

The Lee Parish Council responded to the first consultation by the Boundary Commission for England (BCE) into proposals for 2023 parliamentary constituency boundaries.

At the time we listed many disadvantages to us of the proposal, namely:

- 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.

In summary we have transport, social, cultural, educational and administrative links with Amersham and Chesham, but no connections with Princes Risborough.

At the time of the first consultation we felt there might be an advantage to being in a predominantly rural area, as this 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. We have however since become aware of the Princes Risborough Expansion Plan, which will increase the population of the town by around 70% - and indeed an outline planning application has been submitted for the first 1100 of 2500 planned new homes. This significant increase in population of a town with which we have no links will completely negate the possible advantage to The Lee of being a part of the new constituency.

At the time of the second consultation we observed that, without exception, all responses from councils and residents in and around The Lee objected to these proposals, as they make no logical sense in the real world. The proposals may not be as extreme as merging parts of Devon and Cornwall into a single constituency, or even parts of Lancashire and Yorkshire, but they make no sense to the residents of villages currently part of the Chesham & Amersham constituency.

Looking at the proposal for the third consultation, it appears that the only change is to rename the proposed new constituency of which The Lee would form a part to be Mid Buckinghamshire rather than Princes Risborough. Changing the name does not in any way ameliorate our objections to what we consider a bad proposal.