

Chesham and Amersham Conservative Association response to 2022 local government boundary review proposals.

Further to the draft recommendations for local government boundaries we would like to offer our comment and some proposed alterations to the boundaries as they are currently proposed, that we believe better reflect community ties and interests.

Chiltern Ridges

The proposed new Chiltern Ridges ward contains a large number of parishes wrapping around the north of Chesham and then snaking along the Hertfordshire border and down as far as the south of Little Chalfont. The communities linked together in this new ward have very little to do with each other. The parishes to the north of Chesham all sit on radial roads to the north of the town, and to cross between the two sides of this ward would almost always require a journey through Chesham Town Centre. Additionally, the large number of parishes that make up this new ward would require a lot of work and engagement for a single councillor to fulfil their role effectively given the diversity of the area. We would propose that this ward is removed, and its component parishes merged with the neighbouring wards that would better reflect how the local community operates and the shared public services they all use.

Chesham North

Whilst we support the proposed splitting of the town of Chesham on a north/south basis, we would propose the inclusion of many of the adjoining parishes to the north of Chesham into this ward, creating a new three member ward. All of the parishes to the north of Chesham are off of radial routes to the town centre, which contains all of the public services and facilities that these communities use. The parishes of The Lee, Chartridge, Cholesbury-Cum-St Leonards and Ashley Green would be included in the Chesham North ward, creating a three member ward with 12573 electors, giving it good electoral equality.

Chesham South

Along similar lines to Chesham North, we propose the inclusion of the neighbouring parishes from the Chiltern Ridges ward, Ley Hill and Latimer, to be included in Chesham South. Ley Hill adjoins the Chesham Town Council ward of Townsend along the Botley Road, with no break in residential properties between the two. Both Latimer and Ley Hill use all the same services as the residents of south Chesham, including local schools and have shared public transport links. Additionally, travel between these parishes and the other parishes to the north of Chesham would require travel through the town centre of Chesham, which can take a long time during rush hour. This proposed ward would remain a two member, with good electoral equality of +6%.

The Missendens

We are supportive of this proposed new ward, it has good electoral equality and reflects local communities well.

Amersham and Chesham Bois

We have no further comment and support the proposed new warding solution.

Chalfont St Giles and Little Chalfont

We support the proposed new ward with one minor amendment, that the small parish of Chenies, currently proposed to be in the Chiltern Ridges ward, should be moved into this one. This would better reflect community links and would not have any effect on the electoral equality of the ward. Little Chalfont and Chalfont St Giles have been linked in this way before, and the proposed merge makes sense on a community basis.

Chalfont St Peter

We are supportive of the proposed new ward uniting St Peter Parish, we think that extending the ward into part of Gerrards Cross parish is not ideal but understand the need for electoral equality.