

# Tom Brake MP on the Boundary Review

Dear Neighbour

You may have picked up on the news that there is a review underway into the boundaries of every parliamentary constituency.

The Boundary Commission for England recently placed initial proposals for the new constituencies on its website and has now opened a public consultation. I am writing to you to draw your attention to this consultation and to encourage you to take part.



I appreciate that at this difficult time, a review of constituency boundaries is not likely to be at the top of anyone's agenda. Nevertheless, strong representation for our community in Parliament is essential. Whether it comes to fighting hard for the economic interests of Carshalton or Wallington high streets, making sure under-represented groups have their voices heard where and when it counts, or even the boost to community pride from having our major towns in the name of the constituency, this review matters.

The Boundary Commission's proposals affect the Carshalton and Wallington constituency and community seriously. **In my opinion, they rip the heart out of our community and provide a serious barrier to cohesion at exactly a time when we cannot afford to slip backwards.**

In summary the new proposals involve scrapping the constituency of Carshalton and Wallington and creating two new constituencies called, Croydon Central and St Helier (which would run from St Helier Hospital through to Fairfield Halls and beyond) and Purley and Carshalton (from close to Sutton town centre, through Carshalton High Street to Sanderstead).

This has not been a thought-through process. The Boundary Commissioners have not come to the Carshalton and Wallington constituency, looked around and decided that the community would be best served by being carved up. Instead they have conducted a paper exercise from their office, drawing lines on a map to satisfy very narrow criteria to do with the number of people who should live in each constituency.

**This is not about me as your MP. This is about our constituency and community.** Regardless of who the MP is for this constituency after the next election, it remains imperative that they represent a strong, distinctive community. The proposals as they stand, do not allow for this.

All of us now have an opportunity to influence the Boundary Commission. Their proposals are not yet set in stone and this consultation can make a real difference, with final proposals not being published until late in 2012. We are all being treated equally in this consultation, with no preference given to politicians ahead of anyone else. **All our voices will be heard – as well they should be. It must not be left to bureaucrats to change the face of our community without regard to local factors. The deadline for written submissions is December 5th.**

There is more detail on what the Boundary Commission is proposing, the public hearings and the written submission process, on its website –

<http://consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk>.

As I say, this may seem like an issue only of interest to Westminster and Whitehall but I truly believe it is not. Our community needs strong representation in Parliament if it is to thrive. Now is our chance to work together to make that happen.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Brake".

Tom Brake  
MP Carshalton and Wallington