

Knutsford Town Council

Town Clerk: Adam Keppel-Garner

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Boundary Commission for England
35 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BQ

Wednesday 19th October 2016

Dear Sir,

PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARY REVIEW 2018

Knutsford Town Council objects to the current proposals for the proposed constituency which Knutsford falls within. The Town Council raises three specific points.

CONSTITUENCY MUST INCLUDE KNUTSFORD WITHIN NAME

Knutsford Town Council considers that any new constituency which incorporates Knutsford, the name of the constituency should include Knutsford.

Reasoning:

- 1. In any proposed constituency containing Knutsford, Knutsford will be one of the principal towns. In the current proposals Knutsford is the single largest ward by electorate within Altrincham and Tatton Park.*
- 2. The proposal to use Tatton Park as part of a constituency name is deemed inappropriate. It is not an area that residents identify as being part of. The Town Council does not consider it necessary to preserve the Tatton within the name of a new constituency purely on the basis that it was the name of a constituency to be abolished.*
- 3. Knutsford was historically a constituency from 1885-1983*
- 4. The rural wards of High Legh, Mobberley and Chelford associate themselves with Knutsford as part of their local identity and as such including Knutsford within the name of any new constituency would contribute to a sense of identity for residents with their new constituency.*

KNUTSFORD SHOULD NOT BE IN A CROSS-BOUNDARY CONSTITUENCY

Knutsford Town Council considers that any new constituency which incorporates Knutsford should be wholly within Cheshire.

Reasoning:

1. *With the devolution of powers to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the introduction of a 'Metro Mayor' which will cover Trafford, there will be vast differences between the local government of the wards from Cheshire East and those from Trafford.*
2. *Knutsford does not identify with Trafford. The Town Council considers that preserving local identity is paramount and as such could not support proposals which place Knutsford in a cross-boundary ward with Trafford. Other towns, closer to borders with Manchester would better suit cross-boundary constituencies where necessary.*

KNUTSFORD, MOBBERLEY, HIGH LEGH AND CHELFORD SHOULD BE KEPT TOGETHER WITHIN A CONSTITUENCY

Knutsford Town Council considers that any new constituency must keep the four wards of Mobberley, Chelford, High Legh and Knutsford together.

Reasoning:

1. *The three rural wards of Mobberley, High Legh and Chelford associate themselves with Knutsford as part of their local identity.*
2. *These four wards share a great deal of commonality in issues and identity and as such it is considered more effective for good government that they are grouped together*

SUMMARY

The Town Council objects to the proposals for a new constituency of *Altrincham and Tatton Park* on the grounds that it does not meet the three conditions it considers necessary for a new constituency.

The Town Council is not in a position to put forward detailed proposals as to new constituency arrangements but would support any proposal which sees Knutsford within a wholly Cheshire constituency with Mobberley, Chelford and High Legh and in which "Knutsford" is part of the name of the constituency.

Yours sincerely

Adam Keppel-Garner
Town Clerk

- cc. George Osborne MP, Member of Parliament for Tatton
Cllr Rachel Bailey, Leader of Cheshire East Council
Clerks to Parish Councils within the Mobberley, Chelford and High Legh wards