



ANDREW GRIFFITH MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR ARUNDEL AND SOUTH DOWNS

HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr John Fulbrook
Steyping Parish Council
The Steyping Centre
Fletchers Croft
Steyping
BN44 3XZ

18th November 2022

Dear John,

As you may know, the Boundary Commission has published a *revised* set of proposals for West Sussex as part of their constitutional duty to equalise the number of electors per Parliamentary constituency¹⁹.

The latest proposals restore a rural constituency that unites Steyping with similar communities stretching across the South Downs. You probably remember that their original proposal from last year was to 'chop up' rural areas and integrate them into much more built-up areas on the coast – either Shoreham, Littlehampton or Chichester – which each have their own existing centre of gravity.

In publishing their latest proposals, the Boundary Commission say:

"The resulting pairing of rural South Downs villages and coastal conurbations ... was strongly opposed, with hundreds of representations received in objection. Opposition was largely focused on local dissatisfaction with a constituency in which more than half of its electors would be from the built-up coastal strip; residents highlighted the very different concerns of these areas and expressed a desire to retain a rural constituency consisting 'predominantly of small villages and larger towns set within the countryside'.

There is now a further consultation to which they are asking for responses. **Nothing can be taken for granted.**

As a reminder, it is an entirely non-political process, and it is normal for both a Parish Council and individuals to respond to a statutory consultation with their views on something so important. The deadline for responses is just a few weeks away on Monday the 5th December.

Link for website
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¹⁹ The proposals can be found at <https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/south-east/> and the section on West Sussex is on page 39 of the document



The address to write to is Boundary Commission for England, 35 Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BQ or you can email them at information@boundarycommissionengland.gov.uk. If you would be so kind, I would be grateful to be copied in.

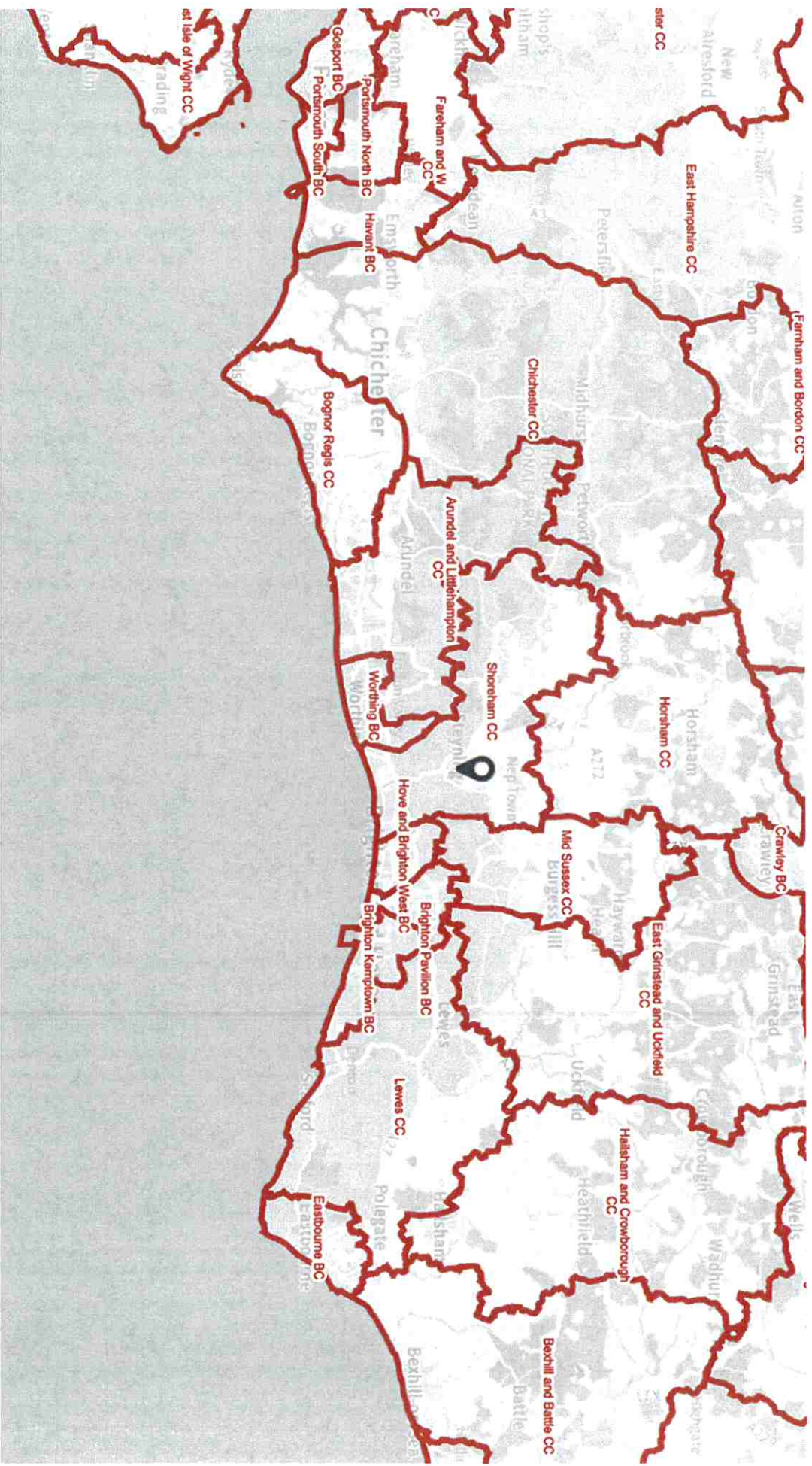
Kind regards,

Andrew Griffith MP

P.S. This is the last chance to have a say. After this final consultation, the proposals – however detrimental to Steyning - will be locked in forever.

Some points that you may wish to make when responding:

- Thank you for listening to the hundreds of residents who opposed the original proposals.
- You support the Boundary Commission's REVISED proposals for West Sussex.
- In particular you welcome the fact that Steyning is once again in a rural constituency centred upon the South Downs with other similar communities better reflecting local ties and similar issues such as speeding, motorcycle noise, access to healthcare and education in rural areas or inappropriate development.
- Pleased that the revised proposals recognise the unique issues and problems facing rural areas. It is good that the Boundary Commission has demonstrated an understanding of this to ensure small towns and villages are represented separately from larger coastal towns.
- Note that there is a common tie between those communities in and adjacent to the South Downs National Park (and for whom it is the planning authority).
- Welcome that under the revised proposals far fewer electors move parliamentary constituency, minimising the amount of disruption and confusion.
- Value the fact that the revised proposals do not reflect a counter proposal put forward by any one individual or Political Party but reflect a combination of different elements put forward by representatives from all local parties.
- With local ties and transport links generally running across the South Downs and Weald from east to west, it is right that the Boundary Commission have reflected this in their revised proposals rather than forcing a north/south alignment with the coast.



Initial proposals

