

# ANDREW JONES MP

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Dear fellow local resident,

Periodically the Boundary Commission for England reviews parliamentary constituency boundaries and it has done so again recently. These proposals are the subject of a public consultation currently and I am writing to encourage you to have your say.

You can view the proposals by entering your postcode where indicated at [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk). In a nutshell, they propose removing where you live – the Claro ward - from the Harrogate & Knaresborough constituency and making it part of a brand new parliamentary constituency called ‘Wetherby and Easingwold’.

I believe that the Claro ward should remain part of the Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency.

I do not think that the Boundary Commission proposals are the best for our area because:

- For the residents of Claro the distances are so small into Harrogate and Knaresborough, particularly Knaresborough, that ties of association are built with these towns. The largest village in the Claro ward is Scotton. From Scotton to Knaresborough it is 2.1 miles, but to Wetherby it is 10.4 miles and Easingwold 19.1 miles. These distances alone show why Claro residents are part of the Harrogate and Knaresborough community.
- Claro and all the other wards that make up the Harrogate and Knaresborough constituency are part of the Harrogate Borough. They use the same council services. They have the same sense of local identity. Wetherby is in West Yorkshire, part of the Leeds Council area.
- There are no medical facilities within the Claro ward, not even a pharmacy. The nearest pharmacies are in Knaresborough, though some villages will use Ripon and Boroughbridge. Very few, probably none, will use Wetherby or Easingwold.
- The majority of residents of Claro use primary care facilities in Knaresborough, typically the doctors’ surgeries in the town centre, though some may use Ripon or Boroughbridge. Again, few if any will use Wetherby or Easingwold. Secondary care is typically provided by Harrogate District Foundation Trust.
- The secondary school for the majority of the Claro ward is King James School in Knaresborough. The prospectus for King James School details the parishes in their catchment, and these include Allerton Mauleverer with Hopperton, Brearton, Coneythorpe with Clareton, Farnham, Flaxby, Goldsborough and Scotton. All these parishes are within the Claro ward.
- For students participating in further education, the local college is Harrogate College.

- The road links in the Claro ward run to Knaresborough and Harrogate. The main roads, the A59 and A6055 run through Claro and connect it with Knaresborough, as does the B6165 and many other local roads.
- There are no rail services that stop in the ward, but bus routes take Claro residents into Knaresborough and Harrogate. These are the Harrogate Bus Company services 22 and 23 plus Connexions Buses route X10.
- There are no direct public transport links from Claro to Wetherby or Easingwold.
- Data from the 2011 census shows that 64 per cent of travel to work journey from the Claro ward were into Harrogate. Four per cent were to Hambleton and 16 per cent, the majority of which are likely to be into the city centre rather than Wetherby, were to Leeds. It is very clear from this data that the employment links for the Claro ward are predominantly with Harrogate and Knaresborough.
- Some of the villages in Claro have a village shop, but most do not. The retail centres that provide the weekly shop and all other retail are typically in Harrogate and Knaresborough, reflecting economic links and short distances. Wetherby and Easingwold are not retail centres for these villages.

If you feel that any of these points reflect how you feel about this proposed change then I encourage you to take part in the consultation. I hope, in doing so, you will ask that the Claro ward be retained in the Harrogate and Knaresborough parliamentary constituency. There may be other points you wish to raise too. Ultimately this is about keeping local communities together. I believe the Boundary Commission's proposals will sever established links between our communities.

You can take part by entering your postcode where indicated at [www.bcereviews.org.uk](http://www.bcereviews.org.uk). This will bring up a map of area. You should then click on the green 'Make a comment' link and then on the marker which identifies your postcode area. The site will then ask you if you are sure you want to comment on that area. You should click yes and complete the form that appears.

It is important to act now because the consultation only runs until 2 August 2021. If you would like any further information then please do not hesitate to contact my office on 01423 542630.

Yours sincerely,  
Andrew Jones

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