

Surrey

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Comment text:

As long-time residents of Thames Ditton and Weston Green, we wish to object to the proposals to reshape the divisional boundaries, essentially splitting Weston Green from its historical relationship with Thames Ditton to shoe-horn it into a new Long Ditton and Hinchley Wood Division.

Indeed, the proposals really do feel like Weston Green is being amputated from its natural place and sewn into a Frankenstein-like alternative.

This is a frankly ridiculous proposal and it is difficult to see any real benefits, certainly in relation to the Boundary Commissions own evaluation criteria. If anything the net impact will be one of dilution and division of community and its voice and historical relationship.

Electoral Equality – the resultant impact would actually be a worsening of the current situation – Thames Ditton and Weston Green is currently only 4% off the Surrey average. The proposal would leave us 11% below.

Community Identity and Interests – Thames Ditton and Weston Green are ancient settlements that have been inextricably linked for centuries – as far back as the Domesday Book. The Residents Association is one of the oldest in the country. Weston Green is and remains a vital part of the local community, evidenced by the name of the Residents' Association. Weston Green Road extends from Thames Ditton Station, across Hampton Court Way, emphasising the historical connection. Long Ditton and Thames Ditton co-operative effectively and there is clear geographical boundaries between them by way of Portsmouth Road.

More effective local government – it is hard to see how the proposal would result in any real progress or benefit.

Please, it ain't broke, so don't break it!

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Attached Documents:

None attached