

## **Response to Boundary Commission for England proposal for local government in Buckinghamshire**

In its response to the BCE consultation on ward boundaries in Buckinghamshire, The Lee Parish Council asked that the parish be:

1. grouped together in an electoral ward with similar rural parishes
2. served by a single, accountable, county councillor
3. specifically not grouped with Chesham
4. ideally be grouped in a new ward with South Heath and Ballinger to the south, plus Cholesbury-cum-St-Leonards to the north and Chartridge to the east

The first three of these requirements are met by the proposal for inclusion of The Lee within a revised Chiltern Ridges ward which we welcome.

The composition of the revised ward is not ideally what we would have wished, as we had expressed a wish to be grouped with South Heath and Ballinger, our neighbouring villages with whom we have many joint clubs, societies, interests and endeavours. We do however accept that our preference would, most likely, have necessitated the splitting of Great Missenden Parish between electoral wards.

The proposed composition of the new Chiltern Ridges ward reflects that of the rural element of the Chesham & Rural Villages Community Board, with the new ward incorporating the six rural parishes represented by the Board; as such we have some links with the five other parishes, albeit not being geographically close to parishes such as Chenies, Latimer & Ley Hill and Ashley Green.

We understand the benefits of and logic behind keeping a parish entirely within one ward, with wards containing multiple parishes. As such the proposal that we be in a ward with similar parishes, with whom we already have some limited connection, is acceptable to us.