

The Boundary Commission's Proposals for Changes to Existing Enfield Parliamentary Constituencies.

A Response from Enfield Green Party

A glance at the map of Greater London shows two very obvious features. One is natural; the River Thames separating north from south London, and the other started as a natural feature but has been altered and significantly increased in size by human action. This second is the Lea Valley comprising the River Lea, large reservoirs and a substantial industrial estate. To the west lies the Borough of Enfield with three parliamentary constituencies one of which is Edmonton. To the east is the Chingford and Woodford Green constituency. These two constituencies are physically separated from each other. Roads between the two are limited to the A110 Lea Valley Road and A406 North Circular Road. Travel between the two constituencies is difficult.

Given this barrier the proposal to create a new constituency, Chingford and Edmonton, does not make any sense whatsoever. There is no obvious centre, there is little interaction between the residents on either side of the divide and an MP would have great difficulty properly representing a constituency of two parts. We ask that the Boundary Commission reconsider this proposal.

In addition we consider that moving Bowes ward to Hornsey and Wood Green in Haringey and Upper Edmonton ward to Tottenham also in Haringey can only confuse voters and further add to the disillusionment with politicians and the political process.

Enfield Green Party does not have the resources to work up alternative changes to the Greater London constituency boundaries. We ask that in addition to constituency size other criteria are considered. Natural and man-made barriers obviously but in addition it would be preferable to keep constituency boundaries in line with Borough boundaries.

In sum keep boundary changes as few and far between as possible. When absolutely necessary use a number of criteria to determine new constituency boundaries including those which have people and communities as their focus.

Please do not dismantle Edmonton and scatter it to the winds.

Douglas Coker and Bill Linton for Enfield Green Party
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