

Chesham Town Council



Bill Richards
Town Clerk

Mr W. Morrison
Review Officer (Buckinghamshire)
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-86 Turnmill Street
London
EC1M 5LG

Tel: 01494 774842
Fax: 01494 582908
www.chesham.gov.uk
Email: admin@chesham.gov.uk

Our ref: B. 1
30 March 2011,

Dear Mr Morrison

ELECTORAL REVIEW OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

My Council is aware that LGBCE has started the second period of consultation for a pattern of divisions for Buckinghamshire County Council and you are inviting comments on the division boundaries for the authority.

My Council is very much of the view that the town of Chesham, being the third largest town in the county and with a population in excess of 20,000, should have a minimum of three county councillors representing it.

If you are entirely constrained however by the equalisation of the number of electors represented by councillors, we would like to suggest the following:

A two councillor representation of Chesham Town only, based on the new electoral divisions of 'Chesham North-East' and 'Chesham South West'. The former to include the District electoral wards of Hilltop & Townsend; Newtown and Ridgeway and the Vale and the latter to include the electoral wards of Asheridge Vale & Lowndes and St Mary's & Waterside. This may give a slight electorate imbalance (currently 8915 and 7284 respectively) but we do believe it would reflect more accurately a sense of community identity for the town. Moreover we believe it would add to more convenient and effective local government with the two councillors serving an exclusively urban/semi-urban electorate in one town. It is our contention that the Local Area Forum, set up by Buckinghamshire County Council for Chesham and the surrounding parishes to determine County Council priorities and decide upon the allocations of monies, has not been an overwhelming success. There have been obvious tensions between the town representatives and the parish representatives which has led, at the time of writing, to a virtual impasse on voting procedures. We believe therefore that it would be beneficial for Chesham councillors to



Chesham Town Council

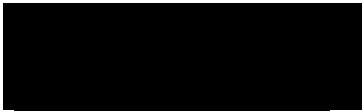
continued . . .



represent only Chesham voters. We would propose further therefore, that, in respect to the Parishes in the existing Chess Valley Division, the parishes of Ashley Green, Botley and Ley Hill become part of the existing rural Chiltern Ridges Division and the parishes of Latimer and Chenies also become part of this Division or become part of the Amersham Division.

Do feel free to contact me if you require any clarification on the above.

Yours sincerely



Bill Richards
Chesham Town Clerk