



To the commission

In our view, the clue is in the title, 'The Dittons'. The proposed changes would 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.

- 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
- Long Ditton and Thames Ditton are not separated by any natural or man-made boundaries, the residential dwellings merge seamlessly

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

The current proposal to align with Hinchley Wood goes against the commission's own criteria.

Kind regards

