

I am a long-term resident of the village of Barrow on Trent within the Aston Ward of South Derbyshire District Council.

I wish to make a number of comments on the Boundary Commission for England's 2018 review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries

My first comment is that I am dissatisfied with the publicity given locally to the Review.

I have seen no Public Announcement or Press comment on the review.

Indeed, I only became aware of the review through the newsletter of our County Councillor which I received one day before the closing day for first consultation responses

My initial comment is repeated below

Comment: BCE-27120

I wish to make a comment on the proposals to include the Parish of Barrow upon Trent within the proposed constituency of Derby South, moving it from the constituency of South Derbyshire.

The parish is entirely separate from the City of Derby and has very different requirements from the urban environment, based mainly on its agricultural nature and the risk of flooding from the River Trent. Features which it shares in common with the other northern parishes of South Derbyshire which also lie in the Trent river valley

We are currently awaiting the results of a Community Governance Review which we hope will move the north-eastern part of the parish into the adjacent parish of Stenson Fields.

The parish is divided by very clear geographical limiters. A major road the A 50, a canal and railway line.

It seems to me would be much more logical for the constituency boundary, if it must be moved, to lie along the A 50 north of the parish of Barrow on Trent

This is also the proposed line suggested in the ongoing Community Governance Review

Quite by chance on 6 Mar 2017 I discovered that a second round of consultation had opened, again with no obvious Press announcement.

I note that all the comments submitted in the first round opposed the proposal to transfer the Aston Ward of South Derbyshire to the new extended constituency of South Derbyshire

I wish to repeat forcefully my personal objections to this proposal

The City of Derby is an urban Unitary Authority represented by 2 Members of Parliament whilst South Derbyshire is represented by one Member

From the figures in your own document the current population of South Derbyshire is 71,577 which means that no alteration of the constituency is required for the benefit of the local constituents of South Derbyshire

There seems little good reason to add an urban ward from the City of Derby to South Derbyshire whilst at the same time removing a rural ward from South Derbyshire and adding it to the City of Derby.

The two current constituencies of the City of Derby share the same urban problems whilst the rural ward of Aston has commonality with the other Wards of South Derbyshire and little in common with the urban wards of the City of Derby

By moving Barrow upon Trent into the new Derby South constituency, the Boundary Commission is going directly contra to the wishes of the vast majority of the parishioners in Barrow to remain a small, rural enclave, with natural links to the more rural south rather than the urban area of Derby South.

I therefore suggest that Aston ward remains within the Parliamentary constituency of South Derbyshire;

Mickleover Ward remains in the constituency of Derby North and that the Derwent ward moves from Derby North to Derby South

Because the City of Derby is unable to accommodate significant additional housing under the new Local Plans there will be no significant changes in the population of the City in the foreseeable future so the constituency numbers will not change greatly.

The converse applies to South Derbyshire. The Local Plan for South Derbyshire calls for significant new build in the immediate future

The additional housing will be built in South Derbyshire leading to an equalisation of constituency numbers over the next 10 to 15 years precluding the necessity for a further early review of constituency boundaries