

# Egham Town, Englefield Green East and Englefield Green West

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**Taken from the LGBCE Report, Dated 04 September 2018**

37 We received over 100 submissions that objected to our draft recommendations for the above wards. There was a preference amongst respondents for the residential area west of Egham town to remain part of an Egham Town ward, rather than it being placed in an Egham Hill ward as per our draft recommendations. The submissions strongly argued that our proposals did not reflect community identity. It was further argued that natural boundaries to communities, such as the M25 and the A30, had not been recognised when we formulated our draft recommendations.

38 Several submissions, which included those from local councillors and residents' associations, suggested that we adopt a two-councillor ward for our proposed Egham Hill ward to help create a pattern of wards for the north of the borough which would better reflect our statutory criteria. This proposal would allow the residential area west of Egham town to remain part of Egham Town ward, and keep the village of Englefield Green separate from any 'Egham-centric' ward.

39 As previously stated in this report, Runnymede elects a third of its councillors each year, so there is a presumption in law that it will have a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards. However, after carefully considering the submissions received, we are persuaded that compelling evidence has been received to move away from this presumption and that a two-councillor ward in the north of the borough is justified on the grounds of community identities and interests.

40 Therefore, as part of our final recommendations, we propose a two-councillor Englefield Green East ward. We consider that this warding arrangement would better reflect our statutory criteria than a uniform pattern of three-councillor wards.

41 We have changed the name of our proposed ward from Egham Hill to Englefield Green East based on submissions received. The submissions argued that the name Egham Hill was unsuitable, given that Egham Hill is the name of the road which acts a barrier between the Englefield Green and Egham communities. It was stated that the existing ward name better represented the Englefield Green community which resides within it.

42 The Egham Residents' Association supported our decision to place Whitehall Lane, Manor Way, Boshers Gardens and Vicarage Road within Egham Town ward. We have therefore kept these roads in our Egham Town ward under our final recommendations. We have also included Tinsey Close, Danehurst Close and Furzedown Close in our proposed Egham Town ward, to better reflect road access routes.

43 We have also adopted the Council's suggestion to follow the division boundary between our proposed Egham Town and Englefield Green East wards. The ward boundary will follow the railway line, rather than run to the rear of properties on Manor Way. We were persuaded by the evidence received that doing so would create a more identifiable boundary.

44 We have also amended the southern boundary of our proposed Englefield Green West ward so that it follows the existing ward boundary. This is to improve electoral equality for wards across the north of the borough. For similar reasons, we have amended the ward boundary in the north of the ward. We propose that the boundary follows Tite Hill so that electors north of this road, including future electors at the former Brunel University Runnymede Campus development, will be placed in Englefield Green West ward. Additionally, as part of our decision to create a two- councillor Englefield Green East ward, we have also decided to revert to the existing ward boundary along the A328 between the Englefield Green East and Englefield Green West wards.