

Boundary Commission for England (Review of Parliamentary Constituencies)
14th Floor, Millbank Tower,
Millbank,
London SW1P 4QP

2 December 2017

Response to BCE Revised Proposals for the South East region

Compton and Shawford Parish Council notes the contents of section 3.102 of the *Revised Proposals for the South East*, but, in light of the arguments presented below, requests that BCE reconsider their decision and permit the parish of Compton & Shawford (polling district WM) to remain within the Winchester constituency.

Background

Arguments in favour of the parish of Compton & Shawford remaining within the constituency of Winchester were outlined in the chair's letter of 26 November 2016 (Comment BCE-28440 - <https://www.bce2018.org.uk/node/28440/>).

In section 3.102 you noted, and did not refute, arguments that the group of southern parishes have close ties with Winchester. But you stated that moving the old Compton & Otterbourne and Colden Common & Twyford wards into Winchester “would merely be relocating the issue”.

This is consistent with comments made to the cross-party House of Commons Political and Constitutional Reform Committee by Tony Bellringer, Secretary to the Boundary Commission for England. In the Committee's report “*What next on the redrawing of parliamentary constituency boundaries?*”, he is reported (para 33, page 18) as having said:

“that as a consequence of the 5% rule the Commission quite often had to decide to set those other factors [local ties] aside because the only mandatory one, as far as England was concerned, was the numerical one.”

Our Council accepts that, unfortunately, because of the constraints you have to work within, it is impractical to retain the whole of the old Compton & Otterbourne and the Colden Common & Twyford wards within the constituency of Winchester. It also notes, from the Conclusions and Recommendations of the same report (para 46, page 24), that

“[the Boundary Commission for England] will be more open to the possibility of splitting wards in the future. This should serve to minimise any unnecessary disruption resulting from the boundary review process, and allow for greater account to be taken of substantive community boundaries”.

The Council's request

The council believes that,

- since BCE said it would be more open to splitting wards; and
- since our old ward no longer exists,
- then, if it is not possible to preserve the local ties of all Winchester's southern parishes, it would be good, where the arithmetic allows, to keep some of them i.e. those of Compton and Shawford.

<p>The Parish Council strongly requests that the parish of Compton & Shawford remain within the Winchester County Constituency, and not be transferred to Test Valley CC.</p>
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The changes to constituency boundaries in the revised proposal have not altered the arithmetic.

As shown in the table below, Compton & Shawford Parish alone (polling district WM, electorate 1340) could be moved into Winchester Constituency without requiring any compensating moves.

Constituency	BCE Revised Proposal	C&S moved to Winchester	Variance from quota
Winchester	76,083	77,423	3.55%
Test Valley	75,481	74,141	(0.84%)

Why move Compton & Shawford?

When we consider all of the seven southern parishes (those in the old wards of Olivers Battery & Badger Farm, Compton & Otterbourne, and Colden Common & Twyford)

- Oliver Battery and Badger Farm, two of the parishes in the new (2016) five parish Badger Farm & Olivers Battery ward, are already proposed to remain in Winchester
- Of the rest, Compton & Shawford has the strongest ties with Winchester: current, geographic, social, historic, and critical local and national infrastructure.
- Most important are the rail service from Shawford Station tightly linked with Winchester, the South Winchester Park & Ride and much of M3J11, all of which lie within the parish.
- Also in our parish, Bushfield Camp, a former WWII military camp, is “allocated for employment land in Winchester City Council’s Local Plan, with the intention of creating new, high value jobs for Winchester’s skilled workforce.”
- Remaining in Winchester would reconnect our parish with Olivers Battery and Badger Farm parishes, which historically were part of Compton.
- Retaining Compton & Shawford in Winchester would not split a present-day ward. It would merely split the current Badger Farm & Olivers Battery ward a different way.
- No other single parish of the southern parishes can be moved back into Winchester without introducing a split into a present-day ward or creating a detached area.

*Michael Goulding, Chairman
& Adrian Walmsley, Past Chairman,
Compton & Shawford Parish Council*

Map attached below

cc Steve Brine MP
Councillor E Bell
Councillor B Laming
Councillor J Warwick

This map from the PC website shows the proximity of Compton & Shawford northern parish boundary to Winchester.

Compton & Shawford parish is shaded in green; the gridlines on the map are at 1km intervals.

Taken from <https://comptonshawford-pc.gov.uk/about/maps/parish-boundary/>

