

Is it the end for Gedling?

Gedling Constituency is set to be removed under Boundary Commission proposals that have the backing of both Labour and Conservatives. The Liberal Democrats are the only major party to oppose this.

The proposed changes will mean that Porchester and other Carlton wards will be absorbed into Nottingham East and Carlton, with Arnold being absorbed into Sherwood Constituency.

Several Porchester residents raised their concerns, with none of them supporting this proposal.

Why have Labour and the Conservatives not opposed it?

The proposals seems to benefit them both. By removing a marginal constituency that (under the current voting system) has meant Labour and the Conservatives need to commit a lot of resources into the campaign effort.

Vernon Coaker MP (for Gedling) seems to be happy to split Arnold and Carlton by Plains Road, thereby dividing what *we know is regarded as the same community*.

Alan Fox our Lib Dem Boundaries Coordinator reports - Until Parliament votes otherwise, the review goes ahead. If Parliament does nothing, the Commission presents the final proposals to government in September 2018, who must then present them to Parliament within 28 days. The Liberal Democrats proposed five adjustments, each of which involved a group or pair of the Commission's proposed constituencies, including not accepting the Nottinghamshire proposal.

The consultation ended on 11th December. Let's see how our MPs deal with this one next year. For more details go to <http://www.bce2018.org.uk/>

LOCAL MATTERS

Gedling Country Park and the Gedling Access Road (GAR)

Until the new road is completed in 2020 Porchester residents can only access the park from Spring Lane or Lambley Lane.

The Lambley Lane option appeared to be under threat and Lib Dem Cllr Andrew Ellwood (representing Phoenix Ward in Gedling) has sought clarity on this situation.

He states - Once the main work on the building of the GAR starts (now scheduled for Autumn rather than Spring 2018), we will definitely be pressing the County Highways Department to ensure that access onto the Country Park is maintained during the building of the GAR.

Parking and Highway Obstruction is a continual problem in Porchester.

Even so, things can be done to ensure the area is safe for all road users including pedestrians. Alan Dawson raised concerns with the County Council earlier in June and reported that they planned to install some restrictions on Kenrick Road at Porchester Road. The consultation for this (and other locations) has now ended.

Disappointingly, the proposal is only for a 10m restriction, which is no more than the standard rules under the Road Traffic Act of 1988. We have asked for more detail of the reasoning for this.

Obstruction of the highways should still be reported to the police. If you are reluctant to call the police on such matters, please note that they can be emailed: force.control@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk

Many of Porchester Ward are young families or retired, often having lived in the area for many years. A significant employer is the nearby Mapperley Hospital. We are all well aware that our National Health Service is chronically under-funded. We see ourselves in the depths of winter, and once again the NHS is struggling to cope. Labour and The Conservative led government take it turns to kick the can down the road when it comes to tackling our Health and Social Care. *We'll let Labour argue about their leadership and let the Tories think of ways to tax your house, while the LibDems have a policy and a plan for the long term.*

- Put a penny in the pound on income tax to give the NHS and social care services the cash they need.
- Make waiting times for mental health care match those for physical health care.
- Limit the amount elderly people have to pay for social care.

For more details, go to <https://www.libdems.org.uk/health>