

TLPC response to BCE Consultation

The Lee Parish Council has carefully considered the proposed changes to the constituency boundaries in Buckinghamshire, and in particular the separation of The Lee from the nearby towns of Chesham and Amersham and resultant move to the proposed new constituency of Princes Risborough.

Whereas currently The Lee sits at the western end of the Chesham and Amersham constituency, it would in future be at the eastern end of the proposed Princes Risborough constituency. Whilst there are some advantages, there are more disadvantages to the new constituency which we would ask the Boundary Commission for England to take into consideration before making their final recommendations.

Advantages:

- Being in a predominantly rural area could result in an MP being more focused on the rural issues that impact us, without being overshadowed by the needs and demands of larger towns and population centres.
- Many villages the length of the proposed constituency would be similarly affected by both the construction and operation of HS2, whereas it is tunnelled throughout the revised Chesham & Amersham constituency and therefore impacts other residents of that constituency significantly less than us - it would of necessity retain a high profile for the MP of the Princes Risborough constituency but is likely to become less of an issue in Chesham & Amersham once built.

Disadvantages:

- The Lee is currently part of a constituency which falls mainly within the AONB, whereas a significant part of the proposed constituency does not.
- The Lee forms part of the local government ward of Chiltern Ridges, which would be split between the constituencies of Princes Risborough and Chesham & Amersham.
- The Lee has many ties to Chesham and Amersham, but few to Wendover and none to Princes Risborough and beyond. For example, Chesham provides our nearest leisure centre, theatre and grammar school whilst Amersham is the administrative centre for the electoral roll and planning.
- There is a bus service to Chesham and Amersham, but none to Princes Risborough.
- Many local children attend secondary schools in Chesham and Amersham, but none attend schools in Princes Risborough.
- The geographical area of the proposed Princess Risborough constituency is considerable, making it challenging to represent.
- The Lee would physically be separated from the bulk of the new constituency by HS2.
- It appears that the HS2 construction in Buckinghamshire will be taking place predominantly within the proposed constituency, where there will only be one MP representing most of those directly affected. Currently HS2 impacts a larger number of Buckinghamshire constituencies, resulting in a louder voice in Parliament.