

Surrey

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Comment text:

As a resident of Thames Ditton since 1949 I feel qualified to object to the proposed Dittons Division boundary changes; splitting the existing division between two new divisions.

The proposals fly in the face of all three of the Commission's own criteria for an effective county division; electoral equality, community identity and convenient local government.

It would appear that the consultation process is yet to reflect the views of individuals rather than groups with specific agendas.

Why has the commission given so much emphasis to an alternative proposal, from the Elmbridge Liberal Democrats, for significant changes across the borough. Their proposals for the Dittons indicate a limited grasp of local community dynamics, strength of spirit and identification with the Weston Green and Thames Ditton neighbourhood. Indeed voting habits confirm the strength of this local identity.

Thames Ditton and Long Ditton are closely linked, as their names suggest. They have existed since before the Norman Conquest. There are many connecting roads and footpaths that reflect the fact that they form a natural unit within Elmbridge. There is a real sense of community within the Dittons. Weston Green residents feel part of Thames Ditton - our community theatre, local shops, primary and nursery schools, Community Centre and our library are all there. The community cohesion is enhanced by being served by a single County Councillor, and the two local Residents' Associations work closely together.

Splitting the Dittons Division would be artificial and absurd.

This proposal would result in two County Councillors serving our community. The current division boundary is clear, easily identifiable, familiar to residents and, most importantly, it works. This is why Surrey County Council themselves did not propose any major change.

I am sure the Boundary Commission has plenty of valuable work to consider in counties and districts that are in transformation but the Dittons is not one.

In the immortal words of Thomas Bertram Lance (1931 - 2013), a close adviser to Jimmy Carter... 'If it ain't broke don't fix it'



Attached Documents:

None attached