

Staffordshire

Personal Details:

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

Comment text:

Dear Sir,

I have lived in The Dittons for over 40 years and have found this a wonderful community-based area in which to live. We have a remarkable history going back centuries, but most importantly we have a community-based Residents' Association (one of the oldest in the country) which very effectively represents both Dittons (Long Ditton and Thames Ditton) and Weston Green and represents them as one community within Surrey. The current grouping thus:

- works very well from the view of local political representation,
- it has a shared history
- it has natural geographic boundaries, with the rivers Thames and Mole, plus the Hampton Court Way.

Your proposals, linking Thames Ditton with East Molesey and Long Ditton and Weston Green with Hinchley Wood have none of these things. Your proposals seem designed to break up communities which have worked well together for decades (if not centuries) and reduce the 1000-year-old historic Dittons to mere adjuncts to suburbia.

I understand that one of your objectives is to consider community identity and interests. In what way do your proposals consider this let alone achieve it? In fact, they destroy it. You also allegedly aim for electoral equality. But we already have that, being almost exactly at the Surrey average, while your proposals make electoral equality worse. We have had effective and convenient local government with strong representation

on both Elmbridge Council and Surrey CC from Thames Ditton & Weston Green Residents' Association candidates and have done for decades. Your proposals destroy this.

I can only assume that the proposals were put together by someone with a map but no knowledge of the communities and no real understanding of the criteria your changes should meet. Please NO. This damaging and pointless change must not be allowed to proceed.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Attached Documents:

None attached