

# Surrey

## Personal Details:

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## Comment text:

To the Review Officer

I am writing in response to the proposals for new boundaries in Surrey County Council particularly as regards the relationship between Thames Ditton and Long Ditton. As a Weston Green resident, I, along with many of my community, wish to remain part of the Thames Ditton parish and community which we have been part of since 1100AD and cited in the Domesday Book.

I oppose these new proposals strongly on the following grounds:

- Electoral equality - I note that in your proposal you state that Surrey County Council 'propose retaining the existing divisions of East Molesey & Esher and Hinchley Wood, Claygate and Oxshott' and state no reasons for its change presumably because they have no issue with the current boundaries and no evidence to propose a change. I also note that both 'The Molesey Residents' Association provided evidence that the existing boundary of East Molesey and Esher division was seen as 'illogical and confusing' and suggested that a revision to group neighbouring areas together would be welcomed'. I cannot find this evidence or what it is based on and given they did not consult our local Thames Ditton & Weston Green Residents Association before they proposed this, it appears that they are not clear enough on their reasons for the change to have a discussion with their neighbouring resident's association whom they wish to join and do not welcome it. The current divisions actually give more electoral equality than the Commission's proposals with the Dittons division currently under 4% of the ideal Surrey average. The proposals for the new Division would be 11% below average.
- Community identity and interests - Having lived in both East Molesey and Weston Green, I have found that Weston Green has a far stronger

local community than we ever did in East Molesey. The Thames Ditton & Weston Green Resident's Association (TD&WGRA) is very active with a strong, vibrant community proud of their area with its historical origins and passionate about keeping it rubbish free, embracing environmental initiatives through the annual Nature & Climate Festival, supporting the local community theatre and local shops. People love the area; many having lived here for more than 30 years in the same place with no reason to move due to the green spaces and friendly community of The Dittons working together in pursuit of common interests. We have been a joint parish for nearly 1000 years and the TD&WGRA is the second oldest RA in the country being 90 years old. There is a real danger this delightful community will be broken up because of these proposed boundary changes.

It seems illogical to propose breaking up both The Molesey and The Dittons communities by putting Thames Ditton and East Molesey together and Long Ditton and Hinchley Wood. Any communication agency can tell you that identity and allegiance to a brand, product, idea or community is stronger with shorter names and alignment e.g. The Dittons!

- Effective and convenient local government - it is not clear to me how these new proposed boundaries would increase the effectiveness of local government by what is stated in the proposals. My understanding is that there had been previous proposals on boundary changes, but these were not implemented for many of the reasons stated above. It seems to me that while boundary reviews are necessary from time to time to assess whether they still are fair and represent the local community, in this case they do not represent the local people and our Residents Association and should not be implemented in line with Surrey County Council's views.

Regards

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED].

## Attached Documents:

*None attached*