REASONS WHY LONG DITTON AND THAMES DITTON SHOULD REMAIN A LOCAL AUTHORITY SINGLE UNIT AS HAVING A COMMUNITY IDENTITY AND BENEFIT FROM A UNIFIED LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

Long Ditton and Thames Ditton form very much of a local community unit as:

* They share “the Dittons” name; and are altogether linked together in residents’ minds
* They share a common history; where local history talks have simply treated them as together
* There is no clear boundary between the two Dittons. The areas towards the bottom of Ditton Hill are treated by residents as being effectively “common” to the Dittons
* The local library is located in Thames Ditton but is called “the Dittons Library” precisely because it serves both Long Ditton and Thames Ditton
* The local community centre (Thames Ditton Centre) is located in Thames Ditton but serves Long Ditton as well. It is, for example, the base of “the Ditton Bridge Club” because it is the Dittons’ community centre
* The Dittons have combined together over recent years to share in community events such as the Christmas lights and festivities at the shops towards the bottom of Ditton Hill.

Long Ditton is not a community unit with Hinchley Wood as:

* There is no practical association between the two; all that is really shared is the continuation of a road
* Hinchley Wood is seen by the Dittons as focused towards (and really part and extension of) Claygate

Thames Ditton is not a community unit with East Molesey which is focused much more to Esher.