

Surrey

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Organisation Name: Molesey Residents Association (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

Related subject: The Dittons

I am writing in my capacity as Chairman of the Molesey Residents Association and as the Surrey County Councillor for the East Molesey and Esher Division 2013-17.

Following on from your previous consultation to which I responded in September 2023, I note that you now propose to make the East Molesey & part of Thames Ditton/ Weston Green as a 2 Division electoral area for County Council purposes.

I do not believe that this is a satisfactory solution for the following reasons;

Previously East and West Molesey were one Division then this was arbitrarily changed to a slightly enlarged West Molesey Division and East Molesey was farmed off to be shared with Esher ,an area to which East Molesey does not adjoin and with whom there are no real community ties other than Esher being the HQ of Elmbridge Borough Council.

A 2 member Division over a Division which geographically spans an area equivalent to 2 Divisions runs the risk that both Councillors elected could be resident in the same geographical area. Therefore both members would have their main interests in their immediate locality and consequently the area not in their locality would receive a lesser attention than it deserves.

The way Surrey County Council policy and administration works is to divide its attention, facilities and funding according to each 1 member Division. With a 2 member Division there is no certainty that each half of the Division would receive equal attention and funding since all

resources and activity are directed' Per Division' .

The Molesey Residents Association strongly supports one Division for East Molesey which can include parts of Weston Green / Thames Ditton which are already shared with Thames Ditton/ Weston Green for the purposes of Elmbridge Borough elections.

Since you state that the proposed 2 member Division would be within 6% of the optimum number ,there is clearly scope to divide the proposed 2 member Division into 2 separate Divisions without having to allow voting numbers to reach outside acceptable limits.

At the best of times some residents struggle to understand the geographical differences between SCC and Elmbridge Borough at election time. We believe that the local populations of East Molesey and Thames Ditton would find a 2 member Division adding to the confusion and would have no understanding of why this is so.

Attached Documents:

None attached