



Review Officer
Buckinghamshire Review
Local Govt Boundary Commission for England
Layden House
76-86 Turnbull St
London EC1 5LG
and by email
Oct 7th 2011

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Boundary Review for the County of
Buckinghamshire**

I currently represent the Division of Chesham North West, which comprises the Chesham Town Council wards of Lowndes, Asheridge Vale and Ridgeway, on Bucks County Council. Previously I was a Town Councillor for Asheridge Vale and have been a Councillor in this District for 20 years, which a couple of short breaks.

I am writing to express my considerable concern at the Commission's proposal for a Chiltern Ridges County Division comprising Asheridge Vale, Lowndes (Town wards) with the rural parishes of Cholesbury-cum-St Leonards, The Lee, Chartridge, and parts of Little Missenden and Great Missenden.

My concern lies with the fact that as a community Asheridge Vale ward has virtually nothing with the parishes.

Asheridge Vale is one of the most deprived wards in the Chiltern Area (with Ridgeway which I also represent) and consequently in Buckinghamshire. Many of the residents live in social housing, there is a high incidence of single parent families, and the Paradigm Housing Association has identified considerable 'multi deprivation' throughout the ward. The Fire Authority's Vulnerable Localities Index and Health Statistics support this.

Chesham's mosque is in the heart of Asheridge Vale ward and the Pakistani population of the Town (just over 10%) is largely (but not exclusively) drawn from this ward and the adjacent Townsend town ward.

The outlying parishes however seem to me to comprise wholly different communities and the 'leafy Buckinghamshire' description suits them well. They all very much part of the Chilterns and each has a strong sense of identity- village schools, parish churches, village shops etc- as well as a strong common interest in the AONB which is currently and rightly being expressed in the anti HS2 campaign.

To be honest I could not think of two more contrasting sets of communities and therefore different interests amongst residents! Lowndes ward has both elements and could go into a Chiltern based Division – but equally it could stay in a Town- based Division as many residents look to the Chesham for their amenities, whereas the parish residents tend not to do so.

It was for this reason that at the previous Boundary review the parishes were separated from Asheridge Vale and Lowndes. This was the correct analysis of the natural community structure and in my view should not be overturned on this occasion.

I therefore support the proposal from Chiltern Constituency Liberal Democrats to reconsider the Chesham Division of Chiltern Ridges and the consequential reconsideration of Chesham Divisions as a whole. This is laid out below.

| | | |
|------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Chesham North | Town Wards | Electors |
| | Vale | 1587 |
| | Hilltop | 1396 |
| | Ridgeway | 1907 |
| | Newtown | 1856 |
| | Parish wards | |
| | Ashley Green/ Ley Hill | 765 |
| | Bellingdon | 528 |
| | Total | 8039 |

We regard Bellingdon as a natural extension of Ridgeway as the Bellingdon Road runs through it.

Similarly, Ashley Green etc leads out of Hilltop.

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 2. Chesham Central | Town Wards | |
| | Ash Vale | 1524 |
| | Townsend | 2100 |
| | St Mary's | 1147 |
| | Waterside | 2478 |
| | Parish ward | |
| | Latimer | 810 |
| | Total | 8059 |

Asheridge Vale and Townsend wards are adjacent in the town and is the centre of the Pakistani Community with the Mosque at its heart.

*Latimer leads out of Waterside.
Chenies would move to Little Chalfont.*

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| 3. Chiltern Ridges | Town Ward | |
| | Lowndes | 2162 |
| | Parish wards | |
| | The Lee | 590 |
| | Ballinger + South Heath | 1035 |
| | Cholesbury cum St | 775 |
| | Leonards | |
| | Chartridge | 1320 |
| | Little Missenden | 1931 |
| | | 7813 |

This proposal recognises the communities which lie off Chartridge Lane and into the Chilterns. This comprises predominantly parishes with much in common and significant synergies with Lowndes ward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Cllr Michael Brand (Bucks CC Chesham North West)