

Surrey

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Local Government Boundary Commission England
PO Box 133
Blythe NE24 9FE

Dear Sir,

We write to object to the Boundary Commission's proposals to change the Surrey County Council Divisions in Elmbridge which would carve up the Dittons (Thames Ditton, Weston Green and Long Ditton) with a resulting knock-on change in the Divisions of East Molesey and Esher and Hinchley Wood, Claygate and Oxshott.

We support the proposals put forward in May by Surrey County Council which retain the present divisions and also meet much more closely the Boundary Commissions criteria of:

- a) Electoral Equality
- b) Community identity and interests
- c) Effective and convenient local government

Electoral equality

The Surrey County Council's proposals give more electoral equality with a maximum 6% variation compared with the -11% in the Boundary Commission's proposal

SCC proposals Boundary Commission proposals

The Dittons 4% Thames Ditton & E. Molesey -11%

E. Molesey and Esher -1% Esher & Claygate 10%

Hinchley Wood, Claygate Long Ditton & Hinchley Wood 0%
& Oxshott 6%

Community identity and interests

The proposal to remove all Weston Green residents to a different County Council division would divorce them from the Thames Ditton parish and community of which they have been a part since 1100 AD. The Thames Ditton ward boundaries (and Surrey County Council division) has included all Weston Green residents since the first local council (the Esher and Dittons Urban District Council) was established in 1895. There is an active Residents' Association established in 1934 covering the whole of Weston Green and Thames Ditton with four Elmbridge and one Surrey County councillor and a community magazine "Thames Ditton Today" delivered to every house and a website which serves all Thames Ditton and Weston Green residents (all in the present Surrey County Council 's The Dittons Division).

Effective and convenient local government

To remove 2900 Weston Green electors from the present Surrey County division organisation that represents them – the Thames Ditton & Weston Green Resident's Association - diminishes community involvement in the democratic process. It would also lead to confusion as to whom to lobby re highway repairs, street lighting, schools, social services etc.

For example , the proposal would mean two county councillors in the one community of Thames Ditton and Weston Green , separated halfway down Weston Green Road.

Your proposals are opposed by not only the Thames Ditton & Weston Green Residents Association but also by Long Ditton Residents Association, Esher Residents Association, Hinchley Wood Residents Association and FEDORA (Oxshott RA) because of the knock-on effect of cutting across community identities and the present efficient working of Surrey County Council services eg splitting Oxshott in half on either side

of the A244.

Conclusion

The Surrey County Council's proposals better meet your three criteria and we urge you to adopt them.

Yours faithfully,



Attached Documents:

None attached