

Response to BCE's 2017 consultation for the changes to the Parliamentary Boundary Commission

Objection to the proposed boundaries for the Banbury & Bicester and East Oxfordshire constituencies

Launton Parish Council is very disappointed to see that you are continuing to be driven by an ideological dogma that says you must not split council wards between parliamentary constituencies (an approach that will have to be abandoned in future in Cherwell District, where council wards are now three times the size that they were previously). This will result in some inhabitants of a Bicester housing estate (currently being built) being in the Banbury & Bicester constituency, while their neighbours are represented by the MP for East Oxfordshire, based 35 miles to the south in Henley! Furthermore, all Bicester's satellite villages, which have clear and strong links to Bicester, will be represented by a different MP from the town itself.

We are greatly dismayed to find that you seem to have completely ignored our representation to your previous consultation, which provided an alternative that would have kept all of Bicester, and its nearest satellite villages, within the Banbury & Bicester constituency. Perhaps, because it was submitted as an attachment, you did not receive it; to ensure that this does not happen a second time, the text of our previous response is copied below.

An approach like the one we outlined will become a necessity at the next boundary review because of ongoing growth and the resizing of council wards. You have an opportunity to break free of your "whole wards" dogma now, and produce a pragmatic solution that will not result in egregious electoral disservice to a large number of people. If you fail to do so, you should be ashamed of yourselves.