



Chief Executive

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Dear Mr Morrison

Electoral Review of Buckinghamshire

Thank you for your letter of 19th July, inviting comments by 10th October on the draft recommendations. All Wycombe District Council members have been made aware of the draft proposals, and I have asked that they prepare their own response should they have any representations to make about the review. I have also been in touch with the two parish councils mentioned in the proposals, and requested that they respond to you directly.

With reference to the proposals to amend the two parish council electoral arrangements, I am afraid that I cannot agree with either. In my view, the splitting of Stokenchurch Parish Council into two parish wards, with just one councillor being returned for one of those wards seems somewhat pointless. It is not a political parish, and as do many large parishes, struggles to find enough councillors to fill all vacancies anyway. I simply cannot see the reasoning behind the proposal for this particular parish, and certainly do not feel it will serve any useful purpose.

As far as Marlow Town is concerned, the present Town Council ward boundaries are identical to the district ward arrangements, being completely coterminous with the two district wards (Marlow North & West, and Marlow South East). I strongly believe therefore that to change the present warding arrangements to form three parish/town wards where there are currently two will not only cause a lot of administrative problems at election time (Marlow Town Council is always strongly contested), but will also only cause confusion amongst the electorate.

I must therefore ask that you reconsider your proposals, and leave both parishes as they are.



My own comments, as Returning Officer are as they were at the first stage of the review i.e. solely of an administrative nature. I have no objection whatsoever to the reduction in the number of County Councillors. However whilst I appreciate that electoral equality is your prime concern, the splitting of polling districts within district wards is far from ideal and I must admit that I am very disappointed that the proposals appear to suggest some such divisions. I sincerely hope that you will reconsider your proposals to ensure coterminosity of at least polling districts, if not district wards.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Karen Satterford.

Karen Satterford
Returning Officer & Chief Executive