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Date: 22 November 2016 00:41
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Update from Chris Philp MP - Parliamentary Boundaries

Update from Chris Philp MP



Dear All,

You may be aware that the Boundary Commission recently published proposals for new Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries. The political parties have responded with counter-proposals. The various proposals affect our area quite a lot, and I have laid out how below. I would very strongly encourage everyone to comment on the proposals before the 5th December deadline by going to www.bce2018.org.uk, entering your postcode, clicking on "Have your Say" and then click on roughly where you live on the map. You can then type in your comments. I have put my thoughts below – please feel free to use those which you agree with!

Coulsdon and Purley

The Boundary Commission propose that Coulsdon is placed into a different Parliamentary constituency to Purley (Croydon South vs Croydon Central) for the first time ever. I strongly feel that Coulsdon and Purley should be together as they share transport links (such as the A23 and Brighton Main Line), history (having been together in the same Urban District Council before Croydon Council came into being) and people living in one place use amenities (such as schools and shops) located in the other. I believe that Coulsdon and Purley benefit from having one MP representing both places. Purley Ward and the Coulsdon Wards ("Wards" are the geographic building blocks that the Boundary Commission uses) also merge into one another – the Coulsdon West Ward in fact goes right up to Tesco at Purley Cross – so separating them is clearly wrong.

One of the political parties has submitted a counter-proposal that removes Coulsdon (both Coulsdon East and Coulsdon West) entirely from Croydon and puts Coulsdon in with Sutton, to make a Parliamentary seat which is 75% Sutton (including places like Beddington) and 25% Coulsdon. I think that this is completely wrong. Coulsdon has always been linked with Purley, Kenley and Sanderstead and not at all with Sutton. Transport links run north-south and not east-west and Coulsdon naturally sits with the rest of the south half of the Borough of Croydon. I therefore very, very strongly oppose the suggestion that Coulsdon should simply be a small appendage to a Parliamentary seat that is mostly made up of Sutton Wards. There is a danger that an inattentive MP might focus on the Sutton majority part of the seat and ignore Coulsdon, which would be unacceptable. The arguments in the paragraph above as to why Coulsdon and Purley should sit together apply here too.

Kenley

The Boundary Commission proposes that Kenley is in different Parliamentary Constituency to Purley (Croydon South v Croydon Central). Given that Purley is the main shopping, amenity and transport hub for people living in Kenley, I strongly feel that Purley and Kenley should be in the same Parliamentary Constituency. The main road, the A22, runs into Purley Cross, Purley is the major station serving the Kenley area and most people living in Kenley shop in Purley. Purley and Kenley should therefore be represented in the same Parliamentary constituency. Similar arguments to those in the "Coulsdon and Purley" section above apply here too.

Croham and Waddon

Croham and Waddon remain joined in the same Parliamentary Constituency as Purley in all the proposals and counter-proposals that I have seen. This makes sense to me. The Boundary Commission proposal has all three Wards (Waddon, Croham and Purley) moving into Croydon Central whereas two of the three party-political counter-proposals has Croham, Waddon and Purley staying with most of the rest of what is now the Croydon South constituency. I think that for reasons of historical ties and practicality, Croham and Waddon best fit with Purley and most of the rest of Croydon South, which is where they have always been and I think where they should stay.

Sanderstead

Several options have been presented for Sanderstead. One is that Sanderstead is moved from Croydon South into a Parliamentary constituency seat that is based mostly on the current Croydon Central constituency. If the Boundary Commission is unwilling to split wards this may be the only way to arrange things to meet the strict size quotas for the new constituencies.

However, if the boundary commission were willing to split a ward, then Sanderstead could stay in Croydon South (i.e. with Kenley, Purley, Croham, Waddon, Coulsdon East and Coulsdon West) together with Polling District SB2 of Selsdon & Ballards (which is the area of Norfolk and Arundel Avenue) and the size would work. This would be better, because Sanderstead has always been part of Croydon South, and used to be part of the same District Council as Purley and Coulsdon before Croydon Borough came into being. Sanderstead certainly shares more in common with Purley, Kenley and Coulsdon than Croydon Town Centre. I have asked the Boundary Commission to allow the ward split so Sanderstead can stay in Croydon South, and I ask you to do the same if you agree. Generally they do not like splitting Wards, but in Croydon local Ward boundaries are changing in a separate exercise, and a ward split would allow Sanderstead to stay with the rest of the south of the Borough (see also the Fairfield section below).

Selsdon

The Boundary Commission and all the party-political counter-proposals suggest that Selsdon sits in a constituency together with Heathfield, which does seem to make sense as many people especially in the southern part of Heathfield (such as in Monks Hill and Forestdale) look to Selsdon as their local centre. Heathfield also fits with Shirley and Ashburton Wards.

Croydon Town Centre (called "Fairfield Ward")

One of the proposals tabled has Fairfield Ward being moved into Croydon South. Like the situation with Sanderstead, this may be the only way of arranging the Wards to meet the strict size criteria for Parliamentary constituencies that the Boundary Commission has to work to.

However, if the Boundary Commission was willing to split a ward, then Sanderstead plus SB2 (see above) could stay in Croydon South and Fairfield could stay in Croydon Central. This would make a lot of sense as Fairfield covers Croydon Town centre and has always been in Croydon Central, just as Sanderstead has always been in Croydon South.

Whether or not you agree with my views, please do send your own comments in to the Boundary Commission before 5th December by going to www.bce2018.org.uk, entering your postcode, clicking on “Have your Say” and then click on roughly where you live on the map. They do not expect you to work out constituency sizes and so forth, just to say which communities you think belong together in the same Parliamentary Constituency and why.

I would be happy to correspond individually if you have any queries about any of this. I will send my usual email later this month separately with an update on other local news.

With best wishes,

Chris Philp MP
Member of Parliament for Croydon South



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