

From: Sandra Dennis [REDACTED]

Sent: 01 April 2011 17:32

To: Reviews@

Subject: Local government boundary Commission proposals for the Dittons-objection to proposals

Dear Sir/Madam

I write to express my strong objection to the Local Government Boundary Commissions proposals for changes to the electoral boundary for the Dittons. In order to achieve a maximum +/-10% variance in the number of voters in the Dittons the proposal seeks to split Weston Green in two. This is a wholly inappropriate and awkward solution on the following grounds:

1. Thames Ditton and Weston Green is a well defined community with its own identity. It is one community not two and is served by an active Residents Association which is well supported by the majority of residents. The Residents Association holds regular bi monthly meetings where matters concerning Thames Ditton and Weston Green are addressed. The Association has been established for many decades. Thames Ditton and Weston Green has many active groups supporting residents of all ages, with a great diversity of interest and a village centre in Thames Ditton that provides a focus. There is no perceived division between these communities. I am a Thames Ditton ward Councillor but live in Weston Green and like many Weston Green Residents I live within easy walking distance of Thames Ditton village. We all use the local shops, schools, Thames Ditton station, our churches and community facilities. Surrey and Elmbridge Ward Councillors are well known in the community, residents know who to turn to regarding local issues, and electoral turn out is consequently high. Any division of the community would cause significant confusion. It would impact the electoral turnout as some voters would be required to attend 2 different polling stations to record borough and county votes. This is simply not practical.
2. The justification given for change is electoral equality which should be no more than +/-10%. In the case of the Dittons the forecast electorate is only +/-12%. In real numbers this equates to only 51 voters over the allowable 10%. The changes which are considerable are not justified given the real numbers this represents. The harm greatly outweighs any benefit.
3. I strongly argue that there is no need for change and that any split should not divide Thames Ditton from all or even part of Weston Green. Unfortunately some 75% of the electoral boundary is "hard" and therefore immovable so few logical alternatives are possible. If it is absolutely necessary to make changes, then the only sensible alternative would be to address the boundary with Hinchley Wood.

I strongly urge you to reject the electoral boundary changes for the Dittons

Yours

CLlr Mrs Sandra Dennis