Local Residents submissions to the Elmbridge Borough Council electoral review

This PDF document contains submissions from surnames of residents from H and J

Some versions of Adobe allow the viewer to move quickly between bookmarks.
From: John Haberfield
Sent: 15 August 2015 1
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>

Dear Sirs,

I wish to object to the Boundary Commissions’ proposals to change the ward boundary for Thames Ditton; with respect to
(a) transferring residents to the east of Portsmouth Road into the Long Ditton ward, and
(b) transferring those in part of Molesey East ward (at Hampton Court) into the Thames Ditton ward.

Despite the Boundary Commission’s consideration "to reflect community identity", the proposal to transfer residents in the roads east of the Portsmouth Road to the Long Ditton ward would actually separate them from the longstanding Thames Ditton ward, parish and community of which they have been a part since the 10th century. The Thames Ditton ward’s boundary has included them since the first local council was established in 1895. Residents in these roads see Thames Ditton as the centre of their community for shops, doctors, schools, village hall, church (St. Nicholas), village green (Giggs Hill Green) Thames Ditton Community Centre, Girl Guides etc.

Conversely, the residents at Hampton Court Parade flats & shops, Queens Reach, Kingfisher Court and Cedar Rd / Close (currently in Molesey East ward) have never been a part of the Thames Ditton community identity; they are physically separated by sports grounds, a major road (Hampton Court Way) and a railway line, and have always maintained a more obvious, much closer and more natural relationship with East Molesey.

Yours faithfully

John Haberfield
Elmbridge District

Personal Details:

Name: Irene Hamilton
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: Hersham Labour Party

Comment text:

The draft proposals will put Hersham Library into the new Esher Ward but it is very much a community facility for Hersham. The Library has been under threat in the recent past and users relied very much on the support of Hersham Councillors in the successful attempt to keep it open. Should this proposal go through the Library will be in a ward with Esher Councillors who already have a Library in Esher to support. This could mean Hersham Library is more vulnerable to closure in the future. The boundary should be slightly altered to put the boundary behind the Library thus keeping it firmly in the Hersham Village Ward. The change would have no effect on the numbers of electors but simply keep Hersham Library in Hersham with the support of the Hersham Councillors. This is a minor change and would greatly benefit both the Library itself and the Hersham Community that relies on it as a valued resource.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Dear Sir / Madam

I am writing to express my strong objection to the proposal to re-draw the Thames Ditton ward boundary.

We have lived in Thames Ditton for 26 years. We moved to the village because of its community feel, and considered it to be part of a village with an historic identity. This area has been part of the Thames Ditton electoral ward since 1895, and it is therefore with great concern that you propose to destroy this history for the sake of bureaucratic convenience.

Your proposal to re-draw the ward boundary contravenes two of your own criteria a) that wards should reflect the interests and identities of local communities, and b) that electoral arrangements should provide for effective and convenient local government. I have seen no evidence that your proposal respects these criteria. I can only conclude therefore, that your intentions are based purely upon bureaucratic ‘neatness’ without any consideration given to the impact on the residents who will be affected by your actions.

We identify with Thames Ditton village as the centre of our community and enjoy many of the village’s facilities including pubs, restaurants, shops, Vera Fletcher Hall and Gigg’s Hill Green with its many events and entertainments. The Gigg’s Hill Green Conservation Area runs along the Portsmouth Road side of the Green and extends into Angel Road. Thames Ditton Conservation Area Advisory Committee covers this area, and there is no Long Ditton Conservation area or Advisory Committee that could take this on to provide the protection that we currently enjoy. Your proposal will split us from the village by forcing us to become part of Long Ditton.

We are currently very effectively represented by the Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents’ Association. Removing us from this representation diminishes community involvement in the democratic process and will prevent us from having our voice heard regarding the future of our village.

I expect my concerns to be taken into consideration as part of your consultation process and look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully
Mr A Hinds,
Review Officer
Local Government Boundary Commission

Dear Mr Hinds

**Electoral Review of Elmbridge: Hinchley Wood and Weston Green ward**

Thank you for your comprehensive information about the revised proposals for the electoral arrangements for Elmbridge Borough Council. I think these are a great improvement on the original recommendations.

I understand the criteria for the new ward boundaries, and am in broad agreement with them.

However, I wish to comment on the proposed Hinchley Wood and Weston Green ward. This excludes the Lynwood Road area, which I feel is a natural part of Hinchley Wood. I know a number of people who live in this area, who all feel part of Hinchley Wood. They use the Hinchley Wood shops, the church, the railway station, the K3 bus route, and their children attend the local schools.

I realise that to include this area in the Hinchley Wood and Weston Green ward would increase the number of residents in the ward and decrease those in Long Ditton, but feel that my reasons outlined above would override this balance.

I very much hope you will consider my views which I know are also felt by others in Hinchley Wood, and will be taken into account by the Boundary Commission which I hope will agree to include Lynwood Road and the adjoining roads.

Yours sincerely

(Ms) E Hammond
Elmbridge District

Personal Details:

Name: Graham Hammonds
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]
Organisation Name: [redacted]

Comment text:

Not sure why [redacted] should become part of Thames Ditton when it is clearly East Molesey. Seems part of a clumsy split based on voters and not areas

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Elmbridge District

Personal Details:

Name: Peter Hanna
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: 1st Hinchley Wood Scout Group

Comment text:

Dear Sir, I note that Lynwood Road has now been placed in the Long Ditton ward. Hinchley Wood Scout and Guide HQ is located at junction of Lynwood Road and Claygate Lane and consequently will now be in the new proposed Long Ditton Ward. Both the Scouts and Guides provide many community projects to Hinchley Wood and as a consequence we have a very supportive local community and much support from our existing local Hinchley Wood councillors. We rely on this important link in much of our fundraising activities in order to provide thriving Scouting and Guiding. With the proposed changes our link to the relevant ward councillors will be lost thus affecting both Groups. I appreciate that the boundary changes have been made to try and ensure that each ward and councillor representation is as consistent as possible across the Elmbridge wards. However to include this part of Lynwood Road and also Hinchley Wood recreation ground plus the allotments would seem to appropriate to be within the Hinchley Wood ward. Note this would not increase the number of residents in the ward and not therefore upset the ratio of residents to councillors. I would therefore ask that you re-consider the proposed changes to include the above. Scouting and guiding contributes much to Hinchley Wood and it would seem logical that our council representation reflects this. Peter Hanna Assistant Group Scout Leader 1st Hinchley Wood Scout Group

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
To whom it may concern.

My wife and I moved to Thames Ditton 9 years ago for many reasons, two of which (1) The healthy and active Residents Association and (2) The fact that Thames Ditton sits within a conservation area, both serve the community well and both we feel give us a cushion and safety net from bureaucratic government and local council departments.

To my knowledge Long Ditton does not have a Residents Association or in fact does not sit in a conservation area.

We feel this proposal to divide the current ward is in fact bureaucratic also we feel it is political.

G C Hards.
From: Matt Harris
Sent: 11 August 2015 08:38
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>
Cc: 
Subject: Thames Ditton Boundaries

To: The Review Officer (Elmbridge)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Elmbridge - objection to Thames Ditton proposal

We have lived in Thames Ditton for 15 years and it is a village with a clear and unique identity.

We have many friends in the village on both sides of the Portsmouth Road.

Contrary to one of Boundary Commission's main considerations "to reflect community identity", the proposal to remove all residents on the CB register on the roads east of the Portsmouth Road to Long Ditton ward would divorce them from the Thames Ditton ward, parish and community of which they have been a part since 1100 AD. The Thames Ditton ward's boundary has included them since the first local council (the Esher & the Dittons Urban District Council) was established in 1895.

Friends and residents in these roads look to Thames Ditton as the centre of their community for shops, doctors, schools, village hall (now Vera Fletcher Hall), St. Nicholas Church, village green (Giggs Hill Green) Thames Ditton Centre for the Community, Girl Guides etc. Thames Ditton ward councillors respond to local residents re: improving/campaigning for High Street shops, doctors' services, leisure services e.g. at Giggs Hill Green.

Giggs Hill Green IS Thames Ditton's village green, Thames Ditton Cricket Club has played on the green since 1833 and the houses round the Green have always formed part of Thames Ditton. It is now proposed to move all those on one side of the Green into Long Ditton.

There is an active Residents' Association for the whole of Thames Ditton and Weston Green.

The community magazine "Thames Ditton Today" and website serves the whole of the existing Borough wards of Thames Ditton and Weston Green.

I strongly object to the changes proposed

Kind regards
Matt Harris
-----Original Message-----
From: Colin Harrison
Sent: 11 August 2015 16:37
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>;
Subject: Objection to LGBCE proposals for Thames Ditton

Governement's Boundary Commission's proposal to carve up Thames Ditton.

I have been a resident of Thames Ditton for over 10 years residing in [redacted] and working at Thames Ditton Junior school, where myself and my family feel very much part of the Thames Ditton community. My three children have been part of the infant and junior school and as a family we have taken part in many of the Thames Ditton sporting and social events. I was very saddened to find out (through facebook) that LGBCE are proposing to carve up the wards and we would no longer be a part of Thames Ditton which I have supported for many years in numerous different ways, to become part of Long Ditton. I have to confess, I am still a bit unclear as to why this has been proposed, but putting that aside it has an impact in a number of different ways.

I am a resident of Thames Ditton and want to remain so, I am part of the Thames Ditton community, working at the local school, using Thames Ditton doctors, village and shops and local sports, clubs and from time to time the halls and local church. I feel protected by the Giggs Hill Green Conservation Area and the Conservation Area Advisory Committee, there is currently no such committee supported by Long Ditton. There is also an active Residents Association which protects Thames Ditton and the interest of its residents also providing us with a community magazine Thames Ditton Today.

I didn't buy a property in Thames Ditton to be told a few years later that I am now Long Ditton, I am also concerned that by carving up the wards it could lead to further significant changes to admissions for schools, doctors surgeries and local clubs.

In my opinion I feel the core of our community will feel ripped apart from the very thing we bought into, community spirit, a sense of belonging and a real pride in our achievements as a community to make Thames Ditton what it is today.

I am urging you to take notice of those people affected by the changes planned and allow us to remain part of Thames Ditton as established since 1895!

Jayne Harrison
Hinds, Alex

From: Fuller, Heather
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2015 04:11 PM
To: Hinds, Alex
Subject: FW: Objection to changing Thames Ditton boundaries - Elmbridge

From: Paul Harris
Sent: 17 August 2
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>

The Review Officer (Elmbridge)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor Millbank Tower
London SW1 4QP

I consider the proposals to carve-up the boundaries here in Thames Ditton to be contrary to the one of the Boundary Commissions main objectives of ‘reflecting community identity.’

I have lived at my present address for over 17 years. One of the main reasons that I have never considered moving and if I did, I would hope very much that I would be able to remain in the Parish, is the overall sense of community that we enjoy here. There really is a true sense that we belong to something special here and that we enjoy great community facilities and services. This could be our enjoyment of the Cricket Club, the local Pubs, Christenings, Weddings or indeed Funerals at St. Nicholas Church. We really feel that we are part of something exceptional in today’s society. This sense of belonging has remained for hundreds of years and to carve this up for no apparent good reason would be a tragedy.

In addition to this, I do not feel that this would be helpful for local government as has been suggested. I feel extremely well represented by my local Councillors and the Residents Association in particular, and that the proposal would be extremely detrimental for me as I would be effectively removed from the area which I moved to 17 years ago and have always felt that I belonged to.

With best regards,

Paul Harris
10th August 2015

Dear Sirs,

Re: Boundary Review

We cannot understand why anyone would recommend that certain roads in Hersham should come under Oatlands Park Ward. We live in Hersham and our postal address is Hersham not Oatlands. We have no connection with Oatlands and consider ourselves part of Hersham village. We also want to stay under the Parliamentary Constituency of Esher & Walton.

At the moment we can walk to the village to vote in elections, if we come under Oatlands we would have to drive to vote and the parking in Oatlands is very difficult and the traffic in that area is very congested.

Whilst we agree with a reduction in the number of councillors, we do not understand why we cannot be included in the new Hersham Village Ward.

Yours sincerely

Frances Harris
Roger Harris
The Review Officer (Elmbridge)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor, Millbank Tower
London
SW1P 4QP

24th August 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Hersham Ward Boundary Changes – Objection Letter**

It is our understanding that there have been changes in the local government boundaries due to the number of councillors being reduced and that this has been a revised recommendation that Burwood Park being merged into Oatlands Park Ward.

We would like to object to this recommendation on the following basis.

1. The boundary changes would move Burwood Park away from Hersham Village where they share the same postcode, into Oatlands which is on the side of a railway line.
2. Burwood Park has an affinity with Hersham Village due to the rural nature of the community in comparison to Oatlands, which is a residential area with no natural centre. Residents of Burwood Park use facilities of Hersham Village for shopping the library the doctor’s surgery and the park lies within the parish of Saint Peters Church. Therefore, the proposal new Wards are not orientated correctly.
3. The proposed boundary change to move Burwood Park into the Oatlands Ward results in a change in parliamentary boundary, from Esher & Walton to Weybridge & Runnymede. This is a total mismatch which other Wards do not suffer and will add complexity for residents to navigate and gain support for specific local issues.

It is therefore our request that an objection is made on our behalf and that the boundary changes are reconsidered to retain Burwood Park and the surrounding roads in the Hersham Ward.

Yours faithfully

For and on behalf of Mr & Mrs Hartill
Dear Sir,

Elmbridge Electoral Review - Objection to Proposals for Thames Ditton Ward

I am writing on behalf of my husband and myself to strongly object to the proposals to re-draw the Council's Ward Boundaries and change the Ward of the road in which we have lived for some 28 years to become part of Long Ditton.

I should like to make the important point that had it not been for the Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents' Association bringing this matter to our attention, we would have been unaware of these proposals until it was too late. We have received no communication at all from the Boundary Commission to alert us to the fact that they are planning to deprive us of our local representation. This, in itself, shows how we have been ignored by the Boundary Commission and how important the role of the Residents' Association is, and has been, in serving the interests of its own community.

The closing date for objections to this proposal of Monday, 24th August, also would not appear to have been made giving due regard to affected residents who may wish to object. To stipulate a closing date in the middle of the summer holidays, when the majority of residents are away on holiday, does not give confidence in the transparency of the process. Surely, a closing date of the end of September would have been a more sensible one, showing a genuine concern to reach all those who may have points they would wish to make.

The residents of Thames Ditton and Weston Green have true democratic representation currently as our Residents' Association Councillors reside within our community and have the residents' interests at heart. The proposed boundary changes will rob us of this valued support and our identity. The proposed changes to move us to Long Ditton do not accord us local democracy and serve our community, but merely appear to serve the interests and convenience of local government.

The proposals to change the Ward Boundaries could give rise to the assumption that the decisions have been influenced by Political Party interests. Splitting a long established community between Wards dilutes or even reduces the number of local Residents Association candidates elected to the advantage of the main Political Parties. The Boundary Commission should be aware of this fact when considering such proposals.
The proposed boundary change to move us to Long Ditton does not afford us true
democratic representation and does not reflect the interests and identities of those of
us who consider ourselves to be part of the Thames Ditton Ward and Community.

We look upon the village green and Thames Ditton village centre as the heart and focal point of our community. We regularly use the services of our GP and library, all sited in Thames Ditton. For many years our sons were part of the Thames Ditton Cub and Scout Groups and we helped out at the annual Dittons Fair, which has also become a major event to bring the people of Thames Ditton together.

We do NOT wish to become part of Long Ditton. We wish to maintain our long-standing local ties which would otherwise be broken, and feel outraged that the historic community of Thames Ditton is being broken up for the sake of bureaucratic convenience! The area we reside in has always been in the ancient Parish of St. Nicholas and has been part of the Thames Ditton electoral ward since 1895. We are also outraged that such a long standing historic association is proposed to be eradicated at the swoop of a pen. We feel a strong sense of identity in being part of the community of Thames Ditton and feel extremely proud to be residents. We do not wish to be divorced from the Thames Ditton Ward, Parish and community of which our area has been a part of since 1100AD.

We have a committed Residents Association, who have supported us when we had problems with a neighbouring business, and brought about resolution to the problems which we had been experiencing. The Residents Association have been paramount in acting on behalf of residents in many ways and have played a major part in keeping Thames Ditton area such a lovely place to live in and with such a wonderful community spirit. With their community magazine, "Thames Ditton Today", residents are kept informed of all facets of life in the area and notified of matters of interest or concerns which should be brought to our attention. The residents in our part of Thames Ditton will lose this vital contact and service if we are moved to the Long Ditton Ward.

At present, ALL residents of Thames Ditton and Weston Green are joined in the Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents Association, which works actively to protect and promote the Thames Ditton and Weston Green communities and if the 940 residents in our area are forced to move to Long Ditton, we will no longer have a Thames Ditton Ward based organisation to represent us, and our involvement in the local democratic process would be diminished. To whom do we turn with local issues or concerns we may wish to raise in the future? Residents in our area who currently come under the Conservation Area of Thames Ditton will lose the protection of the Thames Ditton Conservation Area Advisory Committee, which they currently have. The proposed boundary changes do not serve our local interests or protect the identity we currently have with our being a long standing part of the Thames Ditton community. We feel we are being cast adrift with no identity or history, and without the support and back-up of such an active and effective Residents' Association!
How much will all these changes cost? At a time of cuts and austerity it would appear to be a major undertaking.

The reduction in the number of Councillors from 60 to 48 seems completely at odds with the LGBCE views "to ensure that the new Electoral Division boundaries also reflect the interests and identities of Elmbridge's various local communities"!

We wish to have effective and convenient local government which reflects the interests and identities of our local community and NOT purely for the interests of the Council.

We trust you will consider the points we have raised in our firm objection to the proposed boundary changes, which we feel will completely undermine our existing protection and sense of belonging we are afforded by being part of the Thames Ditton community.

Yours faithfully,

Kath Harvey and Michael Harvey

The Review Officer (Elmbridge)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor
Millbank Tower
London
SW1P 4QP
How much will all these changes cost? At a time of cuts and austerity it would appear to be a major undertaking.

The reduction in the number of Councillors from 60 to 48 seems completely at odds with the LGBCE views "to ensure that the new Electoral Division boundaries also reflect the interests and identifies of Elmbridge's various local communities"!
Pre-Agree
Arran way to stay in the
Esherward.

Dear sir, madam,

I would like to tell you and
let you know that I am one
of Arran way Residents and
my say is (we agree that
Arran way to stay in Esher
ward) For the following reasons:

1) ever since this road is been under
in the Esher ward.

2) no more hassle please from the
school.

3) think will be about of stress and
mess about the letters and all
our child details...

we stay with Esher

Mrs. Hasem
Elmbridge District

Personal Details:

Name: William Hawkins
E-mail: 
Postcode: 
Organisation Name: My own opinion

Comment text:

My primary opinion is to support the Commissions draft recommendations of the 30th of June 2015. Should the commission wish for greater parity of the number of voters between the Walton South and Walton North wards, I suggest the inclusion of the area known as the St. John's Estate. This area is basically comprised of St. John's Drive and Rodney Road and the side roads leading from them. I am a member of St. John's Church that is situated on the corner of Ambleside Avenue and the Furrows. The church is in the Walton South Ward. The church has long established links with the St. John's estate helping with regular community events like Tea for Older People. Most summer holidays there is a week long summer group at the church and events are held in both the church grounds and on the St. John's estate. If you seek any amendments now or in the future, please consider these community links. William S Hawkins

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Elmbridge District

Personal Details:

Name: Jean Hayes

Comment text:

RE: Elmbridge Ward Boundaries Change – consultation on draft recommendations by 24.08.15. I live on the Lynwood estate which you propose to exclude from Hinchley Wood & Weston Green. I am glad you are keeping our village of Hinchley Wood in tact, but why leave us out? I object on Criteria 2 ‘Reflecting the interests & identities of local communities’. We have nothing in common with Long Ditton. We have no members from Long Ditton. All our local ties are with Hinchley Wood. We walk to the shops in the parade, we have a lunch club at Georgies’ Coffee Bar, we meet friends there. We walk to Hinchley Wood station. We use those shops and transport links. We welcome ladies [& gentlemen & visitors] of any faith or none and so play a role in furthering tolerance and cohesion in our community. Our church, St Christopher’s, our parish, is our Community Hub. Our boundary is not along the small one track railway southwards to Hinchley Wood station but along the main line which separates us from Long Ditton. I object on Criteria 3 ‘Promoting effective and convenient local government’. All my interests relate to our local councillors and a past Mayor, Janet Turner, who is also our local councillor at present. I don’t relate to a councillor representing Long Ditton. As to Criteria 1 which seeks to make all wards ‘equal’ numbers – national constituencies are not equal so why should you ignore my points above in order to try for so-called ‘equal’ numbers? Yours faithfully, Jean Hayes,
I am writing to register my view that the Boundary Commission's proposal to join Weston Green and Hinchley Wood wards should be extended to take in the area of Lower Green which adjoins Weston Green.

Residents in both Lower Green and Weston Green have common links with the Cranmere Primary School and also All Saints Weston Church - links which don't exist between Lower Green and the rest of its current ward, Esher. The rail line separating Lower Green from the rest of Esher ward forms a significant physical barrier, limiting the connection between these two areas. No barrier separates Lower Green from Weston Green, so placing them in the same ward accords more with the Boundary Commission's community-preservation aim.

Lesley Haynes
The Boundary Commission’s proposal to join the existing Weston Green and Hinchley Wood wards should be modified to include the adjoining area of Lower Green, located to the west of Weston Green and north of the railway line. My reasons for this are as follows:-

- Lower Green forms a natural extension of Weston Green, and issues affecting one area usually affect the other.
- Lower Green has little connection to its current Esher ward, separated from it by the mainline railway.
- Both Weston Green and Lower Green are served by Cranmere Primary School, so it makes sense for them to be within the one ward.
- Forming a new Weston Green - Hinchley Wood ward requires the joining of two distinct and separate communities. This would work best, and be more democratic, if the two areas were of equal electorate size. With the present proposal, Weston Green would be dominated by the much larger Hinchley Wood; but with the addition of the Lower Green area the new ward would be more balanced.

Peter Haynes
I object to the proposal to merge Burwood Park into the Oatlands Park Ward.

Reasons for objection

1. The proposed boundary changes move Burwood Park from an orientation to Hersham Village, to which it shares a postcode, to Oatlands, from which it is physically separated by a railway line.

2. Burwood Park has an affinity with Hersham Village due to the rural nature of the community compared to Oatlands, which is a residential area with no natural centre. Residents of Burwood Park use the facilities of Hersham Village for shopping, the library, the doctor’s surgery and the Park lies within the parish of St Peter’s Church. The proposed new Wards are therefore not orientated correctly.

3. There is a risk that future Burwood Park planning issues will be considered in a residential context rather than the rural environment, which exists today. The current Hersham orientated local councillors understand and fully support the interests of Burwood Park residents.

4. The proposed boundary change to move Burwood Park into the Oatlands Ward, results in a change in parliamentary boundary – from Esher and Walton to Weybridge and Runnymede. There are currently no Elmbridge Borough Wards across Parliamentary boundaries. This is a mis-match, which other Wards do not suffer and will add complexity for residents to navigate and gain support for specific local issues.

It is recommended that the Review Officer re-considers the boundary changes and retains Burwood Park and the surrounding roads in the Hersham Ward as proposed by Elmbridge Borough Council.

Please could you acknowledge receipt of this notice of objection. Many thanks.

Kind regards

Richard Hay

Richard Hay
Sir/Madam,

Please note :-

a) Contrary to one of the Boundary Commission's main considerations "to reflect community identity"

The proposal to remove all residents on the CB register on the roads to the southeast of the Portsmouth Road to Long Ditton ward would divorce us from the Thames Ditton ward, the parish of St Nicholas and the community of which we all have been a part since 1100 AD. The Thames Ditton ward boundary has included us since the first local council (Esher & Dittons Urban District Council) was established in 1895. (The year prior to my own property being built in 1896). Residents in these roads look to Thames Ditton as the centre of their community for shops, library, doctors, schools, village hall, St Nicholas church, village green etc., etc. Thames Ditton ward councillors respond to local residents on all issues of campaigning and/or improving all of the above mentioned when necessary. It is now proposed to emigrate all of us on the southeast side of Gigg's Hill Green to Long Ditton!

b) Contrary to the Boundary Commission's main consideration "to provide for effective and convenient local government".

To divorce 940 electors from the Thames Ditton ward based organisation that represents them, Thames Ditton & Weston Green Residents Association, diminishes community involvement in the democratic process. Gigg's Hill Green is Thames Ditton's Village green and all of those electors local to it in the affected area are part of that Thames Ditton community and I hope it will remain as such.

Yours etc.,
L R Hayward
Elmbridge District

Personal Details:

Name: Paul Hazeldine
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]
Organisation Name: 

Comment text:

21 August 2015 Dear LGBCE Apologies for a longer submission than I first expected but it does show my strength of feeling for my village. As a long term resident of 45 years in Hersham, Surrey I am very disappointed in your draft recommendations for ward boundary changes to our village in the borough of Elmbridge. Your recommendations ‘carve up’ Hersham into 4 parts and give away 3 of them, representing approximately 40% of the population, to other parts of Elmbridge. For the voting arithmetic to broadly balance out we do understand that there has to be a bit of give and take but to decimate Hersham in this way to the clear advantage of others is beyond any reasonable argument. Unfortunately, history shows that there has always been a prejudice against Hersham by other adjoining areas and these proposals perpetuate that. Examples include the following: King Henry VIII annexed Hersham for his deer park which forced local people to move elsewhere to make a living; derogatory remarks are recorded by a certain Bishop of Winchester as he overlooked Hersham from Esher and 2/3rds of the relatively new St George’s Hill is situated in the ecclesiastical parish of Hersham but politically is treated as Weybridge and newcomers think it is actually in Weybridge. Additionally, some years ago I went to the Elmbridge Council offices in Esher to enquire about the current and historical boundaries of Hersham and was directed to the Planning Department. I was shocked to hear that they keep no such records and are only interested in the current political wards. Some people, especially our local councilors, are trying to convince us that the identity of Hersham will not be lost because of ward changes but you can see from my experience at the Council that that is not what happens in practice. It means that for Council purposes, that for planning issues, for property advertising, for news reporting etc, parts of Hersham will be lost forever despite assurances to the contrary. Please, please don't continue this obvious prejudice against Hersham! Your recommendations seem to break your own rules that say you will try to keep the integrity of local areas and communities especially where there are obvious historical and natural boundaries. Hersham has very clear physical and community boundaries. Physically, these are the River Mole in the East and South, the railway line in the North and the long Seven Hills Road in West. Community wise there is a shopping centre, Day Centre, Village hall, railway station, library, cemetery, golf clubs, recreational grounds, several schools and nurseries and so on. We have arrived at this position of supposedly needing significant ward changes by a number of very misleading arguments and decisions by our Council. The planned reduction of the number of councilors from 60 to 48 sounds good financially and even I initially supported it. But it now transpires that they are only saving £50k pa and that was never said at the time so my support and others has gone. Next, to support the proposed reduction in councilors they chose to retain the one-third seat elections every year instead of one election every 4 years. Again, I initially supported this in a public consultation but they never said until after their decision that this would mean drastic ward changes so we were misled again. It is interesting that 5 out of the 6 Hersham Councillors voted against this decision because they could see the negative outcome for Herham. Understandably, the majority of other councilors voted for the advantage of their areas but clearly against the interests of Hersham (as usual!). Also, despite your advice about adequate publicity I am unhappy at the low key approach taken by the Council to inform the residents initially about their own submission and then about your draft recommendations. The limited information on their website is difficult to find unless you know that it exists and what you are looking for; and there has been no attempt to communicate to
the individual electorate by letter or leaflets as recommended by you. It's only by the hard work of a few individuals and certain local groups that the necessary information has been painfully extracted but this still bypasses the majority. We are sleeping walking into a major change that most people are completely aware of. That around 40% of the Hersham electorate will now be split into 3 other areas completely diminishes their democratic rights, their influence for Hersham and probably even their awareness of Hersham. Their views will be completely submerged by the areas they are merged into as their new councilors will probably major on the larger population area. And what about the confusion that will arise with the whole of the existing Hersham having a Surrey County councilor but not aligning with Elmbridge wards? Many people will end up saying “Where do I live?”. So what would I recommend? Try the following: a) If possible, could you re-examine how Elmbridge got to their decisions and point out the resulting unfair bias against Hersham? b) Consider a different ward breakdown so that Herham loses, say, no more than a reasonable 10% of its electorate. 40% is grossly unfair. For example, St George’s Hill is relatively new and small but sadly for democracy very influential so why not split this up according to older ecclesiastical boundaries and add part to a new Hersham South including Burwood Park. The remaining St George’s Hill could merge with Oatlands. c) Hersham North should be retained with any perceived extra electorate being added to Hersham South if that makes a better numerical result. d) There are countless objections to your recommendation for the Herham Riverside area to be added to Esher ward. It would be a disaster for Hersham. Apart from the obvious physical boundary of the River Mole there is also the Green Belt separation between Esher and Hersham which has been used successfully many times by the Council as justification for stopping further development between the two on the basis that this separation is needed to stop the two communities merging. Why should the boundary for Esher go right into the population heart of Hersham including adjacent to the main shopping area. In particular, it makes no sense for the Herham library and part of Molesey Road to be included with Esher. You seem to be taking apart the heart of Hersham which is surely not your remit? Retaining these in Hersham would hardly alter the electoral arithmetic and would be more sympathetic to the reality of a local community e) Similar to the Hersham Library issue it doesn’t make community sense to take Hersham Cemetery in Burwood Road out of Hersham. In fact, the Cemetery and Burhill Golf Club could easily be retained in Hersham without upsetting the electoral balance as very few residences exist in both. f) If you see fit to keep to your new ward recommendations or similar, I ask that the new wards encompassing Hersham areas at least retain a Hersham identity in their names. You have already set a precedent of proposing the Esher & Hersham Riverside name. So how about Weybridge Oatlands & Hersham Burwood Parks ward and Weybridge St George’s Hill & Hersham South? Or alternatively Esher & Hersham North Riverside and St George’s Hill & Hersham South Riverside? g) Lastly, is there some way that you can ensure that Elmbridge Borough Council always keeps the identity of Hersham intact regardless of current and future political ward divisions? Here’s hoping you will take proper account of the issues I have raised and thank you for your patience with my long letter. Regards Paul Hazeldine.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
20th August 2015

Dear Sirs,

ESHER BOUNDARY REVIEW (ELMBRIDGE)

We have been made aware of your recommendations for a new Esher ward which is to cover a larger area than the existing ward.

We understand that this is necessary because the number of local councillors has been reduced to 48 from 60 and therefore each councillor has to represent a greater number of people.

The increase appears to have been satisfactorily achieved by the addition of an area of Hersham that is west of the River Mole, on our western boundary.

However, we see no way in which this justifies the change in name of the new Esher ward to “Esher & Hersham Riverside.” This Hersham area is only about one tenth of the area of the new Esher ward, it has no major village or historic town centre and half the area consists of fields. We, therefore, consider that the existing “Esher” ward name should be retained as being more representative of the whole area and the name should not be changed just because an area of Hersham is to join us.

We have heard that the Elmbridge Borough Council have not endorsed you recommendations for the new Esher ward. We understand that they want the Area of the Esher ward called “Lower Green” to join the adjacent ward of Weston Green. We really cannot comprehend why. We are involved with the community hall in Lower Green and all the users of the hall and every one we meet use the shops, schools, church, cinema and Waitrose in Esher they have no interest in Weston Green and say “Esher is us”. There are approximately 700 people in the Roads of
Arran Way, Douglas Road, Farm Road, Mill Road, Joseph Locke Way and Sherriff Close and while they may be aware of your Boundary Proposals they are not likely to comment as they will be satisfied with the recommendations. Those we have spoken to are totally unaware of the Elmbridge Borough Council counter proposals to remove them into Weston Green ward. If they were aware we are sure they would vehemently oppose them.

We support your recommendations but believe that “Esher should remain “Esher”. We oppose the Elmbridge Borough Council proposals.

Yours sincerely,

Anne & Peter Heaney
I believe that the new Hinchley Wood & Weston Green ward should be extended beyond that proposed by the Commission on 30th June to include the area known as Lower Green, to the north of the railway line. This is because the community has strong ties both pastorally and socially with Weston Green.

Catherine Heavens

Lower Green Resident
14 August, 2015

Dear Sirs

Elmbridge Electoral Review - Proposals for WESTON GREEN

Following publication of your recommendations for the Borough on 30 June 2015, I am writing regarding the proposed amendment passed by the Elmbridge Borough Council on 22 July 2015, that the new proposed ward of Hinchley Wood and Weston Green be further extended to include that part of Lower Green, north of the railway line. Weston Green and Lower Green have strong geographical, social and educational links.

It is my understanding that the Head Teacher and Governors of Cranmere School would wish that the school should, following its relocation to the new site in Arran Way in 2016, remain in the Weston Green Ward in order that its community links may be retained. The recently retired Chairman of Governors came from Weston Green as have many before her and the proposed new Chairman is also a resident of Weston Green. The PTA includes parents from both Weston Green and Lower Green. The majority of the children come from both Weston Green and Lower Green rather than the wider area of Esher. The challenges - children’s safety, increased traffic and parking created by the new school will need to be addressed by both Lower Green and Weston Green working together. The pastoral care of Cranmere is undertaken by All Saints Weston, which is why both residents of Weston Green and Lower Green see this as their natural church as do their children.

A bus route services both Lower Green and Weston Green, they use the same railway station and amenities such as the new Co-op being built on the Hampton Court Way will service both Weston Green and Lower Green. The Food bank operating from All Saints’ Weston also serves Lower Green. They have shared goals and problems.

I am, therefore, of the opinion that the amendment proposed by Elmbridge Borough Council in Full Council on 22 July 2015 that Lower Green should be placed in the new ward of Hinchley Wood and Weston Green should be agreed.

Yours faithfully

L. M. Hecquet
Elmbridge District

Personal Details:

Name: Ryan Herbert
E-mail: 
Postcode: 
Organisation Name: 

Comment text:

I live within the Lynwood Road Development (Primary Concern - Reflecting the interests and identities of local communities – this means establishing electoral arrangements which, as far as possible, maintain local ties and where boundaries are easily identifiable. My view is that the merging of Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Wards into Long Ditton Ward is significantly counter to the criteria I have specified above as my concern. Placing this estate in the Long Ditton Ward would cut across the local interests, community identity and use of facilities of people on the estate which are focused on Hinchley Wood rather than Long Ditton. It will also have an impact on the community ties with regards to schools, church and also property prices potentially.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Elmbridge District

Personal Details:

Name: Ryan Herbert
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: [REDACTED]

Comment text:

Please see attached document, copy of detail below as well: Submission re-proposals for ward boundaries in Elmbridge affecting Lynwood Road. Ryan & Rachel Herbert

Dear Sirs, I object to the proposed ward boundary changes that would place Lynwood Road and the roads that run off of it (i.e. Wessex Close, Bourne Close and Woodfield Road) into Long Ditton Ward. It is my view that moving Lynwood Road into Long Ditton Ward would cut across the local interests, community identity and use of facilities of people living in and off Lynwood Road which are focused on Hinchley Wood rather than Long Ditton. The vast majority of households that live in this area and in particular those on the “Lynwood Road Estate” including my own are closely associated with Hinchley Wood, for example in the following respects: a) they use the local shops and facilities (including doctors and dentists) in Hinchley Wood, not Long Ditton; b) they use public transport in the form of trains from Hinchley Wood and buses running through Hinchley Wood along Manor Road North; c) they worship at St Christopher’s Church in Hinchley Wood. The current proposal to place Lynwood Road in Long Ditton Ward would, therefore, be completely contrary to the criteria to be applied in Electoral Reviews to “reflect the interests and identities of local communities” and “to maintain local ties”. Moreover, the diversity of interests that the currently proposed boundary would create between people living in Lynwood Road and its environs and those more closely linked with Long Ditton would be contrary another criteria because the proposed Long Ditton Ward would be more difficult for its elected representatives to represent effectively. My proposal is that the boundary of the proposed merged Hinchley Wood & Weston Green Ward should follow the existing boundary of the Hinchley Wood Ward between Manor Road North and Portsmouth Road (roughly along Claygate Lane) so that Lynwood Road and its associated roads are in the Hinchley Wood & Weston Green Ward. Yours Faithfully Ryan Herbert

Uploaded Documents:

Download
Submission re-proposals for ward boundaries in Elmbridge affecting Lynwood Road.

Ryan & Rachel Herbert

Dear Sirs,

I object to the proposed ward boundary changes that would place Lynwood Road and the roads that run off of it (i.e. Wessex Close, Bourne Close and Woodfield Road) into Long Ditton Ward.

It is my view that moving Lynwood Road into Long Ditton Ward would cut across the local interests, community identity and use of facilities of people living in and off Lynwood Road which are focused on Hinchley Wood rather than Long Ditton.

The vast majority of households that live in this area and in particular those on the “Lynwood Road Estate” including my own are closely associated with Hinchley Wood, for example in the following respects:

a) they use the local shops and facilities (including doctors and dentists) in Hinchley Wood, not Long Ditton;
b) they use public transport in the form of trains from Hinchley Wood and buses running through Hinchley Wood along Manor Road North;
c) they worship at St Christopher’s Church in Hinchley Wood.

The current proposal to place Lynwood Road in Long Ditton Ward would, therefore, be completely contrary to the criteria to be applied in Electoral Reviews to “reflect the interests and identities of local communities” and “to maintain local ties”.

Moreover, the diversity of interests that the currently proposed boundary would create between people living in Lynwood Road and its environs and those more closely linked with Long Ditton would be contrary another criteria because the proposed Long Ditton Ward would be more difficult for its elected representatives to represent effectively.

My proposal is that the boundary of the proposed merged Hinchley Wood & Weston Green Ward should follow the existing boundary of the Hinchley Wood Ward between Manor Road North and Portsmouth Road (roughly along Claygate Lane) so that Lynwood Road and its associated roads are in the Hinchley Wood & Weston Green Ward.

Yours Faithfully

Ryan Herbert
WHY IS IT ALWAYS HERSHAM THAT SUFFERS!
Constantly in the last fifty years, the community of Hersham has had to come together to fight to preserve our open spaces, stop destruction of our village community and stop the Surrey County Council many times threaten to close Hersham Library.

It seems that it is always Hersham that is the first in line, now thanks to the stupid decision to cut down on the number of councillors running Elmbridge council, Hersham will lose not only three councillors but also lose two thirds of its area.

Over the years we have lost our Police Station and our Youth Club, let us not lose our representation and our identity.
In 1933, we lost the St. Georges Hill Ward to Weybridge, until then it had always been in Hersham, as indeed two thirds of the ward is in the Parish of Hersham.

As a community we have all worked together to save the Hersham Tree Nursery –Hersham Golf Club- twice from development -600 houses or an underground hotel.
Four times we have had to fight the Surrey County Council to keep Hersham Library open, the last time we set up the Friends of Hersham Library, to make the county aware that there is an organisation and a community ready to fight them.

Now even the Library is under threat if the Boundary commission changes go through, we know how the county works – put the library in the Esher ward boundary and they will say, you do not need two Libraries in Esher!
The community –our community worked hard to stop Surrey, selling off Burhill School Playing Fields for flats, our community successfully opposed the building of 600 houses on Southwood Manor Farm.
Hersham is a beautiful semi rural village, which has become home to over 12,500 people over the years. Please not treat us as if we are some small country hamlet.

Back in the 1970s when Hersham was going downhill fast due to the loss of a big employer, Hersham residents fought back and got a new shopping centre, day centre and village hall. Hersham is a separate entity and does not wish to be part of Esher, Weybridge or Oatlands.
Our community works together to protect our village. We do not wish to see our village split up or be represented by councillors from other areas who have no interest whatsoever in our community.
Hersham in Bloom volunteers work all year round to keep our village, clean and tidy and beautiful with flower displays.
Hersham Village Society and the Residents Association work all year to monitor planning applications and ensure that we do not end up with unwanted development.
All over Hersham there are various organisations from Scouts, Guides, Cubs & Brownies, to Women Institutes, Church organisations, Sports and Social Clubs, Hersham Cinema Club, plus the Day Centre daily serving meals to the elderly. All working together serving our community, proving that Hersham is a community and should be left as so.

Merging parts of Hersham with other areas will bring confusion in the eyes of the electorate. A county division which encompasses Hersham North and South Wards for county elections and a series of divided local wards when it comes to Elmbridge elections.
The idea stinks and should never have been thought of.
Cutting down the size of Elmbridge is an unnecessary evil and should be dispensed of immediately.

We look forward to a new Academy school being built in Hersham to meet the needs of generations of children to come.
There are three Primary/Junior schools, an Academy and two private schools within the current borders of Hersham.
All part of the Hersham community-our community-our village!

Lidl has recently recognised the importance of Hersham as a shopping area by obtaining permission for a new store. Waitrose continue to run their store in Hersham recognising that Hersham is a solid community.

The taking of a large social housing estate and placing under Esher of which it has nothing in common with. There is already a natural boundary which has been in place for hundreds of years, its called the River Mole.

Once again Hersham is being sold down the river, all of the people of Hersham must oppose it today, time is running out.

If this goes through we suggest the new wards should be named: Weybridge and Hersham South. Esher and Hersham Riverside, Oatlands and Hersham West.
Starkie, Emily

From: Fuller, Heather
Sent: 24 August 2015 16:46
To: Hinds, Alex
Subject: FW: Elmbridge Electoral Review-Objection to the proposals for the Thames Ditton Ward

-----Original Message-----
From: Mark Heyes
Sent: 23 August 2015 22:13
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>
Cc: 
Subject: Elmbridge Electoral Review-Objection to the proposals for the Thames Ditton Ward

Dear Sirs

We would like to register our objection to the proposal to remove 940 Thames Ditton residents who live to the east of the Portsmouth Road between Thorkhill Road and Claygate Lane and transfer them to Long Ditton.

Firstly the character of the houses in this area are much more in keeping with the rest of Thames Ditton rather than Long Ditton as many of them date back to the 19th and early 20th century.

We believe that the residents living in this area look to the Thames Ditton Residents Association to represent their interests in local matters. We understand that Long Ditton does not have a Residents Association or Conservation group which can reflect their views on the Council.

Having lived previously in Angel Road we looked to Thames Ditton to be the centre of our community. It appears to us that you have used Portsmouth Road as an arbitrary boundary and not taken into account the historic community of Thames Ditton as a whole.

Looking at the data provided we cannot understand why this division and transfer of 940 Thames Ditton residents is necessary.

Yours faithfully

Mark Heyes and Barbara Lord
From: Alex Higgins
Sent: 04 August 2015 11:53
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>
Subject: Elmbridge Wards

Hi

This is just a quick note to say that I support the creation of the new Hinchley Wood and Weston Green ward as currently proposed.

Best regards

Alexander Higgins

Sent from a tiny keyboard - spelling mistakes likely.
To the Review Office (Elmbridge) 5-8-15

Dear Sir,

I am objecting to the proposal to "carve up" Thames Ditton.

I have only lived in Thames Ditton for 13 years but have attended resident association meetings and enjoyed reading "Thames Ditton Today". I have been made to feel part of the community. My late husband was President of the cricket club and I would not wish to be isolated from this.

The councillors who represent us have helped me personally with planning problems and they work very hard to represent the residents of Thames Ditton.

I wish to stay part of Thames Ditton.

Your sincerely,

MRS PATRICIA HIGGINS
Elmbridge District

Personal Details:

Name: Martin Higgs
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]
Organisation Name: [redacted]

Comment text:

Firstly, many thanks to the LGBCE for not splitting Hinchley Wood across two separate wards. Secondly, I have one minor boundary change suggestion - Currently the ward boundary between HW&WG and LD wards runs along the railway line parallel to Manor Road North from the point where the railway line crosses Claygate Lane. However the Hinchley Wood Guide and Scout HQ is immediately on the left as you enter Lynwood Road. I would suggest that the ward boundary line is moved to run along the south side of Lynwood Road then south along the western edges of the allotments and recreation ground, rejoining your proposed line by the railway line. This will keep the Hinchley Wood scout and guide HQ within Hinchley Wood and has no effect on the ward population. However, notwithstanding the previous suggestion, I would like to point out that although the Lynwood Road estate does only have vehicular access eastwards towards Long Ditton, there is a footpath along the western edge of the playing fields from Woodfield Road to Hinchley Wood station, together with a foot bridge over the railway line from Wessex Close to Manor Road North. In your own words from your guide to councillors "Internal access - ...there may be occasions where parts of a community are linked not by vehicular routes but by footpaths ...." Many of the residents of the Lynwood Road estate travel to work from Hinchley Wood station and shop at Hinchley Wood shops both of which are accessed by footpaths. Therefore I think there is compelling evidence to keep the Lynwood Road estate within HW&WG ward. I understand the need to balance ward populations across Elmbridge but keeping the Lynwood Road estate within HW&WG does not put the ward at a greater variance than at least two other wards.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Hinds, Alex

From: Fuller, Heather
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2015 04:14 PM
To: Hinds, Alex
Subject: FW: Hersham boundaries

-----Original Message-----
From: Anne Hill
Sent: 14 August
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>
Subject: Hersham boundaries

Dear council
Leave our Hersham boundaries alone I and All my family are proud to be from Hersham if you get your way some of us will be in weybridge or esher . Leave us alone and leave our library alone

Anne
The Review Officer

The Green needs to be at the centre of Weston Green, complete with a church and a school. Such landmarks give both a sense of, and place for, community. I need such balance and I feel very concerned about the prospect of you slicing off the west side of Weston Green.

Nicki Holland
FROM:
Mr Simon Guy Holman, [redacted]

TO:
The Review Officer ( Elmbridge)  
Local Govt. Boundary Commission for England 14th Floor Millbank Tower London SW1P 4QP  

Dear Sir / Madam

I have been a resident of 'Thames Ditton' for more than 21 years and was attracted to the area by the feeling of a village. The village centre and the village community was particularly appealing and we have supported village activities since our arrival.

I have been involved in the production of the local newsletter of the Thames Ditton Resident's Association, 'Thames Ditton Today' for the full 21 years as well as the production of the 'About Thames Ditton' magazine for the past seven years.

To preserve the village qualities, amenities and character we fought against the proposed development of a Tesco Hypermarket adjacent to the Village Green and have supported local shops, the Post Office, library, junior school, Community Hall etc in Thames Ditton - as well as using Thames Ditton station.

We canvassed for the new Cricket Pavillion as part of the extensive housing development adjacent to the Village Green.

To have objected to plans to close the Village Library.

We have supported the Resident's Association in the objective of the local community actively working together to care for the village, its amenities and the quality of life of its residents.

We supported the extension of the Conservation along our road to include additional houses of character and subsequently participated in the choice of period-style lamp-posts.

We have a active interest in being an active part of the Thames Ditton community and have invested time and support in the community.
You will see from our location that you are asking us to turn our back on Thames Ditton and look to create a new relationship with Long Ditton. We have no connection with Long Ditton; we know nothing of their Resident Association; Long Ditton has more in common with the suburban spread of neighbouring Surbiton. There is no recognised village or community ‘centre’ just a small parade of shops; the amenities such as recreation ground, hall, cricket pitch, school, parish church are scattered around the area.

'Thames Ditton' is my address; it is my community; it is where we have chosen to live and it is where we wish to remain and where we wish to be associated with for the future.

yours sincerely

SIMON GUY HOLMAN
From: Lewis Hopkins
Sent: 06 August 2015 10:01
To: reviews@lgbce.org.uk
Cc: 
Subject: Elmbridge Electoral Review - Objection: Proposals for Thames Ditton Ward

FAO: The Review Officer (Elmbridge)

This is an email to wholeheartedly object to your proposed re-draw of the Council’s ward boundaries which will see part of Thames Ditton – a part that I live in – become a Long Ditton ward.

You quite clearly state on your website that the aim of the electoral review is to ‘ensure that the pattern of wards reflects the interests and identities of local communities’. I’m perplexed by such a bold statement, because quite clearly the board of decision-makers responsible for this proposed change have no regard for the interests and identities of the local community. I am the local community, my interest is in Thames Ditton, and my identity is Thames Ditton.

The proposal is to remove me – and others in the proposed selection – to the Long Ditton ward. Splitting me away from the Thames Ditton ward, parish and community of which I, and those before me, have been a part of since the first local council in 1895.

Please deeply consider your decision to go ahead with the proposed re-draw, and actually consider people’s interests and identities.

Best regards,

Lewis

-----

Lewis Hopkins

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Dear Sir/Madam,

1. I do not think the people of Elmbridge are best served by reducing the number of Councillors from 60 to 48.

Elmbridge has millions of reserves and this move is to save a mere £50K per annum. Short sighted in my opinion.

2. The properties that face Giggs Hill Green on the East side of the Portsmouth Road are patently Thames Ditton focus, facing the village green as they do. These should remain in Thames Ditton ward.

I believe the electoral variance for the new Long Ditton ward could tolerate this amendment.

Yours faithfully,

M Horsey
Dear Sir/Madam,

1. I do not think the people of Elmbridge are best served by reducing the number of Councillors from 60 to 48.

Elmbridge has millions of reserves and this move is to save a mere £50K per annum. Short sighted in my opinion.

2. The roads up to and including Arran Way, Esher should most certainly be included in the new ward above so that Cranmere School, which has such strong historic and current ties to the populous of Weston Green, remains when the school is rebuilt at the end of Arran Way in 2016.

3. Indeed there are stronger links between Weston Green and the area known as Lower Green north of the railway line than there are between Lower Green and Esher that has a very different population demographic. Lower Green and Weston Green share many of the same issues, their populations mix socially, there are transport links, pastoral links and children from each are attend the same school in the area.

4. Therefore for the new Hinchley Wood & Weston Green ward, I recommend the amendment made by Elmbridge Borough Council to the LGBCE 30th June 2015 proposals

5. I believe the electoral variance for the new Hinchley Wood & Weston Green ward could tolerate this sensible amendment.

Yours faithfully,

M Horsey
Review Officer (Elmbridge)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor Milbank Tower
London SW1P 4QP

20th August 2015

Dear Sirs,

I was concerned to hear that a proposal has been put to you which will effectively split this part of Oatlands from the rest of the village, and put us into the neighbouring Walton Central Ward.

We are approximately mid-way into the area under consideration and I am sure that our opinions are not uncommon amongst our neighbours. We are residents of Oatlands, Weybridge and use Oatlands village for its shops, restaurants and the church, younger generations also use the school, indeed we also occasionally use the Prince of Wales as our “local”.

The proposal you are considering, is clearly an attempt to break apart this village community which is not something we would want in any form. Whilst having nothing against Walton on Thames, we are Weybridge people from school days to the present. We expect that should this proposal be approved then within the life of this parliament we would also be moved to the adjacent constituency further fracturing the village. In the longer term the Post Office might alter the code to KT12 from KT13 which would perhaps preclude us from using Weybridge Health Centre, and would likely reduce property values.

In conclusion, we wish you to reject this proposal and to reconsider the proposals put by Elmbridge Borough Council.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Houghton Ute Bathurst.

RECEIVED 24 AUG 2015
Elmbridge District

Personal Details:

Name: Malcolm Howard

Comment text:

Delighted that Walton South maintains its integrity.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Elmbridge District

Personal Details:

Name: robert hoy
E-mail: 
Postcode: 
Organisation Name: 

Comment text:

As a resident of Hersham I would like to say that I disagree with proposal very strongly. My family and I visit Hersham Village regularly for shopping, post office, doctors, dentist and such like. There is no synergy with Oatlands. The railway line has always been considered a natural boundary, and one which together with a main road separates Hersham from Oatlands. The polling stations would presumably be in Oatlands as there no suitable venues in this area. Oatlands is in a different Parliamentary Constituency from us in Esher and Walton. The selection of candidates for councillors and general administration is therefore more tedious. We currently have no Elmbridge Borough Wards which cross Parliamentary boundaries. There has always been a general rule of thumb if its not broke don't fix it this proposal however seems to fly in the face of that and is changing peoples boundaries that have been here for many many years to suit whose purpose?

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Elmbridge District

Personal Details:

Name: Alan Hubbard
E-mail: [Redacted]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I understand that in your proposals for the reduction of Imbridge Borough Councillors you have suggested moving my local ward from Weybridge South to Weybridge St Georges. I want to register my objection and opposition to that change. It seems obvious to me that our interests are much closer aligned to Weybridge town itself and the new Weybridge Riverside ward. St Georges on the other hand is separated from us by a railway line, has an entirely different community and has entirely different ward issues.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
From: Nick Hudson
Sent: 10 August 2015 15:08
To: reviews <reviews@lgbce.org.uk>
Cc: 
Subject: Elmbridge Electoral Review - Objection Thames Ditton

Dear Sirs,

I write to express my severe disappointment and objection to the proposal to re-draw ward boundaries and as such re-classify Westville Road as Long Ditton rather than Thames Ditton.

We have been proud residents of Thames Ditton for nearly 20 years and wish to remain as such.

Our three children have all attended Thames Ditton schools and proudly represented Thames Ditton in many sporting events. We have and continue to support local business.

Thames Ditton is a historic and close knit area, a key member of the St Nicholas Parish. A church where we both got married and had our children christened.

This historic link and community identity MUST be preserved.

As a previous resident of Alexandra Road Thames Ditton when we moved the key criteria was to stay within the Thames Ditton area and as such moved to Westville Road. We feel a key bond with Thames Ditton and rely heavily on the community amenities such as the Doctors, Village Green, Library. We also respect and value the active Residents association.

I appreciate we will still be able to use the amenities described but feel the proposal is for the sake of bureaucratic convenience rather than taking into account residents historical links to Thames Ditton and diminishes community involvement in the democratic process.

Regards

nick Hudson
Elmbridge District

Personal Details:

Name: J Hugall
E-mail: 
Postcode: 
Organisation Name: 

Comment text:

Elmbridge - Thames Ditton Ward. The proposals regarding Thames Ditton Ward should be reconsidered. They are not logical, will damage the interests of the residents who will be transferred to a different Ward and for no practical gain. Thames Ditton as constituted is a close knit community that works shops and socialises as one.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Contrary to the Boundary Commission’s main consideration “to provide for effective and convenient local government”, to remove
940 electors from the Thames Ditton ward based organisation that represents them, Thames Ditton & Weston Green Residents' Association, diminishes community involvement in the democratic process. It also confuses local residents as to whom to lobby re: parking, shops, services etc.
Giggs Hill Green is Thames Ditton's village green and all the houses round it as well as those in Angel Road feel part of the Thames Ditton community. Giggs Hill Green Conservation Area runs along the Portsmouth Road side of the Green and extends into Angel Road. Thames Ditton Conservation Area Advisory Committee covers the area and there is no Long Ditton Conservation area or Advisory Committee that could take this on which could provide the protection residents enjoy at present.

In addition, using the Portsmouth Road as the new border point for Thames Ditton doesn’t make sense where further south, the weston green ward goes stretches both sides of the road.

Best Regards,
Graeme Hughes
Elmbridge District

Personal Details:

Name: Paul Hughes
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Postcode: [REDACTED]
Organisation Name: [REDACTED]

Comment text:

I find the drawing of the Esher Ward boundary along Molesey Road Hersham to be completely artificial and inexplicable. There's a natural boundary formed by the river, which should be maintained. The Longmore Road estate is geographically and socially part of Hersham, not Esher. On the other side of Hersham, Westcar Lane is clearly more at home in Hersham rather than the proposed Oatlands Park/Burwood Park ward.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
From; Gloria and David Hume.

We wish to object to the proposal to exclude a chunk of Thames Ditton from its status as part of Thames Ditton Ward. We (and those of our nearby friends with whom we have discussed it) identify with the village of Thames Ditton and this is a strong sentiment which should not be lightly overridden. We have lived here for fifty years and taken part in local activities. We support the Residents Association and attend many of its meetings. We have belonged to the Tennis Club and the Gardening Club, contributed to the fairs on Giggs Hill Green and been visitors to the Cricket Club ‘dos’. The new proposals would mean that Giggs Hill Green would be pushed right to the edge of the ward and the boundary of the cricket field, for instance, would become the boundary of the ward.

We have no connections with Long Ditton and are unlikely to form any. Thames Ditton is a delightfully ‘villagy’ village – a place with a strong sense of community. Please don’t disregard such questions of sentiment; they have equal importance to purely administrative ones. Gloria and David Hume.
Elmbridge District

Personal Details:

Name: Desmond Humphrey
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]
Organisation Name:

Comment text:

My wife and I have lived in [redacted], Hersham since August 1989 and feel very much part of the village of Hersham. Our postal address is Hersham and we are members of St. Peter's Church in Burwood Road, where I am a member of the Parochial Church Council as well as representing St. Peter's on the Emlly Deenery Synod. We are supporters of Hersham Residents Association and frequent users of Hersham library. We know our Borough Councillors and they serve us well. We have no connection whatsoever with Oatlands and feel that we would gain no benefit by being placed in Oatlands Ward. We should be grateful if you would reconsider your recommendation and leave Frith Knowle and neighbouring roads in the Hersham Village Ward. Thank you. Des & Anne-Marie Humphrey [redacted]

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
I strongly object to part of East Molesey being integrated into the Thames Ditton Ward. It seems ludicrous to split East Molesey in two.
It makes much more sense for East Molesey to remain complete.

Please think again.

Patsy Hutchings
To whom it may concern,

I wish to protest at the plans to exclude [redacted] and nearby roads from being part of the Thames Ditton ward.

When my wife and I moved to [redacted] three years ago, the strong community of Thames Ditton was a significant factor in our choice.

The village is now at the heart of our lives and we use its facilities daily. We catch the train from Thames Ditton. We shop in Thames Ditton. Our newly born child will go to a childminder in Thames Ditton, and, we hope, go to school in Thames Ditton. We regularly attend events in Thames Ditton - including many of those at Vera Fletcher Hall. We use the library in Thames Ditton. We watch the cricket on the green. We have made friends in Thames Ditton, where we eat and drink with them.

Officially detaching us from this ward diminishes our connection with this community. In particular it means we will no longer benefit from the support of those councillors who have represented us so well.

As far as I can make out the decision to separate us in this way from the village has been made with no understanding of the traditional boundaries of this ward or the impact it will have on those who are part of this community. I urge you to reconsider this decision.

Chris Impey,
Dear Sir/Madam,

Having perused the new proposed boundary changes I give my full approval.

Sincerely,

Nigel Irving

This email is free from viruses and malware because avast! Antivirus protection is active.
From: James, Louisa  
Sent: 24 August 2015 09:22  
To: reviews@lgbce.org.uk  
Subject: Elbridge Electoral Review - Objection: Proposals for Thames Ditton Ward

To whom it may concern,

I'd like to voice my objection to plans to exclude Thorkhill Road and nearby roads from the Thames Ditton ward.

My husband and I moved to three years ago after living in Birmingham. Our previous neighbourhood felt like a city suburb, not a community in its own right, and that's what we were looking for when we chose Thames Ditton. We now feel very much part of the village and regularly use its shops, railway station, children's centre and library. By contrast, we feel no association with Long Ditton and rarely make use of its facilities.

Removing us from the Thames Ditton ward not only deprives us of such a strong connection with this community, but also means we no longer benefit from the support of the very active Residents Association and the councillors we voted for.

These changes appear to be proposed purely for bureaucratic convenience, and take no notice of the historic boundaries of this ward, or the impact on those who live here. I urge you to reconsider this decision.

Louisa James
Elmbridge District

Personal Details:
Name: Ben Jefferies
E-mail: [Redacted]
Postcode: [Redacted]
Organisation Name: [Redacted]

Feature Annotations

Map Features:

Annotation 1: Line added to show NEW southern boundary of Weybridge Riverside Ward replacing draft proposal of Hanger Hill and Queen's Road.

Comment text:
I understand in your draft proposals for the reduction of Elmbridge Borough Councillors that you have suggested moving my current ward from Weybridge South to Weybridge St George. I want to register my opposition to the change. It is obvious that my interests are more aligned to Weybridge town itself and the new Weybridge Riverside Ward. St George is separated from me by a railway line, has an entirely different community and different ward issues.

Uploaded Documents:
None Uploaded
Elmbridge District

Personal Details:

Name: Rachel Jefferies
E-mail: [email protected]
Postcode: [redacted]

Organisation Name: [redacted]

Feature Annotations

Map Features:

Annotation 1: Line added to show suggested new placement of Weybridge Riverside ward southern boundary instead of Hanger Hill and Queens Road.

Comment text:

I understand in your draft proposals for the reduction of Elmbridge Borough Councillors that you have suggested moving my current ward from Weybridge South to Weybridge St Georges. I want to register my opposition to the change. It is obvious that my interests are more aligned to Weybridge town itself and the new Weybridge Riverside Ward. St Georges is separated from me by a railway line, has an entirely different community and different ward issues.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
Elmbridge District

Personal Details:

Name: Peter Jefferson
E-mail: [Redacted]
Postcode: [Redacted]
Organisation Name: [Redacted]

Comment text:

First of all I would like to point out that barely four days notice to complete this form by the deadline given is simply not enough. It surely can not be because this situation came as a surprise "yesterday". Coupled with this many people are still on holiday and will have no idea about this situation and when they do, it will be too late. This is simply not good enough. Local Councillors appear not to be on the ball which is not exactly reassuring. By the way, I very nearly threw this letter away which is what I do with 95% of what gets pushed trough my letterbox each day. It really needed to be a "stand out" letter not just another scruffy bit of paper shoved through the box. I understand that in your proposals for the reduction of Elmbridge Borough Councillors you have suggested moving my local ward from Weybridge South to Weybridge St. Georges. On the face of it this appears a potty idea and I wish to register my opposition to that proposed change. It would seem blindingly obvious to anyone living here that our interests are much more closely aligned to Weybridge town under its new name of Weybridge Riverside ward. It would seem to me that the railway line provides a natural demarcation line separating the needs of Weybridge Town with those of the proposed linkage with St. Georges with its quite different requirements and problems.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
The Boundary Commission proposals for Elmbridge seem rather confused and disappointing when it comes to Hersham. The whole area seems to be being sliced up in a non recognisable fashion. I note that the proposals intend to keep FieldCommon Estate within Walton North ward. In my view, it would make more sense if it was linked with Hersham.

Interestingly, Elmbridge Borough Council suggested a new ‘Rydens Ward’ which would involve FieldCommon. This made a geographically sensible proposal.

On land adjacent to FieldCommon there is currently an outline planning submission for Drake Park Village which will involve 1024 properties. This is a credible significant development which would have a significant impact upon the ward boundary proposals. I realise that the outline Drake Park Village plans may not come to fruition, but in my view there is a chronic need for affordable houses to buy/rent and therefore the plans may be approved.

Could you please look again at Elmbridge Borough Councils boundary submission proposals, i.e. before finalising the matter.

Dr Peter Jepson
From: Fuller, Heather  
Sent: 20 July 2015 11:18  
To: Hinds, Alex  
Subject: FW: Hersham Ward Boundary Changes - Objection letter

From: Kim Jokipii  
Sent: 20 July 2015 11:04  
To: reviews  
Subject: Hersham Ward Boundary Changes - Objection letter

Dear Sirs,

We are owners of and have owned this house for some 25 years.

We strongly object to the proposed Ward Boundary changes because the proposed change moves Burwoodpark from an orientation to Hersham Village to Oatlands, from which it is physically separated by a railway line.

Further reason for objection is the fact that we as Burwoodpark residents use Hersham village facilities for shopping, library etc and find no orientation with Oatlands. Oatlands is a residential area with no natural centre whereas Burwoodpark with its orientation and affinity to Hersham Village is a community with rural nature. Future planning issues may be considered from a residential context rather than the rural environment, which exists today.

Once again, we object strongly.

Yours faithfully  
Kim Jokipii

Sent from Windows Mail
Dear Sir/Madam,

My wife and I vehemently object to the proposals above, as we feel this is the tip of the iceberg, if we were to agree to these proposals, who knows what might happen with future proposals!!

We have lived in our current house for over 40 years now and to be classed as Long Ditton, albeit for voting purposes at the moment, other changes could be made, house values could also be affected!!

A number of our neighbours feel the same way and I know they will be objecting to these proposals.

We trust that common sense will prevail, "if it is not broken don't fix it"

We look forward to hearing from you favourably in the near future?

Yours faithfully,

Celia and Jonathan Harker
Local Government Boundary Commission
14th Floor, Millbank Tower
Millbank
London SW1P 4QP

21 August 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

_Elbridge Borough Council — Consultation on Draft Recommendations_

I understand that in your proposals for the reduction of Elmbridge Borough Councillors you have suggested moving my local ward from Weybridge South to Weybridge St Georges. I wish to register my opposition to such a change.

In my view it seems obvious that our interests are much closer aligned to Weybridge town itself and the new Weybridge Riverside Ward. St Georges, on the other hand, is separated from us by a railway line, has an entirely different community, and has entirely different ward issues

Yours faithfully

[Signature]

Richard Brian Jones
Elmbridge District

Personal Details:

Name: Steve Jones
E-mail: [redacted]
Postcode: [redacted]

Organisation Name:

Comment text:

I understand that your proposals for Weybridge involve moving the triangle bonded by the railway line, Queens Road and Hanger Hill into the St George's Hill ward from the existing Weybridge South ward. I write to oppose this move. I have lived within that triangle (at 3 different addresses) since I moved here in 1980. It is clear to me that our natural polity is with the residents and interests of the town itself, not with St George's Hill. The railway line (here long before either side of it was built up) forms a physical and a social/logical barrier between us. And the interests and aspirations of dwellers there are very different from ours. It is also worth noting that the St George's Ward regularly fields its own Residents Candidate..who would have no interest whatsoever in the wee lump to its north. Tho' such a move might be administratively tidy and satisfy some theoretical even distribution of voters, it makes little sense on the ground and would wilfully create a circumstance where our views would never be heard nor our interest represented. It is a bad idea for everyone. You are welcome to accompany me on a site visit to verify these remarks.

Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded
I write as one of the Thames Ditton residents who, under the above proposals, would be moved into Long Ditton ward. My immediate objection was to the failure to inform those of us most concerned. I and (I found) most of my immediate neighbours learned of the proposals only by word of mouth. This, I feel, is an unreasonable manner to deal with essentially an issue of democracy.

For all the residents of the present Thames Ditton and Weston Green ward, the village of Thames Ditton is the centre for community activities. The village hall (Vera Fletcher Hall), as well as providing the venue for local meetings and regular classes, also has a year-round programme of a wide variety of entertainment across the age ranges. Many residents have strong attachments to the parish church of St. Nicholas and take a major part in church activities.

Many local children attend the two flourishing Thames Ditton schools and also take part in activities such as the thriving Girl Guides’ group or the cricket club which plays on Giggs Hill Green and encourages youngsters in the sport. Colets health and leisure centre is a hub for sporting activities for all ages and a social meeting place.

Our nearest Post Office is in the village centre and High Street shopping has been greatly invigorated in recent years due, in great part, to the campaigning of the extremely active Residents’ Association (TDRA) in cooperation with the local shopkeepers. The TDRA work tirelessly on our behalf : from organising snow clearing to fighting inappropriate planning applications and, of course, producing the quarterly village magazine.

In closing, I would ask that the Boundary Commission consider their criterion that “wards should reflect the interests and identities of local communities”, which the present proposal would not do.

Wendy Jones (Mrs)
To
The Review Officer (Elmbridge)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor Millbank Tower,
London
SW1P 4QP

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to voice my objections to the proposed changes to the boundaries of Thames Ditton ward.

Having lived only a couple of years in the ward, my experience of the centres of community cohesion may not be founded in longstanding appreciation of the history of the place, but very much in a lived experience of what matters to myself and my household.

I live in [redacted] and very much consider Thames Ditton, not Long Ditton, to be my local community focus. A wide range of community activities take place in Thames Ditton: my doctors surgery, the train station, our local shops, our excellent community hall - the Vera Fletcher Hall, the church, Scouts, schools, and very importantly for us in Angel Road, Giggs Hill Green with its community activities and cricket club.

Breaking up the ward in the proposed manner does not reflect one of the Boundary Commission's main considerations: "to reflect community identity".

Our active Residents' Association covers the whole of Thames Ditton and Weston Green, and represents our concerns to Elmbridge Council effectively and with strong local connections.

Further, Giggs Hill Green is Thames Ditton's village green and all the houses round it as well as us in Angel Road feel part of the Thames Ditton community. The Giggs Hill Green Conservation Area covers the Portsmouth Road side of the Green and extends into our road, Angel Road. I am concerned that the Thames Ditton Conservation Area Advisory Committee covers the area whereas there is no Long Ditton Conservation area or Advisory Committee that could take this on. This would diminish the protection and conservation of our valuable built heritage for future generations to enjoy.
These points are contrary to the Boundary Commission's main consideration: "to provide for effective and convenient local government".

For these reasons I object to the changes to our ward boundaries.

Yours sincerely,

Maja Luna Jorgensen
The Review Officer (Elmbridge)
Local Government Boundary Commission for England
14th Floor Millbank Boundary Commission
London
SW1P 4QP

23 August 2015

Dear Sirs

Objection to Thames Ditton Proposals by LGBCE (Elmbridge Council)

Due only to the efforts of our THAMES DITTON Residents Association Councillor, Karen Randolph, have we been alerted to the proposed re-drawing of the boundaries, which would see our road become part of Long Ditton, as opposed to historically being part of Thames Ditton for over 900 years. There has been no notification advising us of the proposed changes, let alone advising us of the closing date of 24th August to object to these proposals. This is an extremely underhand and undemocratic way of trying to put these changes through, making sure that as few residents are aware as possible, so that there are not enough objections to block this. Considering the general lack of trust in Government and Council Members these days, this is hardly the way to improve relations or confidence.

We have lived in [redacted] for 32 years, during which time we have called upon the services of Thames Ditton Residents Association Councillors on a number of occasions, who have successfully dealt with everything from arbitration with problems with neighbours to ensuring our street is enhanced with street lighting in keeping with the look of the road. Consequently, at every Council Election, we have voted for them. To be crossed off one boundary and stuck on another for bureaucratic convenience, rather than residents’ needs and wishes is absolutely insulting. We do not want to be part of a completely different voting ward, with which we have absolutely no connection or which gives us no benefit whatsoever.

Our own family history is associated with Thames Ditton, our son having played for Thames Ditton Colts Cricket Team, we’ve supported Thames Ditton fundraising events, the library, shops and we feel we are part of the close Thames Ditton Community.
We feel that you have completely taken this community for granted. Thames Ditton is not just a name on a piece of paper, it is a place with real people with connected lives who do not want some bureaucrat with no interest, knowledge or care for these people, coming along and drawing a line to separate them, regardless and ignorant of the consequences.

Yours faithfully

David & Jacqueline Joseph