

Surrey

Personal Details:

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

Comment text:

Related subject: The Dittons

In our view, the clue is in the title, 'The Dittons'. The proposed changes will separate Long Ditton from Thames Ditton, communities which, as can be gathered by the name, are very closely linked and have been since the Middle Ages. The Dittons have a lot in common and the two communities are closely linked by schools, friends and families, as much as by geographic proximity.

Some considerations:

- Stokes Field Nature Reserve in Long Ditton is used by many in Thames Ditton
- Royal Mail identifies many addresses within Long Ditton as 'Thames Ditton' postal areas (e.g., Sugden Road)
- We share a Scout Group – The Dittons
- 'The Dittons Fair' takes place on Giggs Hill Green, in Thames Ditton
- Many Long Ditton residents visit Thames Ditton shops and the Farmers Market
- Both communities use the pubs in each other's locale (e.g., The Angel, The Limping Fox, The City Arms, The Ferry, The George & Dragon)
- The TDWGRA made a significant financial donation supporting the Village Green campaign in Stokes Field and One Tree Hill, Long Ditton
- Many Thames Ditton residents use the Long Ditton Green Belt land recreationally (as demonstrated via the Village Green survey)
- LDRA & TDWGRA officers often collaborate on various issues and are fully united against this proposed change
- Currently, one Surrey County Councillor serves The Dittons community as a whole. The councillor is fair and shares his time and budgetary allocations equitably across both areas - Long Ditton and Thames Ditton.
- Long Ditton and Thames Ditton are not separated by any natural or man-made boundaries, the residential dwellings merge seamlessly
- Many Long Ditton residents are patients of Thorkhill Surgery in Thames Ditton.

- Long Ditton residents use the library in Thames Ditton, off Giggs Hill Green.

We understand that The Boundary Commission's role is to consider three main criteria:

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

We feel the proposals are at odds with all three of the Commission's own criteria.

We therefore vote against this nonsense change, which will lead to more costly needless expenditure, upheaval and wasted administration to fix a problem that does not exist in the Dittons.

Attached Documents:

None attached