

Surrey

Personal Details:

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

Comment text:

Related subject: Proposed changes to The Dittons division of Surrey CC to create a new "Long Ditton and Hinchley Wood" division

As a resident of Long Ditton, I consider The Dittons to be a unified area that it would be detrimental to divide in the way proposed.

Long Ditton and Thames Ditton are closely intertwined, with no obvious boundary between them. When running errands, seeing friends or walking around our local area, I will cross into Thames Ditton most days without noticing any change of location (by contrast, it is a fair walk to reach Hinchley Wood, which feels very much like the “next town along”). Students from both Long and Thames Ditton attend my sons’ schools, Long Ditton Infants and Long Ditton St Mary’s. As a result, my family socialises daily with both Long and Thames Ditton residents. We use pubs and shops in Long and Thames Ditton. We use local services such as the Library and Community Centre in Thames Ditton.

By contrast, Long Ditton and Hinchley Wood are two separate communities at other ends of a long adjoining road. There is no real overlap between these communities (aside from Hinchley Wood secondary school, which is an outlier for these purposes in that it joins together a wider area including Thames Ditton and Claygate). We have no link to Hinchley Wood in terms of identity or public services and so it makes little sense to be combined for electoral or local government purposes.

Our daily life takes place in both Long Ditton and Thames Ditton and so I would prefer electoral decisions and local government to be focused on The Dittons as a combined ward, rather than artificially dividing them.

Attached Documents:

None attached