

Parliamentary Boundary Review.

Guilden Sutton could move into a new Winsford parliamentary constituency.

People in Cheshire West and Chester are being given the opportunity to have their say on a proposed shake-up of parliamentary constituencies.

The Boundary Commission has begun a 12-week public consultation on proposals for redrawing every constituency in England. Residents of Cheshire West will be able to comment on suggested changes to the North West region.

In Chester, the boundary review sees the City of Chester constituency increase from just under 70,000 electors to just over 80,000. The Commission has used the ward boundaries that existed at the 2010 General election in their proposals which add the old Mickle Trafford ward, including Mickle Trafford, Barrow and Elton, to Chester. It is also proposed the Ledsham and Willaston ward and the Groves and Whitby ward should move to Chester from the Ellesmere Port and Neston constituency.

Christleton, Littleton and Guilden Sutton and also the old Boughton Heath and Vicars Cross Ward would be removed from the Chester constituency and added to a proposed Winsford constituency which would succeed the present Eddisbury seat.

The Ellesmere Port and Neston constituency would be abolished. Politically the proposed Chester and Winsford constituencies would have been Conservative in 2010.

Stephen Mosley, MP for Chester, said "I welcome the fact that Chester will have its own Parliamentary Constituency at the next General Election, but understand that people living so close to the city centre may find it unusual to be moved out of Chester to a predominately rural Winsford constituency.

"I intend to speak at the public consultation next month and put the case that areas like Vicars Cross, Huntington, Dodleston and Boughton Heath should stay in the Chester constituency.

"Meanwhile I am supportive of areas like Mickle Trafford joining Chester, many people there couldn't understand why they weren't in the Chester constituency already".

Maps and accompanying information are on public display throughout the consultation period in The Forum in Chester. As part of the consultation, a public hearing will take place on Thursday and Friday October 13 and 14 October at the Mollington Banastre Hotel in Chester where residents can make verbal representations to the commission.

Steve Robinson, Returning Officer and Chief Executive of Cheshire West and Chester Council, said: "I would encourage residents to pop along to view the information from the Boundary Commission. They can take away a summary of the proposals to study at home. It is important that people have their say about any proposed changes. The consultation closes on 5 December so there is plenty of time to comment."

Guilden Sutton: At the last review when a proposal was made that the former Christleton ward, including Guilden Sutton, should be moved to what is now Eddisbury, your Parish Council objected and the parish remained within the Chester constituency.

The Parish Council and the overwhelming majority of objectors in the ward argued the community's links were with Chester and not with the proposed new constituency. The assistant commissioner accepted the case at that time for removing the ward from Chester "had not begun to be made out".

As a holding measure, the Council has asked the MP to include Guilden Sutton in the areas he believes should remain in the Chester constituency.

What are your views? Please contact any of the parish councillors or the Clerk listed in p4.