

Surrey

Personal Details:

Name: [REDACTED]
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Organisation Name: (Member of the public)

Comment text:

Dear Sirs,

I live on the very border between Thames Ditton and Long Ditton, in fact our road, Thorkhill Road is split between the two. The proposed changes would separate Long Ditton from Thames Ditton, communities which, as can be gathered by the name, are very closely linked (we are direct neighbours) and have been since the Middle Ages.

I understand from Surrey County Councillor, Nick Darby, that these proposals are not endorsed by Surrey County Council.

I do not believe the proposed changes achieve the The Boundary Commission's role is to consider three main criteria:

- Electoral equality
- Community identity and interests
- Effective and convenient local government.

Electoral equality

The existing division actually gives more electoral equality than the proposals. The Dittons Division, of which we are a part, is currently 4% off the ideal Surrey average. The proposals would create a new Division which is 11% below the average. This makes no sense and does not move us further to equality.

Community identity and interests

A close relationship exists between the communities of Long Ditton and Thames Ditton with the respective Residents' Associations working together on numerous issues. To be represented by a different County Councillor does not make sense.

Effective and convenient local government

This proposal would result in two County Councillors serving one community. The current division boundary is clear, easily identifiable, familiar to residents and, most importantly, it works. This is why Surrey County Council themselves did not propose any major change. I urge you to reconsider these proposed changes for the reasons stated.

Regards

[Redacted signature block]

Attached Documents:

None attached