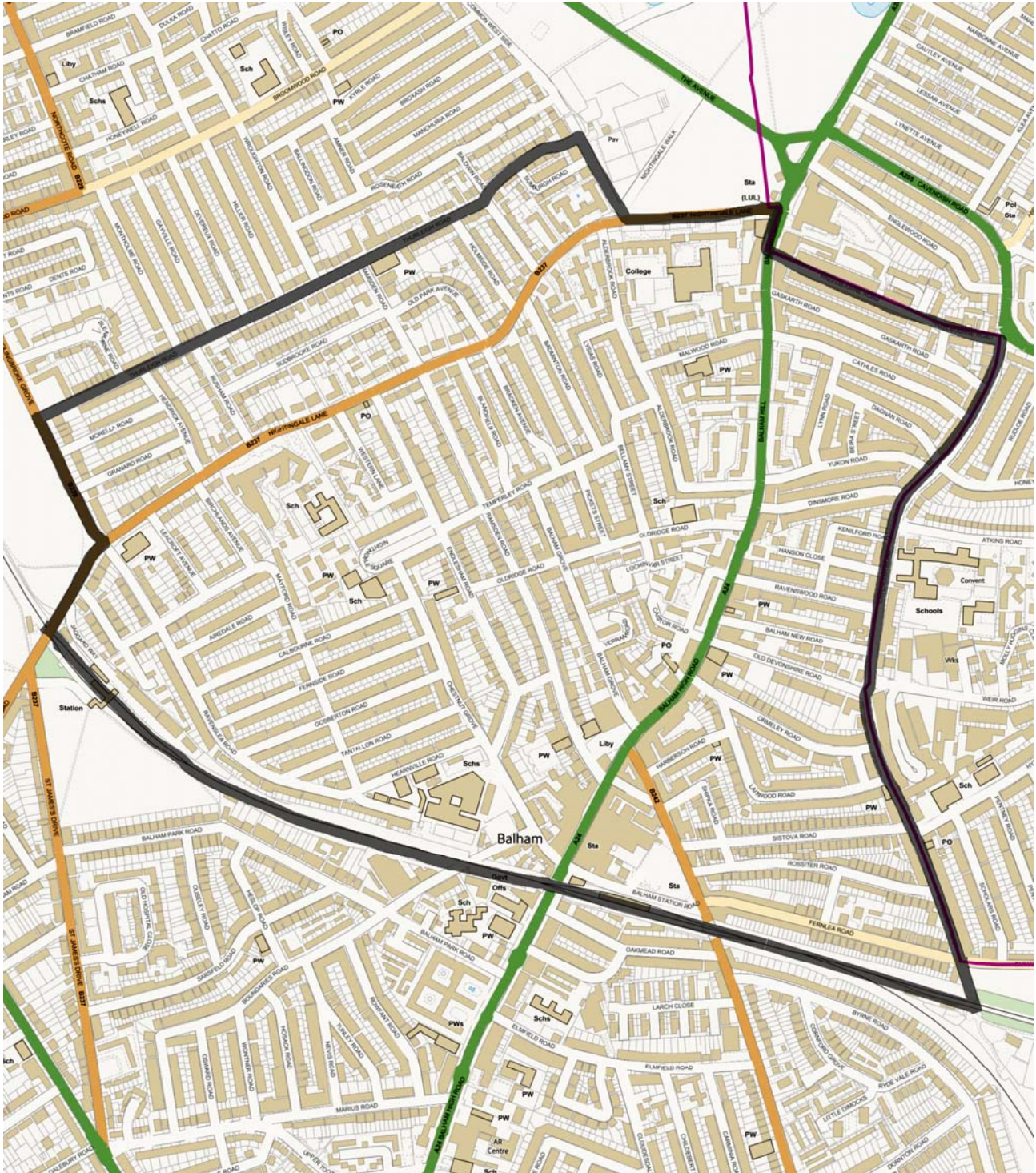
We're now left with Wandsworth town itself; the bits not already allocated from Latchmere (the LMD polling district); St Mary's Park (the SME and most of the SMD polling districts) and the bulk of Fairfield (FFA, B and D polling districts). Unhelpfully, these areas combined are far too big for a three-member ward - they're actually entitled to four councillors with the new housing developments projected here. Helpfully however, drawing a ward boundary along the railway line should put divide the electorate roughly equally to enable us to create two 2-member wards in Wandsworth town.

The northern of the two wards would comprise all the riverside housing from the WRWA waste disposal centre on the edge of the Wandle delta across Wandsworth Bridge up to the West London Line viaduct. It would also include that remaining Latchmere polling district, LMD. And it will contain the sizeable electorate growth projected in the redevelopments of sites to the west of the roundabout: Homepage and B&Q. I propose naming this ward Wandsworth Riverside. This ward would be 1.2% below the electoral quota by 2024.

The inland of the wards would comprise the St John's Hill area (FFD polling district), the area up East Hill, south of Old York Road (FFB), the area around Wandsworth Town Hall including the Ram Quarter redevelopment (FFA) and the streets west of the gyratory (FFE). This ward would be 1.5% above the electoral quota by 2024.

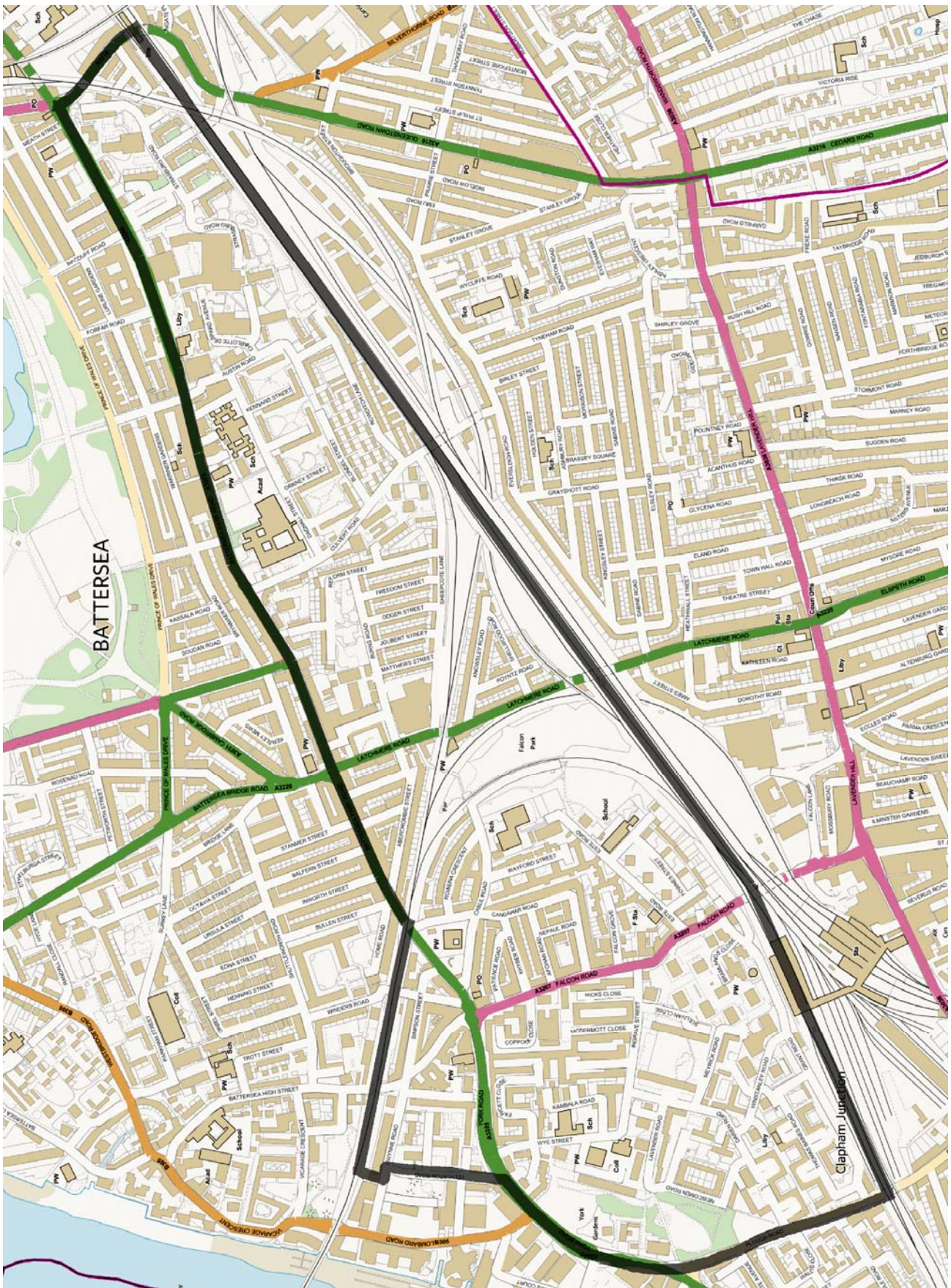
# Balham ward

3 councillors



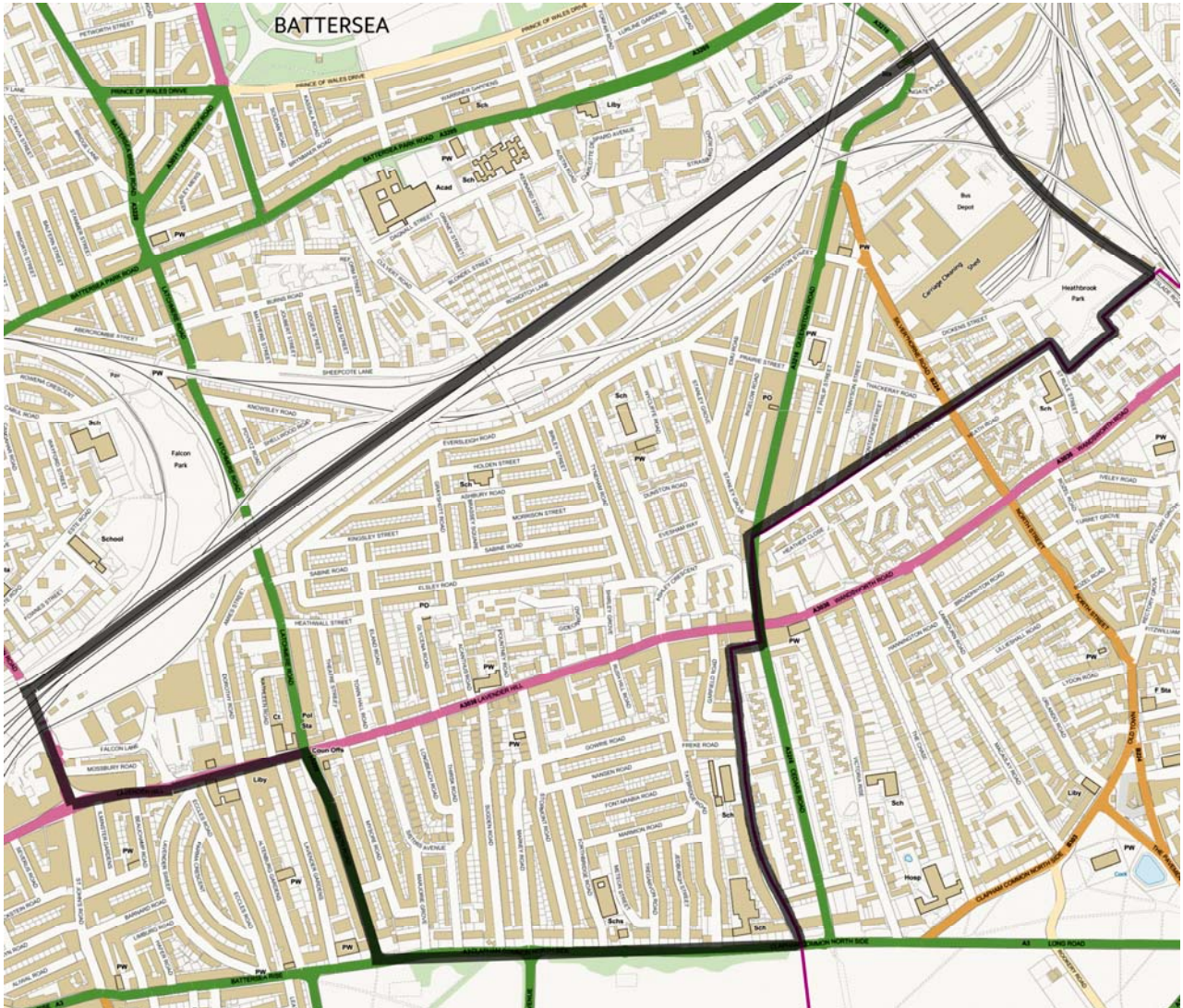
# Latchmere ward

3 councillors



# Lavender Hill and Queenstown ward

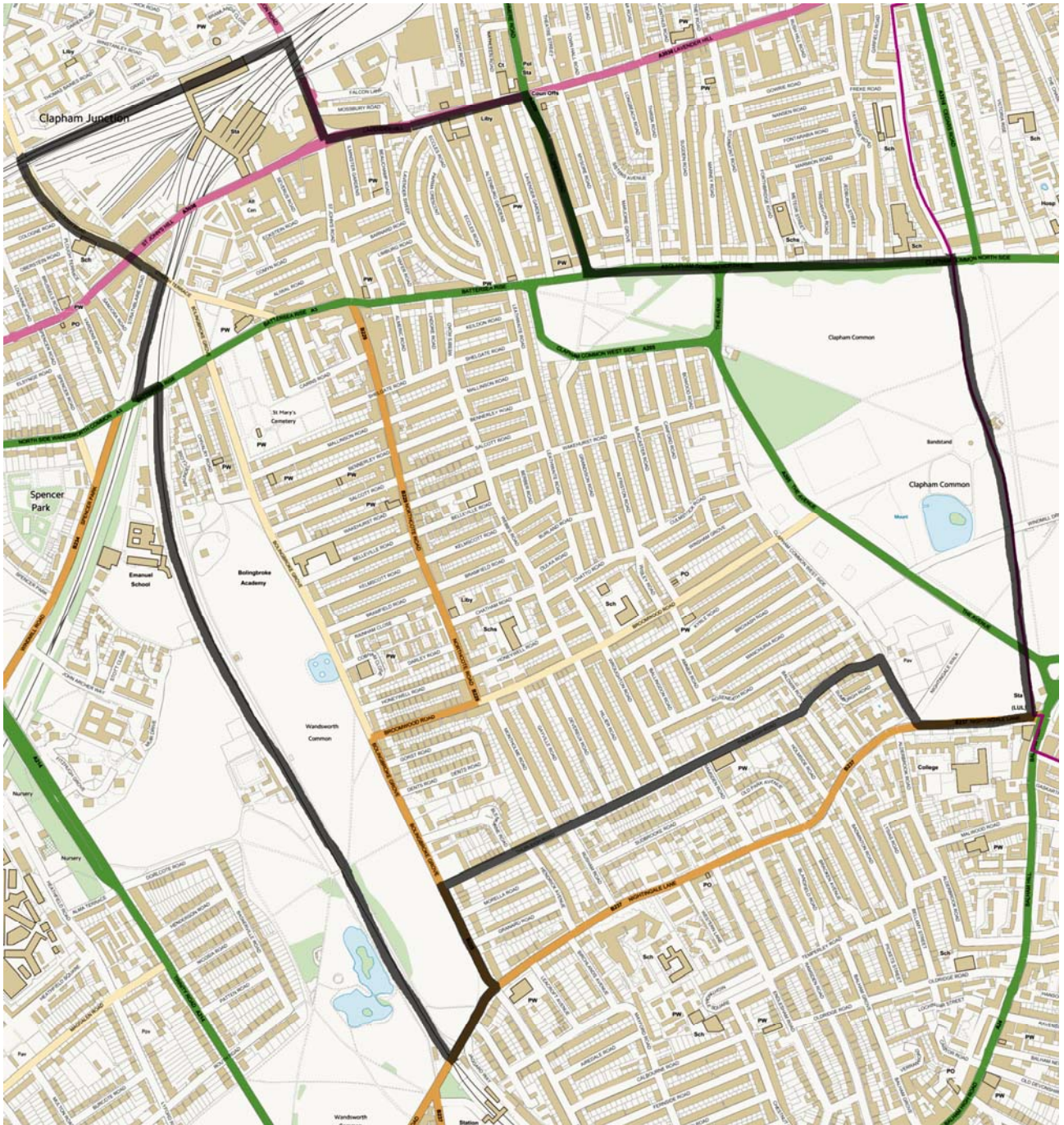
3 councillors





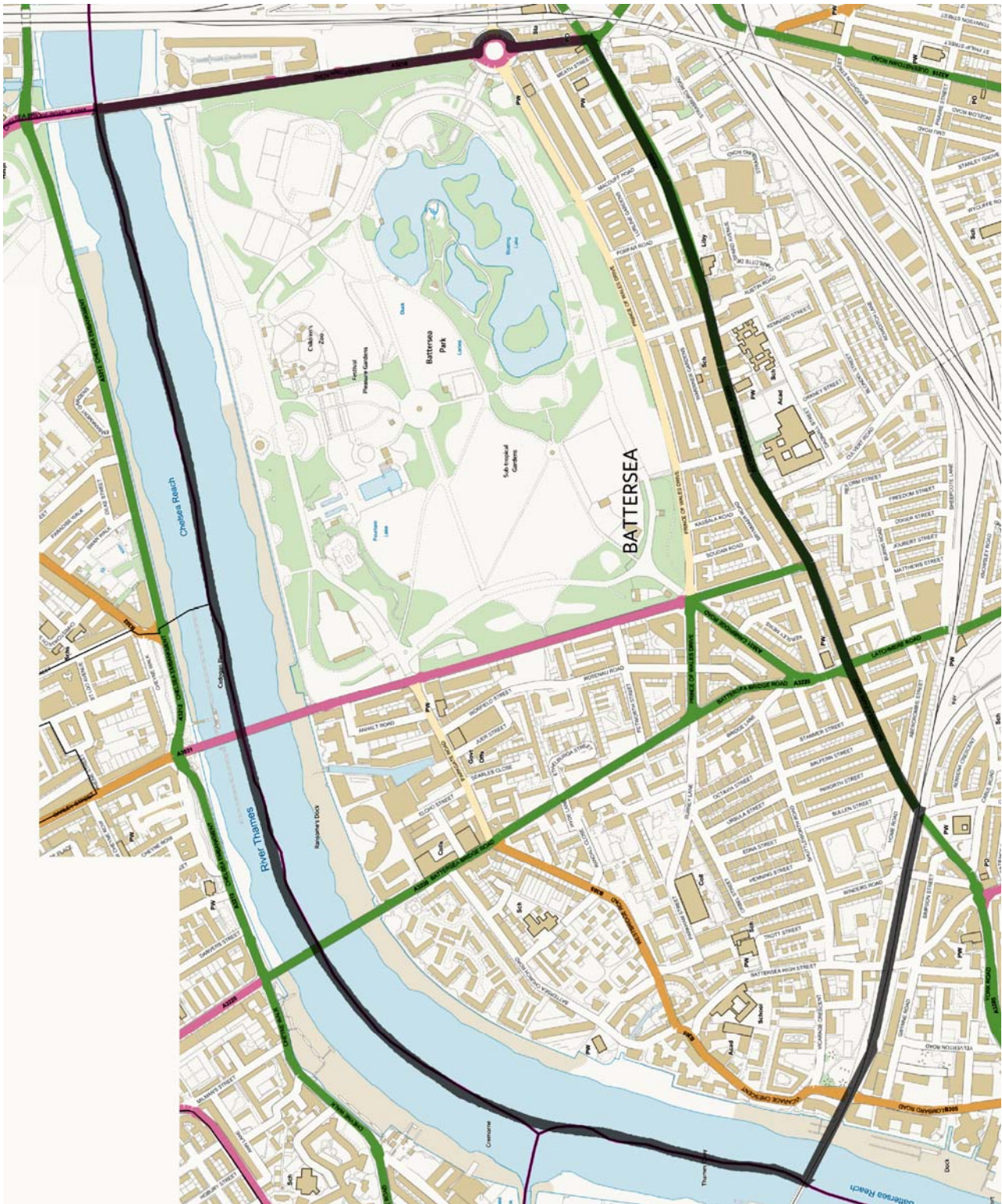
# Northcote ward

3 councillors



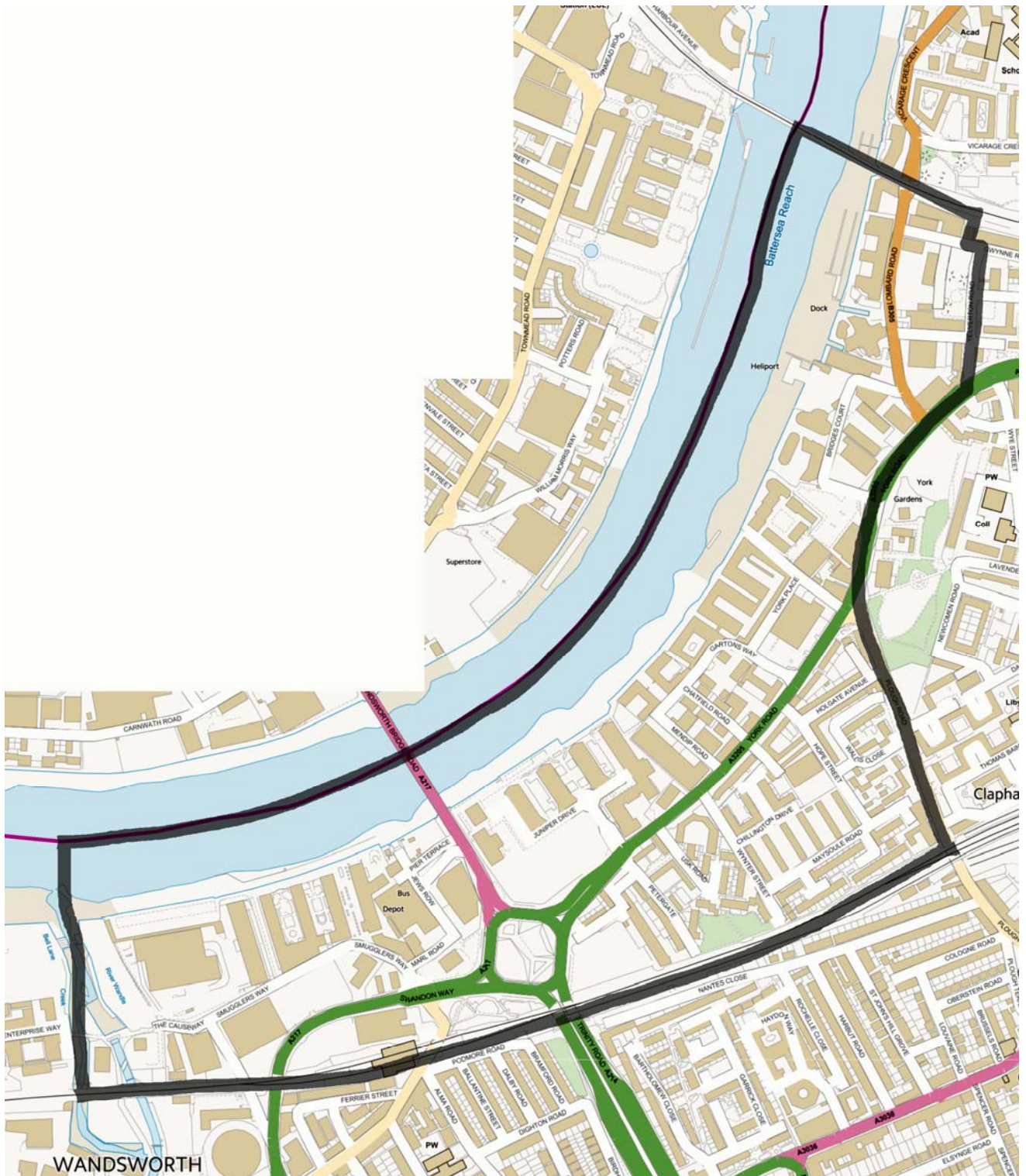
# St Mary's Park ward

3 councillors



# Wandsworth Riverside ward

2 councillors





# Wandsworth Town ward

2 councillors

