

Surrey

Personal Details:

Name: Mr Paul Bartlett

Email: [REDACTED]

Postcode: [REDACTED]

Organisation Name: Long Ditton Residents' Association (Representative of a local organisation)

Comment text:

Related subject: Long Ditton, Elmbridge

The Long Ditton Residents' Association (LDRA) is whole heartedly AGAINST this proposed change to the Surrey ward boundaries, specifically, the separation of Long Ditton from Thames Ditton.

We are taking this position on behalf of our residents who have expressed a view and on behalf of our Residents' Association which represents 3,500 households. We do NOT want Long Ditton to be separated electorally from Thames Ditton. It makes no sense to split 'The Dittons' (Long Ditton and Thames Ditton). Our two villages have been linked together since the Middle Ages and the area is mentioned in the Domesday Book. Here are some key reasons for keeping us joined:

- Long Ditton & Thames Ditton communities jointly enjoy the usage of our green open spaces like Stokes Field Nature Reserve, One Tree Hill, Long Ditton Recreation Ground, Giggs Hill Green and woods along A307 Portsmouth Road.
- Royal Mail identifies many addresses within Long Ditton as 'Thames Ditton' postal areas (e.g., Sugden Road and anywhere with a KT7 postcode).
- Long Ditton & Thames Ditton share a Scout Group – 'The Dittons'.
- Many Long Ditton residents visit Thames Ditton shops and the Farmers Market.
- 'The Dittons Fair' takes place on Giggs Hill Green, in Thames Ditton.
- 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).
- Many Thames Ditton residents use the Long Ditton Green Belt land recreationally (as demonstrated by the recent Village Green survey).

- The Long Ditton & Thames Ditton Residents' Association officers & members often collaborate on various issues and are fully united against this proposed change.
- Once split from Thames Ditton, the proposal is for Long Ditton to join with Hinchley Wood. The Hinchley Wood Residents' Association has published a response declaring themselves, and their residents, against the proposed changes, and their desire to remain joined with Claygate and Oxshott.
- Currently, one Surrey County Councillor serves 'The Dittons' community as a whole. The councillor is fair and shares his time and budgetary allocations equitably across both areas – Long Ditton & Thames Ditton. The challenges facing the SCC Councillor are similar for both areas and given that one village flows into the other, there is a lot of crossover.
- Long Ditton and Thames Ditton are not separated by any natural or man-made boundaries, the residential dwellings merge seamlessly (e.g. Angel Road, Thorkhill Road ...etc.).
- Many Long Ditton residents are patients of Thorkhill Doctor's Surgery in Thames Ditton.
- Long Ditton residents use the library in Thames Ditton, off Giggs Hill Green.

Long Ditton & Thames Ditton, The Dittons, are closely linked and splitting these two villages into separate electoral wards serves no benefit to either community. All local area Residents' Associations, local Elmbridge Borough Councillors and Surrey County Councillors across The Dittons and Hinchley Wood oppose this proposed change. It will incur unnecessary cost, waste valuable time and disrupt neighbourhoods where this change is unwanted. We have heard no advantageous reason for upsetting and disrupting this area in Surrey.

We strongly urge the Local Government Boundary Commission to reject this proposed change and leave the wards of Long Ditton & Thames Ditton and Hinchley Wood, Claygate and Oxshott unchanged.

Thank you.

The Officers & Committee of the Long Ditton Residents' Association.

Attached Documents:

None attached