

## Buckinghamshire Council

### Personal Details:

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**Organisation Name:**

### Comment text:

1 My name is Anthony Shinner. I am a resident of Chalfont St Peter (Central Ward), and a councillor and chairman of the parish council. This is my personal response. The parish council is submitting its own response 2 The three criteria for deliberating Unitary (formerly County Council) boundaries are: i) Electorate Equality, ie to ensure a similar number of electors per elected Unitary Councillor ii) To preserve Community ID or interests so keeping the community together iii) Wards should use easily identifiable boundaries It has been emphasised to us at briefings that all three criteria are of equal importance 3 Neither the existing ward boundaries, nor those proposed by Buckinghamshire Council meet the second and third criteria (above); indeed they conflict with criteria 2 and 3. The ward boundaries proposed are dictated solely by reference to the magic figure of 4,500 approx. electors per elected councillor, without regard for community interests and identity; almost as though the calculations have been made simply working in from the unitary council borders with, in this case Slough, stopping at 4,500 or 9,000 electors regardless of community identity. There has to be a more practicable way of approaching this and adherence to the reduced number of unitary councillors in the future makes the exercise more difficult 4 Currently Chalfont St Peter parish has four wards, but in County or Unitary terms the elected representative for Chalfont St Giles also has part of Chalfont St Peter in his remit, which is some two miles away, separated from Chalfont St Peter by green belt farmland and woods. That representative is responsible for a significantly larger area (geographically) than Chalfont St Peter which has its own distinct identity 5 Stretching Unitary councillor's responsibility for larger numbers of the electorate results in absurdities of overlapping with the better understood town or parish wards. The electorate in Gold Hill cannot understand why their local unitary councillor is the Chalfont St Giles councillor for Bucks; and under the proposals for other parts of Chalfont St Peter to be transferred, so the confusion becomes magnified. Chalfont St Peter would be represented by Unitary Cllrs for Gerrards Cross, Chalfont St Peter and Chalfont St Giles. This does not make sense where Chalfont St Peter is the bigger of the three communities by quite a margin 6 Surely the approach should start with the larger communities, rather than a simplistic working in from the county boundary process adding in smaller villages where possible to make up the numbers, Clearly understandable boundaries can be identified which meet the 3rd criteria whereas under the emerging proposals six residential streets are split 7 Chalfont St Peter, (parish) is the largest by a significant margin, of the seven communities which form 'East Buckinghamshire' in community board terms. It is approx. 50 per cent larger than its immediate neighbour Gerrards Cross in population, and therefore electorate terms; it simply does not make sense to split it two or even three ways so that the village is represented by Unitary councillors from neighbouring settlements 8 An obvious solution lies in applying the third criteria: so that Chalfont St Peter retains Austenwood (CSP parish ward) and takes in a number of roads currently split, eg remainder of the following: Orchehill Avenue, Norgrove Park, North Park, Oval Way, Latchmoor Way and Latchmoor Grove; (all these save for Norgrove Park) are currently split roads, conflicting with criteria 3 as to easily identified boundaries). Packhorse Rd.would remain split (North/South, NOT side to side) with a possible new boundary further South than at present, to the junction with Orchehill Avenue for completeness. 9 Bringing Gold Hill back into Chalfont St Peter becomes entirely logical. These are closely knit residential streets, not suited to being split from immediate neighbours by Unitary boundaries determined on a numbers only basis

### Uploaded Documents:

None Uploaded