



The review Officer (Surrey),
Local Government Boundary Commission for England,
Laydon House,
Turnmill Street,
London,
EC1 5LG.



March 28 2011

Dear Sirs,

SURREY ELECTORAL REVIEW PROPOSALS FOR THE DITTONS

I object to the proposals submitted by Surrey Country Council under Stage One.

The Council has taken good electoral equality to be the only criteria and have completely ignored the other three criteria as shown in your document "How to propose a pattern of divisions". The word **should** is being misinterpreted as **must**.

In particular the council have disregarded the importance of community identity and evidence of community links, the division should be based on easily identifiable boundaries and should be supported by local residents.

I attach to this letter my rationale for either maintaining the "status quo" or for some minor change to one small part of the boundary with a neighbouring division. As you will note that SCC are proposing the wholesale splitting of a very cohesive community. This is not acceptable to the residents of Weston Green.

I trust that you will consider the rationale for retaining community identity in the Dittons.

Yours Sincerely, /



Peter Hickman

Boundary Commission.....Proposals for the DITTONS

Mar 28 2011

The Local Government Boundary Commission document given to members in January 2011 gives four bullet points under the heading..."A good pattern of divisions": Each bullet point having the same weight

- **Good electoral equality.....representing as near as possible to the same number of electors.** Given the diverse nature of each division this is impossible to achieve but is possible if the spread was to be +/- about 15%. The suggestion of +/- 10 % is rather too prescriptive. The forecast electorate for the Dittons of +/- 12% is reasonable given that this is only 51 voters over the 10% !!!
- **Community identities.** Weston Green is a well-defined community. A very active Resident Association serves it. This RA covers Thames Ditton and Weston Green and has regular meetings and issues 4250 Quarterly magazines, this magazine listing all of the local community Activities.

The Day Centre in the Thames Ditton is well used and much appreciated by the elderly in Weston Green.

The Dittons Library in Thames Ditton is used by residents in Weston Green. There is a very popular Rhyme Time attended by so many mothers and children that the sessions are now split into two.

There are many sporting organisations that straddle The Dittons: Thames Ditton Cricket Club, Ember Sports Club, The Old Cranleighans Sporting Complex, Colets, Dittons Skiff and Punt Club, Thames Ditton Tennis Club

The Churches offer many functions and provide facilities for sports, Guides, Scouts, Brownies etc. All Saints Weston and Our Lady of Lourdes although in Weston Green attract many from other parts of the Dittons

- **Strong easily identifiable boundaries.** Some 75% of the boundary is "hard" and therefore immovable.

The Dittons is bounded by; the **River Thames** to the North, **The Royal Borough of Kingston** to the northeast and east, the **Esher by pass (A309)** to the south. Then a small part with no natural boundary. Then bounded by the **Railway lines** to the railway bridge on Lower Green Road to the south, the west boundary is the **reservoir land and the river Ember**. Then a very small piece with no natural boundary. Finally a western boundary is the **Hampton Court Way** up to Hampton Court Railway Station.

- **Supported by local residents** All local residents and Residents Associations fully support the current boundary and any change would be counter productive to community cohesion. Any change would be detrimental to the drive towards the Big Society and localism. I am sure that all of the religious groups would be fully supportive of the retention of the “status quo”.

There is only **one** possibility of an alteration to the Dittons Boundary and that is for the roads immediately behind Hinchley Wood School to be moved To Hinchley Wood, Claygate and Oxshot Division. Should this increase the electorate of Hinchley Wood by a too greater extent I would propose that the roads to the west of the railway line in Claygate be moved to the Esher Division. (This railway line would provide a “strong and easily identifiable boundary”)

Nb. the roads in the Dittons to be moved would be

Manordene Close	24 houses
Greenwood Close	23
Dene Gardens	19
Greenwood Road	63
Orchard Avenue	41
Manor Road North	62 ??

The Local Government Boundary Commission seeks high turnout in elections. Weston Green and Thames Ditton wards consistently have amongst the highest turnout of Elmbridge wards at local elections. Eg: Weston Green ward at 48%.

To split Weston Green so that some electors had a different county councillor from the majority of other electors with whom they share 2 borough councillors would cause problems and confusion.

The current ward boundaries of Weston Green and Thames Ditton were agreed in 1976 after a public enquiry in which representatives from a wide range of the local community took part including all the political parties, The Thames Ditton and Weston Green RA, representatives from churches, sports clubs etc.

Peter Hickman