

**Hinchley Wood Residents' Association**

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**Thames Ditton & Weston Green  
Residents' Association**

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**To: Alex Hinds, Review Officer (Elmbridge)  
Local Government Boundary Commission for England,  
14th Floor, Millbank Tower,  
Millbank, London SW1P 4QP.**

**28th September 2015**

Dear Mr. Hinds,

**ELMBRIDGE ELECTORAL REVIEW - OBJECTION TO PROPOSALS FOR HINCHLEY WOOD, THAMES  
DITTON & WESTON GREEN WARDS - AND SUPPORT FOR ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS**

We, the Chairmen of Hinchley Wood Residents' Association and Thames Ditton & Weston Green Residents' Association write on behalf of our respective Associations to object to the Boundary Commission's proposals to move 940 Thames Ditton residents from Thames Ditton ward and to merge Hinchley Wood and Weston Green wards. We are genuinely surprised at the level of anger expressed by local residents at the proposed loss of their democratic influence over how their local community functions. We appreciate that the formal date for representations is past but these very strong reactions from residents to the Boundary Commission's proposals have been such that we consider that it is vital that you reconsider your proposals.

We note that our MP, Mr Dominic Raab, has also written to you, on September 7<sup>th</sup>, after the official expiry date. Since the final decision date is 1<sup>st</sup> December we consider there is ample time for our proposals to be considered.

We request that you consider the Elmbridge Residents' Group councillors' proposals dated 30 March 2015 for 3 x 2 member wards for Hinchley Wood, Long Ditton and Weston Green respectively, together with a three member ward for Thames Ditton. These are proposals for which the rules allow and, if accepted, they would be the only 2 member wards in the Borough. The four wards would still have 9 councillors so that there would still be a total of 48 councillors for Elmbridge.

Hinchley Wood Residents' Association founded in 1932 is a non-party political organisation dedicated to representing its members' interests within the ward. 1,200 households of 2,000 dwellings are subscribing members.

Thames Ditton & Weston Green Residents' Association established in 1934, is a non party political organisation concerned with protecting the amenities and furthering the interests of the inhabitants of Thames Ditton and Weston Green. We have over 1,100 subscribing households, representing some 2,360 members.

Our objection to the Commission's proposals is that they are contrary to two of the main criteria used by the Boundary Commission when making its recommendations:

**a) Boundary Commission's criteria "wards should as far as possible reflect the interests and identities of local communities".**

- The proposal to remove all residents on the CB register on the roads east of the Portsmouth Road Thames Ditton to Long Ditton 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 was established in 1895 (as substantiated by historical records detailed in the letter submitted by the Chairman of the Thames Ditton & Weston Green Residents' Association on 7 August 2015)
- The proposal to merge Hinchley Wood and Weston Green wards would be an artificial forced merger of two distinct communities based on two parishes separated by commons, main roads and an arterial railway line.

**b) Boundary Commission's criteria "to provide for effective and convenient local government".**

- To remove to Long Ditton 940 electors from Thames Ditton ward who have strong affinity with Thames Ditton and look to Thames Ditton ward councillors to represent them in their concerns eg High Street shops, parking, would diminish community involvement and also confuse local residents.
- The proposal to merge Hinchley Wood and Weston Green wards would mean the new ward would be covered by two county councillors ie the county councillor for the Hinchley Wood, Claygate and Oxshott division and by the county councillor for The Dittons division.

**ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS WHICH MEET ALL THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION'S CRITERIA**

The Boundary Commission's detailed technical guidance document dated April 2014 is clear that the proposed wards should result in electoral equality, with a tolerance of + or - 10% from the Borough average, but that also there is a need to reflect local community identities and interests, and to provide for effective and convenient local government. We attach at Appendix A - "Extract for the Four Wards from the Detailed Commentary on New Ward Boundaries" submitted by the Elmbridge Residents' Group councillors on March 30<sup>th</sup> 2015 which show that our proposals comply with all three of your criteria.

Yours sincerely,



**Frank Dabell, Chairman, Hinchley Wood Residents' Association**



**Rhodri Richards, Chairman, Thames Ditton & Weston Green Residents' Association**

**Extract for the Wards of Thames Ditton, Long Ditton, Hinchley Ward and Weston Green from the Detailed Commentary on New Ward Boundaries**

**#12 THAMES DITTON**

Currently 4795 voters. Add in the 881 voters in the northern part of the Long Ditton Polling District BA, effectively those living to the north of Long Ditton Recreation Ground, and on the Portsmouth Road or those roads leading off it.

**Total electorate 5676, 8.5% below average, 3 member ward.**

Roads and electors to move across from Long Ditton BA Polling District to Thames Ditton :

Alston Close	44
Cholmley Road	15
Ditton Reach	49
City Wharf House	56
Clearwater Place	81
Ferry Road	25
Ferry Yacht Station	2
Houston Road	127
Imworth Cottages	8
Ferry Road, Thames Court	6
Ferry Road, Old Police Station	5
Howard Street	17
Portsmouth Road	18
Portsmouth Rd. Cholmly Terrace	12
Portsmouth Rd. Cholmly Villas	18
Portsmouth Rd. Claremont Terrace	25
Portsmouth Rd. Riverside Villas	7
Portsmouth Rd. Thames Cottages	13
Portsmouth Rd. Thames Ditton Marina	5
Prospect Road	80
Southbank	61
Thorkhill Road	29
Vallings Place	30
Vaughan Road	72
Windmill Lane	52
Winters Road	24

### **#13 LONG DITTON**

Currently 4735 voters. Would lose 881 electors in the northern half of Polling District BA to Thames Ditton, as set out above.

**Total electorate 3854 voters, 6.8% below average, 2 member ward.**

### **#14 HINCHLEY WOOD**

Would stay exactly as it is now with 3948 voters,

**Total electorate 3948, 4.5% below average, 2 member ward**

### **#17 WESTON GREEN**

Currently 2901 voters. Would take in those voters in Molesey East's Polling District GA who live south of the River Mole, some 1202 voters, and those who live to the south and west of the centre line of Bridge Road / Creek Road and north of the River Mole, some 359 electors.

**Total electorate becomes 4462, 7.9% above average, 2 member ward**

Roads and electors moved across to Weston Green:

Alders Grove	12
Broadfields	88
Ember Farm Avenue	34
Ember Farm Way	144
Ember Lane	91
Esher Road	164
Hampton Court Avenue	103
Jasmine Way	2
Molember Road	100
Molember Court, Molember Road	9
Orchard Lane	64
Newstead House, Orchard, Lane	8
Riverside Avenue	41
Southfields	97
Summer Avenue	51
Summer Gardens	48
Summer Road	118
Gladstone Place, Summer Road	21
Willow Mead, Summer Road	7

Those living south and west of the centre line of Bridge Road / Creek Road and north of the River Mole

Bridge Road,(50%)	90
Kings Court Mews, Bridge Road	10
Kingfisher Court, Bridge Road	78
Cedar Close	17
Cedar Road	18
Hampton Court Parade	41
Hampton Court Way	7
Waterside Hampton Court Way	6
Oarsman Place	9
Anne Boleyn Court, Queens Reach	23
Anne of Cleves House, Queens Reach	15
Catherine Howard House, Queens Reach	9
Catherine of Aragon House, Queens Reach	15
Catherine Parr House, Queens Reach	6
Jane Seymour House, Queens Reach	15

This minimises unnecessary shuffling of electors, i.e. where a ward takes in voters and also loses voters to another ward.

*From: Elmbridge Residents' Group Councillors Submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission 30 March 2015.*