



## **History Nugget for March 2017 : Postal Areas**

One of the problems faced by the newly created Urban District Council in 1915 was that of Mitcham's postal areas. There were four in total, SW16, SW17, SW19 and SW for the rest of Mitcham. In addition "Mitcham, Surrey" was widely used in correspondence.

While researching names on the Mitcham War Memorial, a set of letters between the widow of a sailor and various government records offices illustrated this. The records office in Chatham wrote to her at the address of 5, Queens Road, Mitcham, London, SW. Her reply had the address as Queens Road, Mitcham, Surrey. Although in Phipps Bridge, this Queens Road wasn't in the SW19 postal area, which in this case was fortunate as letters could have been sent to the road of the same name in Wimbledon.

The council debated in May 1915 whether to ask the Postmaster General for a single postal district for Mitcham that covered the same area as the urban district. Councillor Poulson pointed out that dependents of soldiers and sailors would lose certain rent allowances that were granted to those living in the London area. The Clerk said that Mitcham was in the London district. The council decided to leave the issue until after the war.

In 1919 the council made its proposal to the GPO who replied that it had been previously considered and found to be impracticable.

In 1924 the council balloted residents asking if they wanted to transfer to a single Mitcham postal district. Of the 748 cards sent out, 335 were returned of which 206 had voted to remain in their own districts, with 129 in favour of the transfer. The council sent the results to the Postmaster General and abandoned the idea.

**Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage**  
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In 1966 the Postmaster General announced that from the 5<sup>th</sup> of November that year a new and more efficient system of sorting the post was to be introduced in the Croydon Area, which included Mitcham. This new mechanical mail sorting system was to use address codes.

The Mitcham News & Mercury reported that Croydon was the first in the country to make use of these new post codes, and that their address at number 3 Fair Green Parade, Mitcham, was now to include the postal code of CR4 3 NA. The newspaper also reminded readers that the Post Office were introducing all figure telephone numbers in the following year.

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