

Council February 2022

Item 10 Boundary Commission Public Hearing

The Boundary Commission have brought forward proposals to change the Parliamentary constituency boundaries.

A series of public hearings will be taking place in March, giving local residents and community groups the chance to feedback their reaction to the Commission's proposals, and suggest alternatives.

In July 2021 Withyham Parish Council made the following response to the Review:

"Withyham Parish Council request that the proposed exclusion of Hartfield Parish and the area of Marden's Hill of Withyham Parish from the Crowborough and Hailsham Constituency is rejected and that this area remains part of the Crowborough and Hailsham Constituency.

The reasons for this request is that there are many common community interests and community ties between the two parishes which should be represented by the Member of Parliament for Crowborough and Hailsham.

Both Parishes look to Crowborough as the principal town for shopping, schools, and shops.

Both Parishes have a common concern regarding the future of the Ashdown Forest and environmental concerns such as the noise from aircraft using Gatwick airport.

Residents in both Parishes use facilities in the two main villages of Hartfield and Groombridge such as the Doctor's Surgery in Hartfield and the Post Office in Groombridge.

Both Parishes have cultural ties such as Hartfield and Withyham church choirs.

Both Parishes therefore form a common cultural and community area which should be represented by one Member of Parliament."

Cllr Watkins wishes to attend the public hearing for WPC. Council is asked to agree his attendance to reiterate WPC's July response to the Review.